The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Crazy Ways of the Rich

■ 'The Colour of Money' (December 4) was one of the most outrageous articles I've ever read in the Magazine.

A bunch of filthy rich, pseudo-gentlemen is carrying snobbery to the lowest levels of perversity for the sole purpose of grabbing headlines

What is appalling is to see the media giving publicity to such affairs instead of criticising them

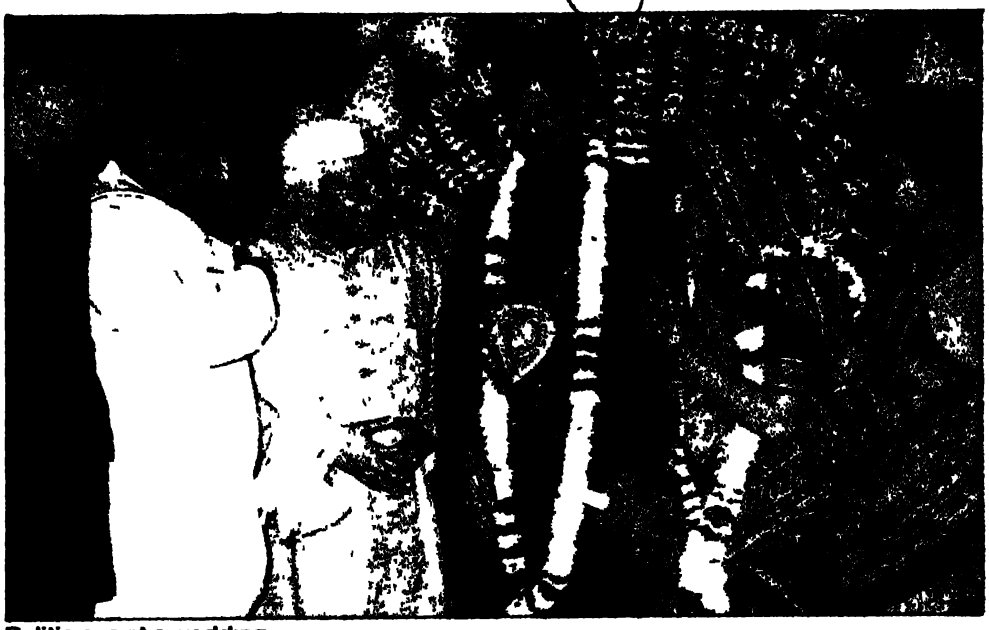
And we are being reminded every day that even after 10 years of its occurrence, the victims of the Bhopal gas leak — the majority of them crippled for life — are yet to receive a penny of the compensation which is rightfully due to them

Neelanjan Bhattacharyya, Calcutta

■ When nearly 40 per cent of the country's population is still living below the poverty line and leading a hand-to-mouth existence, the rich choose to spend lakhs on weddings

The colour of money is different for different people For the poor it is the basis of their very survival; the means to buy their daily bread For the rich it is a medium of giving vent to their rapacious feelings

Phel S Girdis



Politicians at a wedding

Marriage is actually a union of two individuals, two minds Instead of spending such astronomical amounts on a single wedding, rich parents should offer financial assistance to parents who cannot afford to get their children married

The government also has to play a role in curbing wedding expenses of the rich Ministers and politicians — often guests of honour at such functions — should shun marriages where there is a crass display of wealth

Santosh Kumar Sharma, Kharagpur

■ The cover story showed how crazy and callous the ultra rich can be in order to flaunt their wealth and supremacy The opulence which is exhibited at the time of weddings and other social functions is, to say the least, disgusting

Debabrata Mohanty, Balasore

■ The Magazine seems to be obsessed with the rich and the fashionable The latest was the story of how the rich spent Rs 15 to 20 lakh for a wedding reception and Rs 14 lakh on floral decoration The marriage aboard an Air India Airbus was an instance of childish extravaganza

Why should the Magazine give so much exposure to the crazy desires of the rich?

Sunil Banerjee, Calcutta



PAGE 4

IF KALPNATH RAI shot into prominence in 1994 for the sugar scam, another Rai (we all know who) spelt sugar for the countrymen, too A laid-back look at the year that's just faded

PAGE 10

AND THE Magazine also wishes a happy new year to every important, though lesser known, Indians

SECTIONS

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30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Kalpnath Rai by Pankaj Sharma, Aishwarya Rai by Gautam Patole

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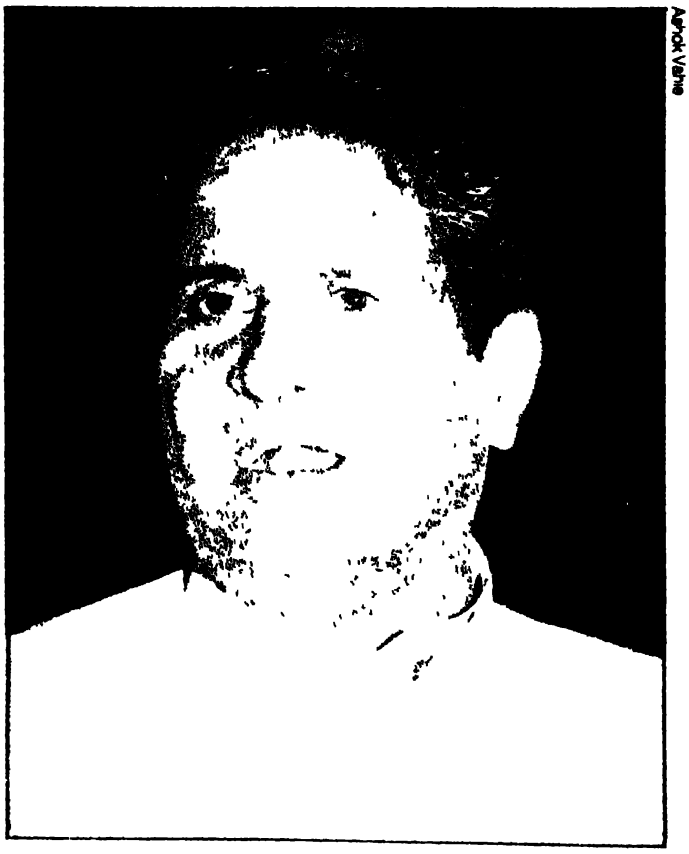
COVER STORY

The Year of the RAI

***Anurag Mathur** sends a darting eye over the year that was*

BASICALLY, IT WAS A YEAR OF TRIUMPHS FOR INDIAN FIGURES FISCAL AND FEMININE. THE emergence of the modern Indian woman on the international stage was, of course, heralded by Sushmita Sen. But what made the debut unprecedented was the crowning of Aishwarya Rai in the same year.

Kalpnath Rai: Presence of mind



Ashok Vaishnav

An architecture student, it seems safe to predict that Ms Rai will be responsible for many memorable erections in the years to come. But despite the criticisms of the competitions, both women came across as intelligent, warm and presentable symbols of India.

Such events, with the focus of the world on them, are really diplomacy by other means and the IFS can't exactly excel in them. For instance, few foreign secretaries would score well in the swimsuit competition.

The fiscal element was, of course, much more serious and substantial and to those attuned to such matters, even more exciting than the beauty pageant successes. The liberalisation process has been extensive without the upheavals that have often characterised other countries that tried the same thing.

Foreign investment has risen sharply, much more seems poised to flow in, foreign exchange reserves are soaring, inflation nevertheless is in more or less single digits and Indian industry after the initial wails has found, possibly to its own surprise, that it can fight back and compete.

A few companies have been swept away admittedly, but the others have rapidly readjusted. Even the public sector units, hitherto immobile like ice-age pachyderms, frozen fore-

Gautam


Aishwarya Rai: Warm and intelligent s, hol of India



ASHOK VAIRNE

P.V. Narasimha Rao Pouting pretty

ver, are starting to twitch and it is now clear that they will shortly be frisking about like rhinos in love

Overall, so far, this has been the most impressive economic performance by any post-Independence government There is much more to be done, more areas to be opened up, some form of an exit policy devised, subsidies to be reduced, the financial commitment to be converted into actual investments, but the pattern and the pacing have been established

After that will come the equally tough part of directly attacking poverty, spreading health care and educational facilities, infusing quality into these and all other aspects of civic life and, hardest of all, removing the government from the areas where it is unable to perform, or where others can do a better job

If the last year is any indication, the government will actually do all of this — which so far it has managed with an almost insolent effortlessness — and the next 10 years will see India change as much as it has, quite literally, in the previous 100.

An example of how the government plans to function in the future is the case of Doordarshan The satellite invasion found DD internally convulsed and outwardly catatonic

Instead of violently banning the channels which would have been the exactly wrong thing to do, the government decided to compete They placed just about a handful of exceptional people in critical positions and these people in turn effected a marriage between the private sector's software and DD's hardware

Enter DD2, exit satellite threat Naturally, the government wouldn't be the government if they didn't indulge initially in some *masti* in the form of first-come-first-served and other such mortifying schemes

In this, our government shows a keen appreciation of the fact that an important part of its role is to serve as the object of vile abuses from its people What the citizens call *saali sirkar* and which makes everyone feel quite pleased

A similar sample of silliness as policy is the delightful case of DD3 Nobody knows whether it is alive or dead or whether it even existed outside of a few fevered imaginations On the other hand, by the time this appears in print, it may well have sprung to life, gurgling and chuckling and full of beans As people say frequently about the *saali sirkar*, "Who knows *yaar* "

Then, of course, there was the famous plague Initially, when the foreign media began baying about this dreadful disease and claimed that it was caused by rats, people thought they were being mean again about our



Kalpnath Rai handled himself so cutely that he now no doubt believes he should have been sent to Sun City instead of that imposter. After all, the difference between an A. Rai and a K. Rai is hardly a few letters, and for all he knows, there may well be some sort of facial resemblance, too

beloved politicians

This school of thought gained ground when Indian magazines began carrying photographs on their cover of a creature in dim light and if you had put a white *topi* on its head, could have passed for Sitaram Kesri with whiskers

However, it turned out they were merely maligning Kesriji because there really wasn't very much of a plague About 50 people died of something like it, but that's all

What was odd was the veritable feeding frenzy in the international media over the non-story Even piranhas first sense blood before they attack Very clearly, in an age where the image is the reality and a good image is paramount, India needs to put into place a system whereby its own point of view can be effectively and forcefully put forward

This was buttressed by the malaria scare where apparently man-eating mosquitoes, like creatures out of a Hollywood horror film, were pouncing on people and murdering them with malaria However, this too petered out, the mosquitoes having either got bored or having been hired away by the Ramsay brothers for their latest horror serial and are now no doubt to be found tanning themselves besides Bombay pools and languidly nipping at passing starlets

1994

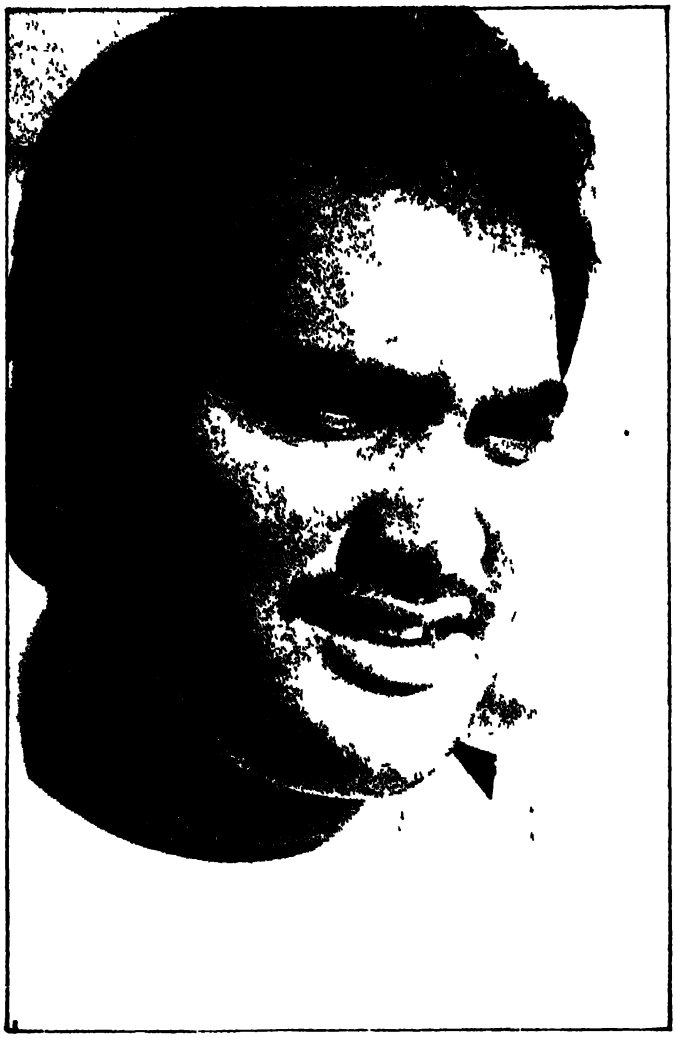
Then, of course, there was the famous plague. Initially, when the foreign media began baying about this dreadful disease and claimed that it was caused by rats, people thought they were being mean again about our beloved politicians

What was disconcerting was the rapidity with which the rest of the world believed the worst of India Tourism virtually ended Flights were banned Heads of states overflew the country Exports from India were put into quarantine or cancelled

While it is undeniable that the garbage on India's streets needs to be cleaned up, it is equally true that the mental trash in foreign minds about India also needs to be thoroughly washed away A nation that is staking its future prosperity on foreign links, can't be held hostage to media rubbish But, unquestionably, the filth within India must first be removed

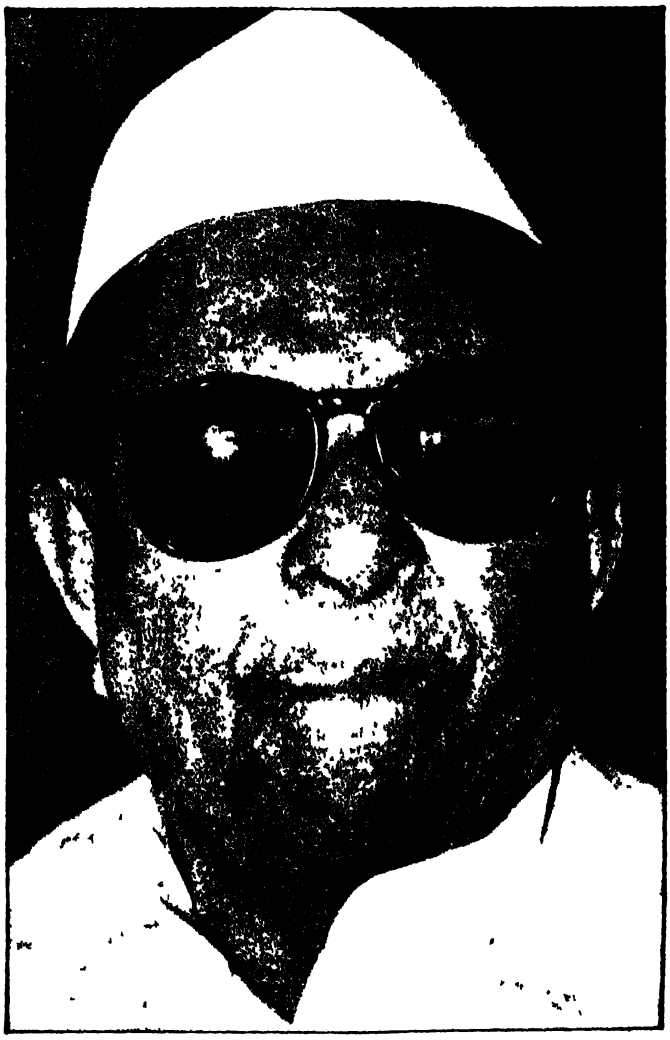
This sense of India being on the verge of apocalypse is a very deep seated one Every time there is a problem of any sort whatsoever, a conviction

Mohammad Azharuddin. Consistent leadership



Santosh Ghosh

Sitaram Kesri. Plagued by criticisms



Ashok Vaha



Karishma Kapoor: Parkinson's Pelvis



Tayeb Basrai

Sushmita Sen Emergence of the modern Indian woman

immediately sets in that this means the end of India for all time

This certainty of doom occurs at least once, but more often, twice a year

The fact that India overcomes its problems with monotonous regularity never seems to dent this gleeful optimism of disaster This is particularly so with regard to terrorism within India

There is not a single terrorist movement that has not found passionate supporters on the grounds that it will unquestionably lead to the dismemberment of India Well, the last year saw the final burial of the problem in Punjab and the joyful bounce into sunshine, and growth in that state has been a particularly cheerful and well documented feature of the preceding 365 days

In the same period, the terrorists in Kashmir seem to have been bashed into the shape and consistency of *goshtaba* Any realistic appraisal reveals that the insurgency there is in very bad shape There seems a definite fatigue among the people, a longing for peace and the indigenous Kashmiri terrorist seems to have become more of a tourist guide, dutifully escorting mercenaries from across the border to a premature entry into paradise It may well linger on for a while, but last year, the back of the terrorist problem there was decisively broken As I said, *goshtaba*

Speaking of which, something similar happened, as usual, to India in the athletics arena It's a sad thing, but we simply seem better as a nation at shooting terrorists than shooting for gold

The team came back from Hiroshima looking so stunned that you felt that the atom bomb must have been dropped while they were there Of course, over the year there were a few bright moments in tennis and chess, but the only consistent victories were in cricket

Since the only difference between our overseas humiliations and domestic triumphs is the wickets, we should insist that we'll only play if we can carry our pitches with us And, naturally, neutral umpires who accidentally happen to be employees of the Board of Control for Cricket in India

1994

Hindi film songs reached new depths of depravity with Karishma Kapoor suffering from some form of Parkinson's Pelvis, which wouldn't allow that afflicted portion of her anatomy to stop quivering

Hindi film songs reached new depths of depravity with Karishma Kapoor suffering from some form

of Parkinson's Pelvis, which wouldn't allow that afflicted portion of her anatomy to stop quivering

The lyrics, too, had the romance and poetry associated with two *hijras* fighting over a customer in Sonagachi But there was such a storm of protest over this appalling bad taste, that the shocked film industry hastily reformed its ways, not having been aware, apparently, that there were still people around who could tell the difference

As part of the backlash, romantic films and comedies made a comeback, but the surprise winner of the musical year was Rap Of course, it was Indianised and, naturally, it won't last because it's too repetitive, but it made for an amusing diversion

Rap in other countries is sometimes the voice of protest and it's interesting that India has no popular music of protest I wonder what it says about our society Good things, I suspect

The greatest lesson of the recent election results in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is that virtually nobody can read the mind of the Indian voter consistently Most pre-poll results were embarrassingly wide off the mark But the results do emphasise the political sophistication of the people

They seem to have voted on purely local issues and the result is not necessarily indicative of a turn away from the Congress at the Centre We have seen frequently in the past that the issues that the voter weighs, differs from city to state to national elections But the era of the eternally committed voter is definitely over

For a political party it is now truly perish or perform from the level of *panchayat* up to Parliament It's the best thing that could happen to India The Prime Minister's position within the party seems unaffected and there has been no revolt aside from N D Tiwari saying, "Please sir, I want some more"

It's a sign that the Congress realises



N T Rama Rao with wife Lakshmi Parvathi Many promises to keep

that the days when their second most favourite indoor sport was infighting, are over But they still resist the belief that scandals can influence the voters against them

Witness the way in which they shrugged off the sugar scam Every year, our diligent leaders provide us with a minimum of one scandal and sugar was it last year, as well as aborted ones in telecommunications

What added to the appetite was the awe-inspiring personality of the minister, Kalpnath Rai, who handled himself so cutely that he now no doubt believes he should have been sent to Sun City instead of that imposter

After all, the difference between an A Rai and a K Rai is hardly a few letters, and for all he knows, there may well be some sort of facial resemblance, too Besides, no one could accuse him of lacking in presence of mind, as well as boasting of a certain undefinable something about himself And anyway, if he had lost he could always have blamed it on Ms Sen and Zafar Saifullah

Indo-Pak relations meanwhile continued to display the maturity of two nursery children who have to share one solitary toffee Scuffles, jeers, slanging matches, tears, angry outbursts, petulance, ecstatic though brief-lived triumphs, sulks How on earth do we expect the world to make India a permanent member of the Security Council?

How does Pakistan expect the world to listen eagerly every time its mind-numbing whining about India and its wickedness commences in every forum and at every opportunity? This is one blood feud that makes the world worry Not that we'll nuke each other, but that we'll bore the globe to death

Overall though, it was a continuation of the opening up of India It was steady, sure, perhaps a bit slow, but then it isn't easy to persuade an elephant that it can dance like a ballerina It requires an awful lot of mind changing

And as India opened out to the world, the world began to discover India, its beauties and its beasts It's a two-way process that started in right earnest three years ago, it had its ups and downs, but it's unstoppable though it's barely begun Last year was just a part of that historic process

India

A few companies have been swept away admittedly, but the others

public sector units, hitherto

frozen forever, are starting to twitch and it is now clear that they will shortly be frisking about like rhinos in love

WISH FULFILMENT

And let us not forget those who don't seem to matter anymore, but also have a new year, says ***Arup Ghosh***

The Magazine wishes to greet on the New Year some people who did not make news, but were done or undone by it And some who carry on regardless — laughing and living and crying logarithms of tears

New Year greetings go out to nine-year-old **Mirabai of Limbala Dau village** near Killari, Maharashtra, whose house and dreams crumbled on September 30, 1993

Early on that Black Thursday, precisely at 3 56 am, a quake measuring 6 4 on the Richter scale devastated her village and many others The death toll is irrelevant to Mirabai But she did not miss the personal tragedy

Today the fields of Limbala Dau are suffused with the colours of mustard and sugarcane crops and life has begun to take shape anew in relief shelters

People have begun to piece together a shaken existence and even little Mirabai looks forward to the future -- September 30 is now just a shiver down her tender spine Happy New Year to you and all those kids who thought it was a night without end

Our best wishes also to **Anahit Zakarian (11) of Goomri city,** Armenia, whose life, like Mirabai's, was left broken by a killer quake on December 7, 1988 She lost her father that day and her mother, who works away from home, is desperately trying to keep body and soul together

But she could not keep her daughter Anahit came away to Calcutta to be looked after by the Armenian community here and is now a student of Davidian Girls' School On December 8 last year she completed two years in the city

It must have been difficult for her, growing up alone in a distant city with strange manners and language But she must have realised in these two years that this city has a curious way of making its own those who decide to call it home

Untouched by the fate of Mirabai or Anahit, **Pritam Das and Mou Pal** continue to continue For these lovers, *our lives will never end and flowers never bend with the rainfall*

If you have been to the Victoria Memorial or the Dhakuria lakes recently, you are likely to have missed them among many other lovers safely ensconced in a park bench, sharing thoughts and time and the warmth of muddy, saccharine tea

Our best wishes to them and to all the realtors who are greedily eying the few open spaces of Calcutta to implement their concrete plans Little do Pritam and Mou know the dangers that lurk Not from their families or jealous friends, but from promoters who don't sell dreams

Not in the distant future the Mous and Pritams might find themselves

1993

Today the fields of Limbala Dau are suffused with the colours of mustard and sugarcane crops and life has begun to take shape anew in relief shelters. People have begun to piece together a shaken existence and even little Mirabai looks forward to the future — September 30 is now just a shiver down her tender spine

Amidst the rubble of destruction



without a place in the sun—condemned to the darkness of cinemas and dingy secondhand hotel rooms

Here's a special New Year wish for them—that some philanthropist builds parks for lovers instead of temples for the salvation-hungry

A very special wish also for **Netai Dey** who lost love as much as his innocence on November 17 last year killing his best friend, **Soumen Das,** accidentally while fighting over a spilled satchel in school

Saradacharan Arya Institute is unlikely to find itself in the news again But this one incident involving Soumen and Netai will not be forgotten easily The school is making an attempt So is Netai There is no better time to do so than a New Year

And there is no better time to get married, too This idea of beginning at the beginning has caught the fancy of **Soumak Adhikari and Papiya Bose** who are tying the knot today

If the two of you can manage to convince the government to declare January 1 a public holiday, mankind will remain grateful to you forever

There is this guy who was born on August 15 Every time he stepped out on that day, he told people celebrating Independence Day not to make such a fuss about his birth

But as for Soumak and Papiya, one hopes they make as much fuss about each other as possible and have a very happy newlywed year



Kishor Roy Chowdhury

They go on forever

1995

Not in the distant future the Mous and Pritams might find themselves without a place in the sun—condemned to the darkness of cinemas and dingy secondhand hotel rooms. Here's a special New Year wish for them—that some philanthropist builds parks for lovers instead of temples for the salvation-hungry



If some newlyweds will be celebrating the New Year there are some who, once perhaps happily married, will not Among them are **Bhabatarini Sarkar of Sobhabazar and Bela Mukherjee of Asansol,** who on being widowed were despatched summarily to Varanasi to fend for themselves

Most of the 500 Bengali widows in that city wake up at 3 in the morning and spend most day praying and begging If you visit ashrams near Payal Ghat, Dashashwamedh Ghat, Gora Ghat or Raja Rajendralal Ghat there are enough living examples of human apathy to lose faith in families

But not in men The Legal Aid Service, West Bengal, has stepped in to ensure that their pensions reach the widows and not the peons of the postal department This year, hopefully, the widows will be praying for others and not for death A merciful New Year to them

And a flowery New Year to **Javed** and his friends who sell fragrance to you every evening at the Park Street-Mayo Road crossing Dancing between cars rushing home or vehicles stuck in an irritating jam, they sell flowers dirt cheap, if you know how to bargain

This year, too, you will find them exactly there, almost like landmarks in the cityscape, thrusting bunches of roses and gladioli into your expectant face There are very few people who have made such a good business of cheering up the lives of others

A very happy and painless New Year to **Connie Augustus,** 75 years old, blind, unable to move and resident of St Vincent's Home, Kidderpore Connie's world consists of vast chunks of time and space unlikely to be filled by anybody

Her two sisters have moved to England and Australia and since then she has no companions except her walk-

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Victims of filial apathy

IGGS

Most of the 500 Bengali widows in that city (Varanasi) wake up at 3 in the morning and spend most day praying and begging. If you visit *ashrams* near Payal Ghat, Dashashwamedh Ghat, Gora Ghat or Raja Rajendralal Ghat there are enough living examples of human apathy to lose faith in families

man There is a Jim Reeves number that she listens to over and over again It's called *One day at a time* And Connie lives her life exactly that way

Here's wishing **Chuni Ghose and Deb Mahapatra** a very prosperous New Year And the same to all the NRIs who dream of a better India and mesmerised by the magic wand of Manmohan Singh are drawn inexorably towards their birthplace

Ghose, a microwave systems engineering expert is setting up a unit at Santacruz to manufacture microwave amplifiers and Mahapatra came from Qatar to establish The Silicon and Ferro Alloy Corporation at Panskura

Ghose's fate is not known, but Mahapatra has faced a lot of trouble from CITU activists demanding their share of the loot

They need more than just our good wishes to grow roots all over again And God knows, we need them more than ever

A very happy and hardworking New Year to **my wife and thousands of others like her** who were overworked and underpayed in office and who rushed back everyday of the year to another round of floor scrubbing and dish washing and a desperate attempt to make a house a home

And best wishes to all housewives — harassed, pampered, brutalised, adored, burnt, idolised, betrayed and loved

And last, but not the least — a happy New Year to all those who have not yet woken up to the fact after a very late night and a blurry morning of crawling into bed

After wild cheering and wilder drinking bouts, after some crazy dancing and crazier New Year resolutions, there are many among us who have fallen asleep in their weekend best

It will be a while before they get up today, groggy and hit hard by a hangover It is unlikely they would have seen the sun rise over a New Year But, never mind, tomorrow's might be brighter ■

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



The sun in your 10th angle signifies gains, fatter pay packet, funding, investment, gaiety and socialising Happiness of children and grandchildren, hosting dinners, parties, speechmaking, acting and a tremendous fondness for music are the trends Ganesha says, a jolly good week

Taurus

April 21—May 20



This is the appropriate time to fuse work and play, pleasure and profit, contacts and contracts, buying and selling Many of you will be ready for partnerships, be it personal or strictly business Emotional bonding and business contacts may not go together

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Visits, interviews, conferences meets, inauguration, housewarming, renovating or decorating could well be on the agenda The new moon activates job opportunities, family ties, trips, meeting of minds and hearts Close associations will be formed

Cancer

June 21—July 20



This will be a pretty expensive time for Cancerians So learn to like it A journey is in the offing and so is a job offer Love, birth, conception of children, research, education, new projects, plans, hobbies and sports will be the mainspring of your entire existence

Leo

July 21—August 21



You will work and play in equal measure, render and demand justice in full proportion Excellent chances to make a buck, go in for permanent benefits, bag new and fine assignments as well as deals News of a welcome nature will reach you shortly Time to plan for the whole year

Virgo

August 22—September 22



The main tone will be on loans, joint finances, buying, selling, trading, commission, insurance, benefits, health schemes, security, funding and investing Parents, in-laws, and boss play a larger-than-life part now Learn to tolerate it Friends will help

Libra

September 23—October 22



Long-distance connections, publicity, publishing, acting and directing, and a lot of behind-the-scene activities take place January 6-7 should see you doing useful work if possible, as a more congenial climate for operations and relationships prevail Trips and ceremonies foretold

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



A good time for a job switch, loans, funds, planning a campaign, taking a major decision, signing an important lease, document and deal You may also apply for divorce, plan another marriage, or try marrying for the first time Ganesha says, a week of many possibilities

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



The lure of distant places and pastures will be irresistible, as the sun hits the right chord for you Additions to the family are possible You will be on the fast track and the chances are kicks and kisses, legal battles and new beginnings are fated Amidst all these, the home, too, will be spotlighted

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



Focus on job and work again You will continue to be imaginative and mighty ambitious The work you put in will have happy returns for a long, long time A job-switch or a pay-hike is also foretold Pets and different projects will interest you

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Best to get on to ads, travel, publicity and new ventures In short, be multi-dimensional and keep yourself occupied in various activities Children, sports and hobbies give ample delight The luck of the draw will be with you You can make it work for you Be generous

Pisces

February 19—March 20



There will be outlets for love, job, business, profession and, if you feel like, taking a chance Home and office too, will have their full share of your energy, money and attention Parents and in-laws, too, will have their say The second half of the week will be interesting

BIRTHDAYS

January 1: **The new moon makes you independent and observant, ready to take chances and try your luck, says Ganesha. New beginnings bring happiness**

January 2: **Mercury-Neptune conjunction favours workers, organisers, painters, musicians and actors. You will have the chance to show the world how good you are.**

January 3: **Moon-Jupiter excellent formation leads to plenty of progress. Those in science and technology make the world sit up and notice**

January 4: **Mercury conjuncts Uranus and that means expect the unexpected. There could be changes in your personal life as well as on the work front.**

January 5: **Moon-Saturn conjunction could lead to depression and diffidence unless you work consciously against it Journeys and communication help**

January 6: **Mercury-Venus excellent juxtaposition leads to comforts, contacts and communication. This should be a booming year should your horoscope be strong.**

January 7: **Venus conjuncts Pluto, giving you power and pelf and the luck of the draw Money, fame, happiness and marriage are yours.**

MANU AND SUPERMANU?

US and Indian scholars for the first time are compiling a 'critical edition' of the laws of Manu to establish his relevance in today's world

***Shameem Akhtar** reports*

The mention of Manu raises the hackles of feminists and anti-caste activists They argue vociferously against the laws of Manu, since they feel that these ancient societal rules contrived to subjugate certain sections of the society for long

But for scholars studying the intricacies of Hinduism and the Indian psyche, these laws cannot be wished away, since these are crucial to the understanding of the Indian philosophical and social structure

Hence, American scholars affiliated to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington DC have decided to compile the first 'critical edition' of Manu with the help of the Pune-based Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute

This is the first time that an attempt is being made to cull material from all the 460 manuscripts of Manu available the world over

For diehard anti-Manu activists who may find such an attempt superfluous, here is an exquisite argument over his relevance Western scholar Wendy Doniger in her popular book on the subject writes "Manu is one moment in the history of Indian religion, and given its influence on later reconstructions it is a moment worth pondering "

She feels that this text "provides a direct line to the most influential construction of the Hindu religion and Indic society as a whole No modern study of Hindu family life can ignore Manu "

The American attempt to compile a 'critical edition' has been provoked by the existing lacunae in any cohesive, researched text against which researchers can pit their analyses and critique of these laws

The Bhandarkar Institute, established in 1917, has been roped into this project for many reasons For one, it is one of the oldest Indian institutes to start active research in a special field — that of scientific orientology Also, it has previous experience in preparation of critical texts - having worked on the critical edition of the *Mahabharata* which ran in 19 volumes containing 13,000 pages This gargantuan task took 47 years of laborious research

The Bhandarkar Institute also has an exceptional collection of manuscripts At the time of establishment of the institute, the then government of Bombay had, in fact handed over its entire collection of manuscripts - nearly 20,000 of them - to the institute which has since then been assiduously adding to this data of exclusive oriental information

The Indian scholars involved with the Smithsonian Institute's effort will scrutinise all the available texts on Manu and prepare a collation sheet based on the comparison of these The American scholars will take over at the second stage of this intellectual labour of love They will edit the collation sheet to prepare the final critical edition

Dr S N Laddu, director of the project at Bhandarkar Institute, has defended the American takeover at this more crucial second stage of what is essentially an Indian subject, with the argument that the two Americans involved — Dr Richard Lariviere and Dr Patrick Olivelle of Texas University Centre for Asian Studies — are specialists par excellence in this particular field

The Indian scholars will examine each of 2,685 stanzas of the Laws of Manu and note down only those which are pretty different in interpretation The 10th edition of the *Laws of Manu*, brought by the Nirnaya Sagar Press, will form the basic edition against which comparisons will be made, since this is reported to be the latest

This Indian part of the project will involve scrutinising the most authentic of the 460 manuscripts available Of these, 11 manuscripts which were found in Pakistan have been brought back into the country with American help) The project, chaired by the much-feted orientalist, Dr R N Dandekar, is expected to take over two years and has an annual American funding of Rs 6 lakh

While a section of the staff at Bhandarkar Institute alleged that "there was some problem' with the progress of this project, Dr Laddu ducked all questions "Everything will be back on schedule by the first week of December," he asserted

Whatever the momentum of the project, when it is completed perhaps it will help shed more light on the contradictions of these societal laws which have become so much a part of the Indian psyche As Doniger puts it "It has been estimated that between a third and a half of Manu is in the *Mahabharata* But it is not certain which was the source and which the borrower "

Perhaps we will also understand better the mindset of the authors (despite its attribution to one single person called Manu, the laws are believed to be the culmination of work by several people) who could contradictorily, in one breath, associate women with "lust, anger, crookedness" and "malice", and in the next, affectionately note that "there is nothing purer than the light of the sun and a girl's breath" ■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Hunger and the Plate of Rice

(1)

I have seen the living Jesus Christ
in a plate of rice
The sweet aroma
of a steaming plate of rice
enters my nostrils,
smarts my eyes

From the nailed palms and feet
of the living Christ in the plate of rice,
I see droplets of blood drip,
to condense and become cooked rice grains
Strangely, the colour of these
blood droplets are white
Perhaps it does not contain
haemoglobin

(2)

To clothe and feed my widowed mother,
younger brother and sisters,
I strive, struggle, and in doing so
my body has become all skeleton

I have to strive however,
to keep my family alive
It is proper that I ignore
the colour of my blood
Whether it is red or white

Bishnu Sankar Verma



Subhajit Pal

A Bandh Day

It's a bandh day
life has come to a standstill,
and the unpeopled streets wear the looks
of the aliens landed on our planet, eyeing
us all with a bemused, confused concern,
unable to comprehend what it's all about
a grey silence perfectly matching
the grey overcast sky
with a persistent drizzle
looks down upon this dead putrefying city
in dark curiosity
what it's all about really?
the question too haunts the minds
of thousands like us
used to and actually relishing the
hectic rush of an extremely busy metropolis
Oh, what it's all about really?
what it's all about?

Grass

The grass grows by itself
Here, there, everywhere,
It grows under the barbed wire,
It grows on the borders
It fills greenness and peace
Into the bloodshot eyes
Of violent men and animals

Sashibhusan Rath

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS

DO

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC-741	0710	3 6	IC-742	0940	3, 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
M9-304/109	0855	1 3 5	M9-110/301	1900	1 3, 5
AIZAWL					
PF-705	0730	daily	PF-706	1100	daily
BAGDOGRA					
PF-707	1130	2 4 6	PF 708	1510	2 4 6
IC-721	1300	1 3 5	IC 722	1540	1 3 5
BANGALORE					
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2, 7
IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
BOMBAY					
AI 431	0100	2			
IC-676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
9W 202	0920	daily	9W 201	0840	daily
AI 309	1930	6	AI 306	1730	5
IC-273	1945	daily	IC-274	1850	daily
9W-212	1955	daily	9W-211	1920	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
COOCH BEHAR					
PF-707	1130	2 4 6	PF-708	1510	2 4 6
DELHI					
			IC-262	0815	2, 4, 7
IC 263	0700	daily	M9 303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	4S-806	1115	1 2 3 4 5 6
4S-805	1505	1 2 3 4 5 6	AI-682	1145	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC-401	1155	daily
IC-402	1715	daily	M9-301	1900	daily
IC 261	1900	2 4 7	S2 005	1900	1, 2, 3 4 5 6
M9 302	1930	daily	IC 811	1930	1, 3, 5
S2 006	1940	1 2 3 4 5 6	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
IC 703	0715	3 5	IC-704	1345	3 5
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2-181	1620	1 3, 5 7
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
IC-701	1240	2 4 6 7	IC 702	1630	2 4 6 7
DIMAPUR					
IC-257	1150	4 7	IC 258	1650	4 7

FLIGHTS

AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL-876	0420	7	KL 875	0235	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
GUWAHATI					
IC-703	0715	3 5	IC-704	1345	3, 5
IC-707	0715	1, 4 6	IC-708	1345	1, 4, 6
IC-711	0715	2 7	IC-712	1400	2, 7
D2-181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2-181	1620	1, 3, 5, 7
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
4S-812	1145	1 2 3 4 5 6	4S-811	1425	1, 2, 3 4 5 6
IC-257	1150	4, 7	IC-230	1620	daily
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC-258	1650	4, 7
IC-229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4 6
HYDERABAD					
IC-777	1500	2 4 7	IC-778	2005	2 4, 7
IC-769	1525	1, 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
IMPHAL					
IC-707	0715	1 4 6	IC 256	1320	3 5
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC-708	1345	1 4 6
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2 6
JORHAT					
IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
LUCKNOW					
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2-171	1045	daily
D2 172	1740	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1525	1, 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
PATNA					
IC-249	1430	2, 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
IC-812	1515	1, 3, 5	IC-811	1930	1, 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC-285	0640	3 5 7	IC-286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2, 4, 7
SHILLONG					
PF-701	1130	1, 3, 5, 7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5, 7
SILCHAR					
IC-255	0830	3, 5	IC-260	1110	1, 7
IC-259	0830	1, 7	IC-256	1320	3, 5
IC-253	1100	2, 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
IC-211	1240	4, 6	IC-212	1740	4, 6
TEZPUR					
IC-213	0910	2, 4, 7	IC-213	1315	2, 4, 7
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3, 5

INTERNATIONAL

BANGKOK					
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 5 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 5, 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RO-076	2040	5, 7	RO-075	1035	5 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
DHAKA					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1 2 3 6, 7
IC-723	1300	1 2, 5 6 7	IC-724	1620	1 2, 5 6, 7
BG-094	1905	1, 2 3 5 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3, 5 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5
KATHMANDU					
IC-747	1115	1, 3 6	IC 748	1455	1 3 6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
LONDON					
BA-142	2050	3 7	BA-143	1525	3, 7
MOSCOW					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
PARIS					
KB-106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2 6
KB-106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
AI-430	1300	1	SQ-416	2040	2, 5
SQ-415	2200	2, 5	AI-431	2235	1
SOFIA					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI-306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 15	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16-05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13-40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11-45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	3104
5185	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16-10	
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
	14-05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	–
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	–
–	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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HEADS AND TAILS



Maneka Gandhi

PULLING WOOL OVER YES

Many animal lovers think wool is one animal product they can use knowing that no creature has suffered to provide it Many of you like Australian wool and look for the label 'Merino' which represents the sheep from which the wool has been got Here are some facts on wool

What is wool? Hair grown by the sheep to protect itself from the weather Is it a natural product? It should be, but nature has, for many years, had no hand in it Without human interference, sheep would grow just enough wool to protect themselves from the weather, but hybrid sheep that the wool industry uses as 'wool machines' are scientifically bred to grow huge amounts of wool, far more than their bodies can carry

Research scientists have bred a Merino sheep which is exaggeratedly wrinkled The more the wrinkle, the more wool Unfortunately, greater profits are rarely in the animal's best interests More wrinkles mean greater perspiration and greater susceptibility to fly-strike, a ghastly condition resulting from maggot infestation in the sweaty folds of the sheep's overwrinkled skin

To counteract this, farmers now perform an 'operation' without anaesthetics called 'mulesing' in which sections of flesh around the anus are sliced away leaving bloody wounds

The unnatural overload of wool (often half their body weight) brings added misery to the sheep, specially in the summer months when they often die from heat exhaustion

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation reminds farmers that a closely shorn sheep is more sensitive to cold than a naked man Every year, hundreds of thousands of sheep die of cold soon after shearing

Presumably the farmer is aware of the possibility of this occurrence, but no doubt it is a calculated risk and the high price of wool covers the cost of dead sheep In such commercial undertakings, the suffering of the animals is irrelevant

You probably think that because they are so valuable as wool producers, sheep must warrant proper handling and treatment Here is the truth All over the world and specially in Australia from where we import a lot of wool, they are specially treated

When you see a sheep-shearing demonstration on television, you forget that these are 'demonstration experts' who handle the animal well and do the job neatly and quickly without causing obvious distress But these are not the run-of-the-mill shearers There are a lot of unskilled cutters who work in a hurry and leave blood gashes on the sheep whenever their scissors cut too close Every cutting operation has one boy standing by, called a 'blood stauncher', whose job is to put tar on the wounds to stop the bleeding

In Australia, as anywhere in the world, it is not necessary to use anaesthetic for 'operations' performed on farm-bred animals, so mulesing, tail-docking, ear-clipping and castration of sheep can be performed by unskilled farmhands

Every year, hundreds of thousands of sheep die of cold soon after shearing. Presumably the farmer is aware of the possibility of this occurrence, but no doubt it is a calculated risk and the high price of wool covers the cost of dead sheep. In such commercial undertakings, the suffering of the animals is irrelevant

The suffering caused to sheep during shearing goes unnoticed



Sunil Ghosh

The methods of castration are still quite barbaric, a rubber ring may be used to cut off the blood supply to the testicles, causing them and the scrotum to wither, or the testicles may even be bitten off by farmers, who refer to them as "oysters of the bush" Still more suffering is caused by foot-rot and other harrowing complaints to which these poor creatures are subjected There are photographs of animals literally trying to walk on their knees because their feet are so painful

Now, a special sheep which will never see the outdoors but is bred intensively like chickens in sunless, concrete coops, will be used to produce a 'super wool' called Sharlea A new drug, cyclophosphamide, is being injected into sheep because it has been found to have a hair-loosening effect Instead of shearing, sheep can now have their hair pulled out in handfulls! Of course, the drug has the aftereffect of making sheep blind, but then, who wants a 'wool-machine' which can see any way

What will happen to the absolutely naked sheep after the hair has been pulled out? Since they are very sensitive to weather, one of the options has been to spray the sheep with a water proof chemical What happens when the farmer feels that the sheep is wearing out? Obviously - the slaughterhouse Some will be transported to vast distances in unsuitable trucks and trains Crowded in layers for a three- or four day journey to the slaughterhouse, they receive neither food nor water and remain standing all the way The sick or clumsy ones who may fall are trampled by their frightened fellow creatures

Of course, some are dead on arrival Those that can still stand are hurled or harried down the gangplank by men with electric prods The dead and the dying are dragged off and thrown into heaps Some may also suffer the ultimate cruelty of live export to the Middle East They are herded into ships (upto 120,000 per ship) where they are forced to stand in their own urine and faeces in dark holds

Amidst the stench, the sheep lie dying as their fellows try to survive on powdery pellet food and urine-contaminated water Further horrors await the sheep in the Middle East where witnesses have seen a sheep's throat cut by a knife in the street where it slowly choked on its own blood, or blinded and bundled into the boot of a car to be slaughtered at home later

Newspaper journalists have reported the intense suffering of badly handled sheep during transport from Australia to Marseilles and Algiers In one instance we are told of 12 wagons leaving Dover on a cargo ship loaded with 800 ewes that had been shorn the day before and had spent a bitterly cold night in the open

Two hours after they arrived at Dunkirk, they were re-loaded, 80 to a truck, bound for Marseilles On arrival, 25 were lame and one so weak that it could not stand The sheep, along with the others, was taken to Algiers, where it was dragged off the ship to die on the dockside At Algiers, sheep which had neither been fed nor watered since leaving Marseilles found a bundle of hay on the dockside and they fought each other to reach it A lorry driver trying to get through, drove straight at them, sending a few flying and breaking their legs Even these were loaded onto the slaughterhouse trucks to hobble to their death

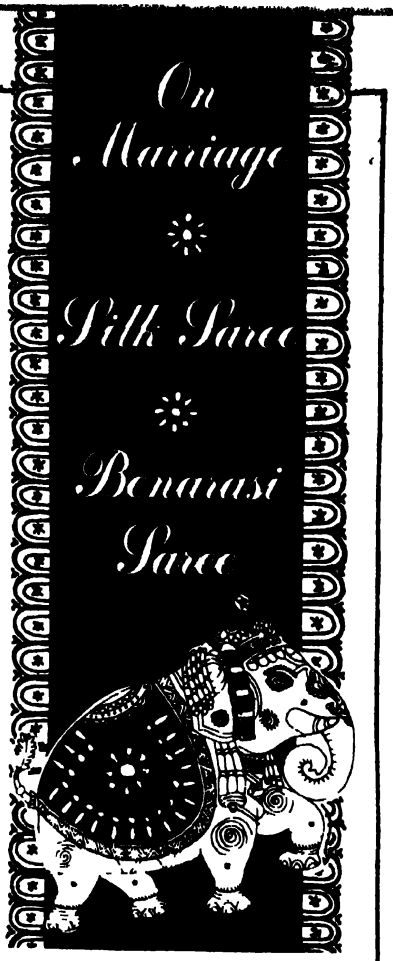
All this cruelty abroad is duplicated a million times in the sheep in Himachal Pradesh Nevertheless, you may say, wool is necessary since it keeps us warm in winter Only if you are a sheep, that is It is not good for humans The skin eliminates wastes all the time The best clothing allows these wastes to go through them so that the body is not injected with its own excretions As we say the skin needs to breathe Clothing that holds perspiration and wastes against the skin limits its activity by obstructing the free access of fresh air and sunlight, thereby laying the ground for all sorts of skin diseases Woollen fabrics are the worst in this respect

If we don't use wool, how do we keep warm? Man-made alternatives, such as nylons and acrylics, are so much better Clothes and blankets which wash easily and do not shrink, keep their colours, cost far less and are far superior to wool when clear bright colours are desired

In future whenever you are tempted to buy wool, remember the cruel treatment that has attended its production As always, the buyer has the power to put an end to organised cruelty Wool users support butchery by subsidising the production cost of lamb and mutton joints — even though they may not consume them

Can one live with the knowledge that one has abetted the callous exploitation of these gentle animals? As with silk, I have always avoided wool I stay with good looking acrylics and nylon stockings and socks in winter

(Sanctuary Features)



Indian Silk House Agencies

129 A, Rashbehari Avenue,
Calcutta - 700 029



RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THOSE BLOOMING WRITERS

When I first came to live in Mussoorie, some 30 years ago, I did not expect to be the only writer living in or around the hill-station. There were, of course, writers in Dehra Dun which had a literary climate of sorts. But in Mussoorie there was none, at least not until I had been there for some time.

You would of course be right in telling me that Hugh Gantzer belongs to Mussoorie, but in the Sixties he was still serving in the Indian Navy and I did not meet him till 1970 or thereabouts, at which time he was writing short stories.

It was only after his retirement from the Navy that he and his wife became a team of highly successful travel writers. And naturally they travelled.

From Brazil to Zanzibar
They would feast on caviar!

It was in the early Seventies that the first budding writer came my way — a young man of American parentage but born and brought up in Mussoorie.

He told me that he planned to write a novel in due course and I nodded sympathetically and made encouraging sounds. (The last time I tried to discourage a would-be writer he became a critic and hounded me ever after!) A few years later he did produce a novel.

His name was Stephen Alter and he went on to write a string of startlingly successful novels which enabled him to kick the dust of Mussoorie from his heels and travel extensively. I believe he now lives in Cairo. Mussoorie's loss is Cairo's gain!

And who was the next friendly neighbourhood writer?

When I first met him he was wearing the orange robe of a *sadhu* but he had a distinctly Scottish accent. He had spent 12 years in an *ashram* in Almora and it definitely showed, he could eat nothing but porridge. He was secretary to the Rajmata of Jind. His name was Bill Aitken. One day he confessed to me that he was feeling bored and frustrated.

"Why don't you write something?" I suggested.

"Who'll publish it?"

"I will." (I was then literary editor of *Imprint* (published from Bombay but compiled by me in Mussoorie).

He wrote a story which duly appeared in the magazine and after that there was no holding him back.

Within a few years, Bill was devouring railway tracks as though they were spaghetti and writing more articles in a month than I could do in a year!

So I was not alone in the woods after all. Not with Win Chamberlain around. He was a gregarious American who had written a sensational bestseller called *Gates of Fire*, set in an India difficult to recognise. He had rented a villa in Landour, where he was busy writing another, even more salacious novel. I forget the title, but this, too, must have been a bestseller because he now has his own beach house in Goa.

Meanwhile I was plodding on with my unsensational stories and children's books, and was made to feel even more of a country bumpkin when Dhiren Bhagat came along, flaunting a fat salary cheque from the London *Observer* and a retainer from the London *Spectator* and an advance from a London publisher.

He was looking for a quiet place where he could write, he said. I helped him find a cottage, but he spent most of his time quarrelling with his landlady and did little serious writing there.

He was a charming young man in his early 30s, quite clever in his conversation. One of the first things he said to me was, "Ruskin Bond — I thought you were dead!" I believe he had also written a premature obituary for Khushwant Singh.

Dhiren's feud with his landlady led him to leave his driver in charge of the cottage while he hared off to Delhi on a journalistic assignment. He was unaccustomed to Delhi's traffic and on a busy road near Gole Market, he met with a fatal accident. A great waste. In spite of his infuriating ways, he had real talent.

Since then, a number of interesting people have been flexing their muscles, dusting off their typewriters and making me look and feel like a journeyman apprentice.

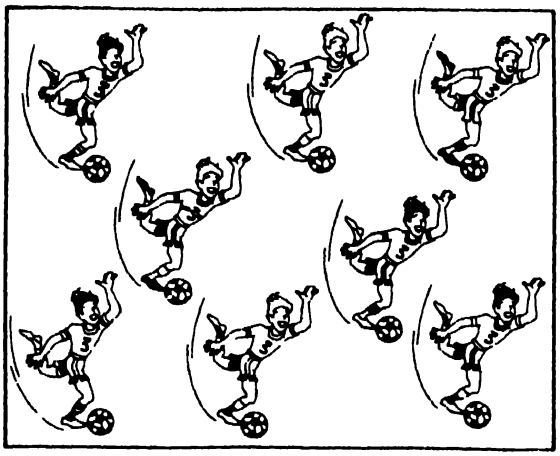
There's Victor Banerji with his shiny new word processor, and Ganesh Saili, on first name terms with publishers and editors, and Briony Kapoor with her brilliant unpublished stories and, of course, a whole bunch of retired Air Marshals, Brigadiers and Surveyors with their formidable memoirs.

I feel like a wafer chip confronted by a club sandwich. But no one can complain of a lack of stimulus — literary, or, otherwise.

(Sanctuary Features)

The last time I tried to discourage a would-be writer he became a critic and hounded me ever after! A few years later he did produce a novel. His name was Stephen Alter and he went on to write a string of startlingly successful novels which enabled him to kick the dust of Mussoorie from his heels and travel extensively. I believe he now lives in Cairo. Mussoorie's loss is Cairo's gain!

JUNIOR WHIRL HAL KAUFMAN



SOCCER MATCH! Two of eight soccer players above look enough alike to be twins See if you can locate them

MIND THIS! In case you never knew or may have forgotten, mnemonics is a technique or system designed to improve a certain function of the human mind What function is that?

The function of memory



HORSE OPERAS TO PONDER

THERE have been lots of singing cowboys Singing horses? Who's to say? Nevertheless, let's pretend famed horses listed below wish to sing out the names of the respective owner/riders Can you match them up?

1 Silver
2 Spark Plug
3 Trigger
4 Champion
5 Topper
6 Tony
7 Rosinante

Owner/riders A - Roy Roggers B- Tom Mix C—Don Quixote D--Hopalong Cassidy F—Lone Autry G—Barney Google

No fair pecking

1 F 2 C 3 A 4 E 5 D 6 B 7 C

THIRTY SUM! Twelve numbers between 0 and 15 are in place in the diagram below, four numbers of this sequence are missing How long will it take you to fill the vacant squares so that the four horizontal, four vertical, and two diagonal rows total 30?

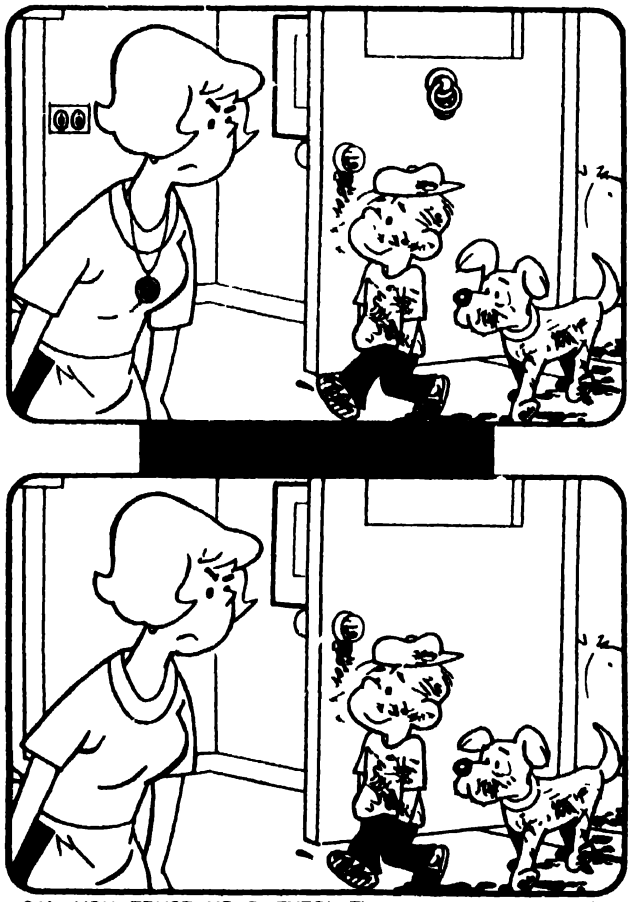
Remember, missing numbers complete the sequence 0-15

Give it a try Time limit is four times 30 seconds

Place 5 and 6 across (up blanks 9 and 10 below

0	14	13	3
11			8
7			4
12	2	1	15

HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Switch is missing 2 Pendant is missing 3 Sleeves are shorter 4 Door knocker is missing 5 Leg is moved 6 Dog's ear is smaller

FUNSPOT



SHORE THING! Hit that beach, find that spot Simply apply the following colors 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

SUPERIOR

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

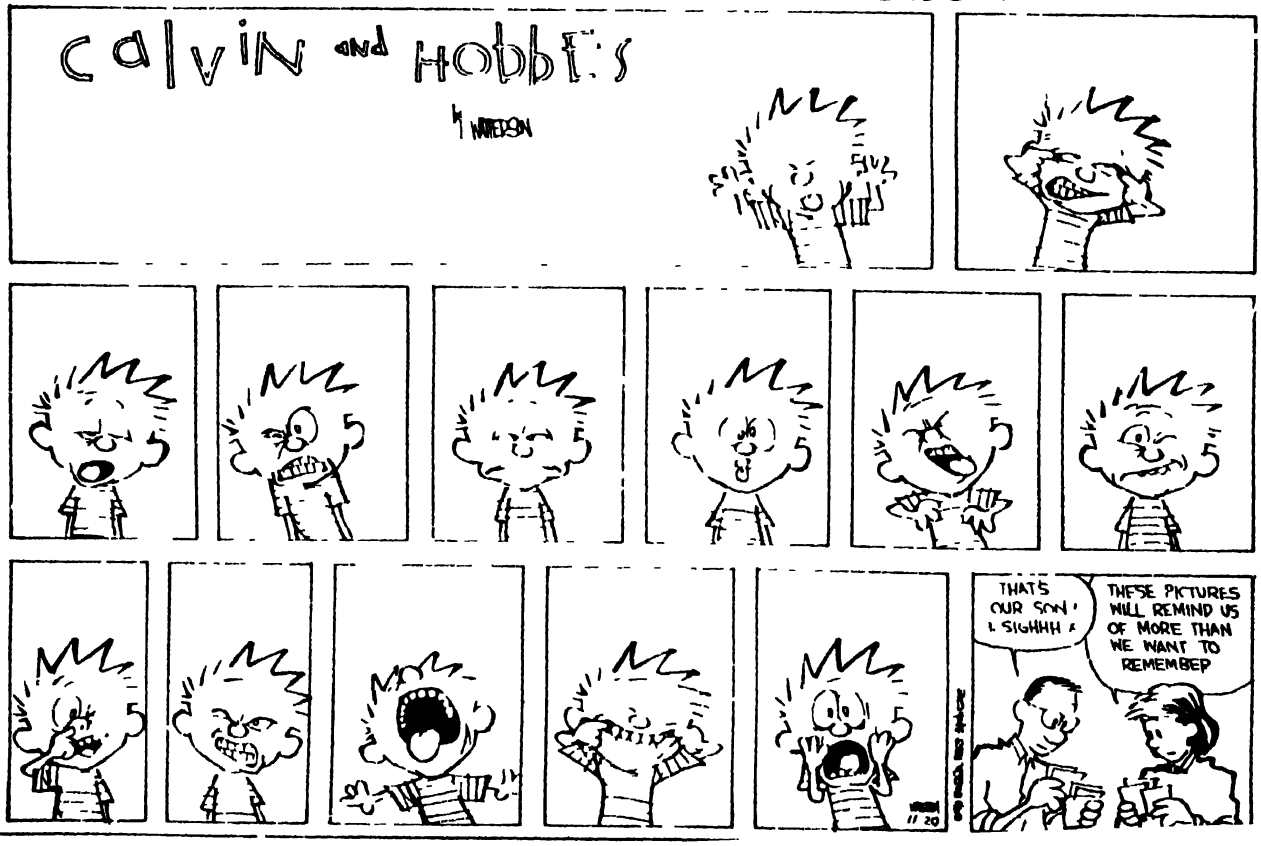
Possible twosome Four site

COMICS

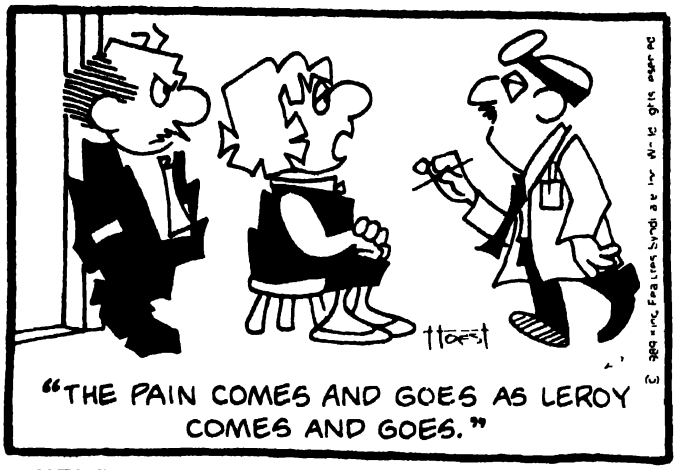
ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



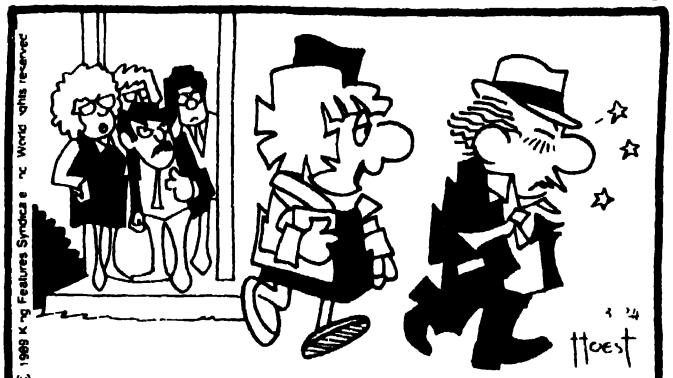
THE LOCKHORNS



"THE PAIN COMES AND GOES AS LEROY COMES AND GOES."



"THAT WAS PROBABLY THE BEST SHOW WE EVER SLEPT THROUGH."

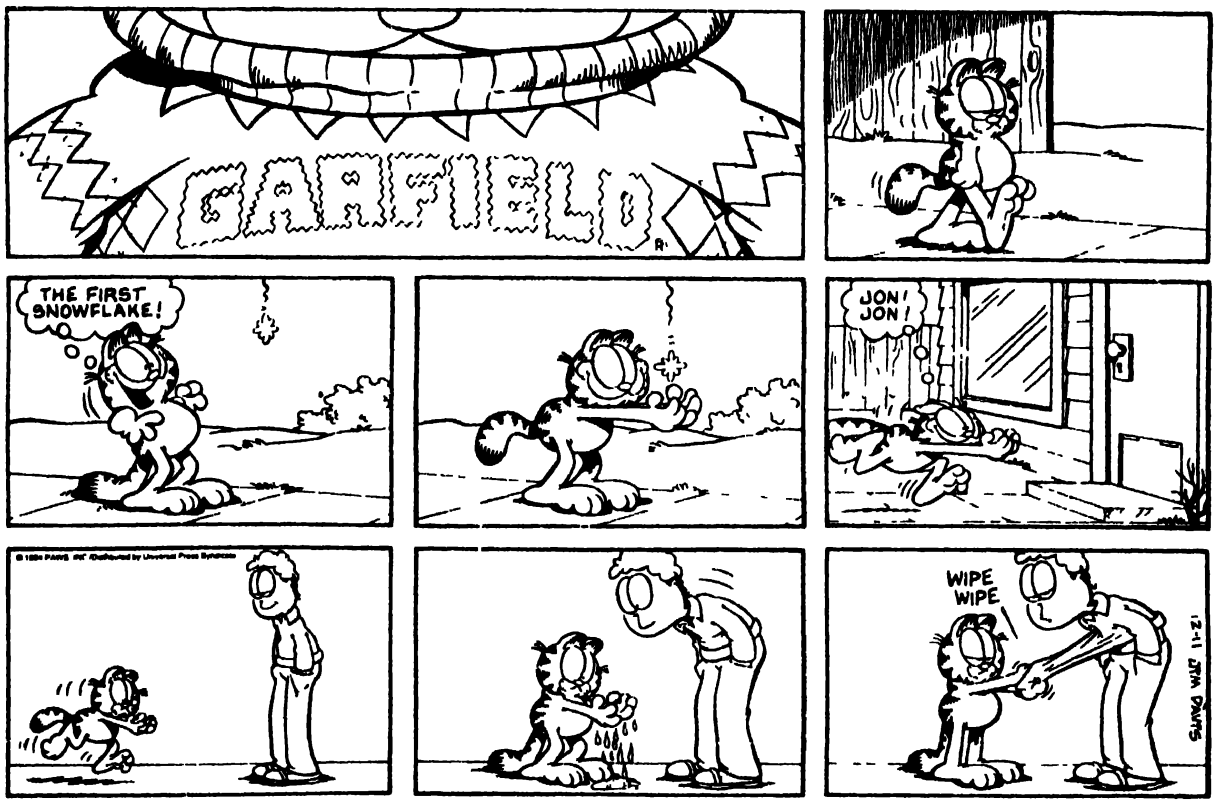


"YOU SEEM TO HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS."

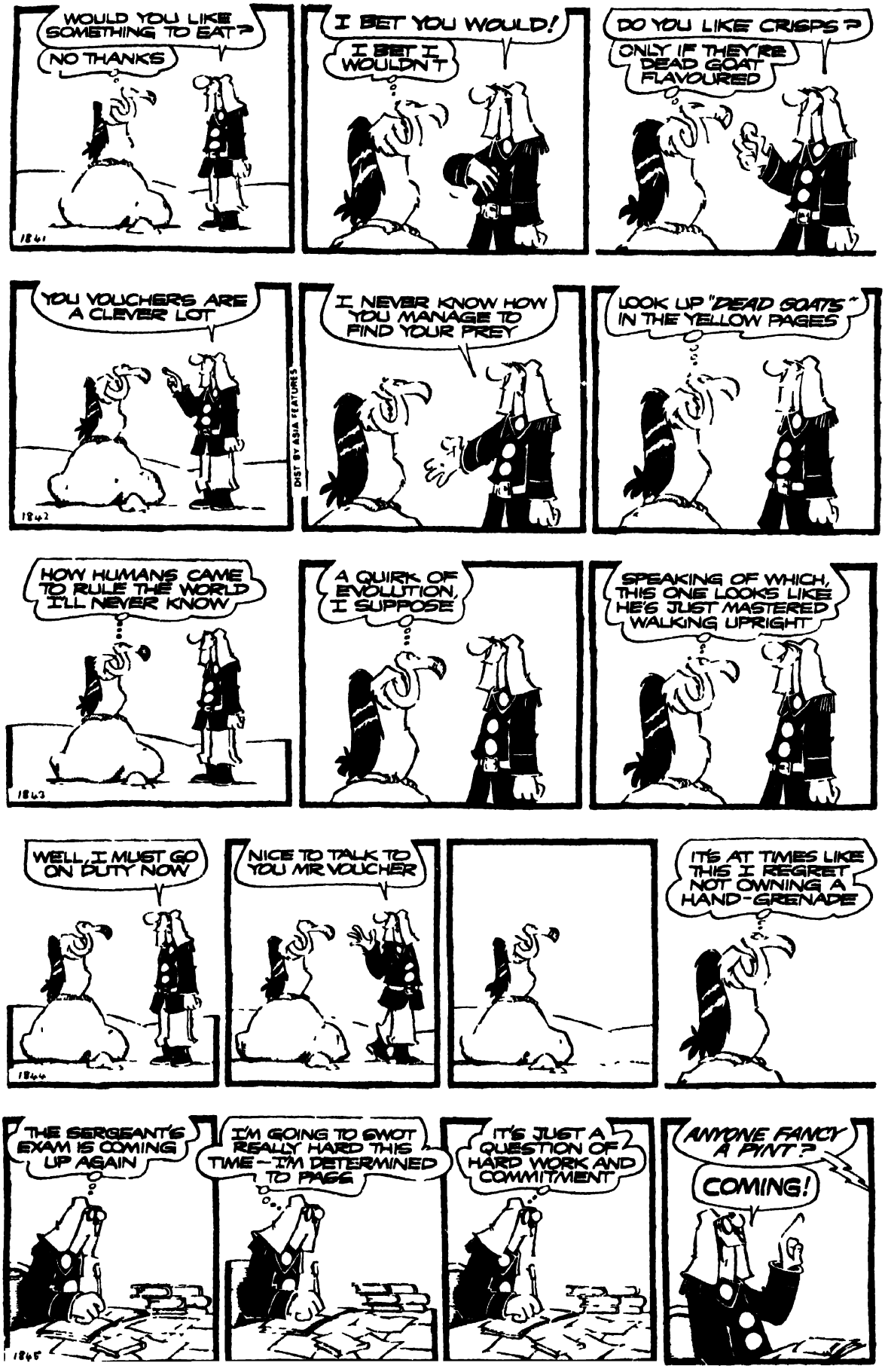


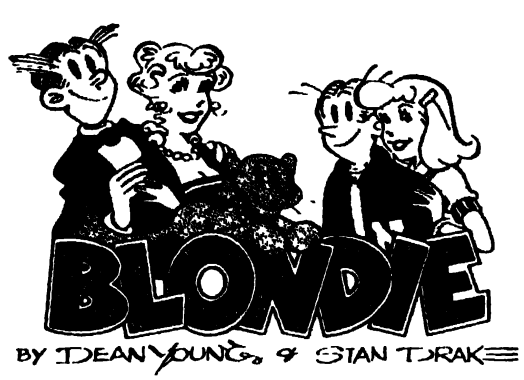
"CELEBRATING? WHY, NO....I'VE BEEN MALE-BONDING!"

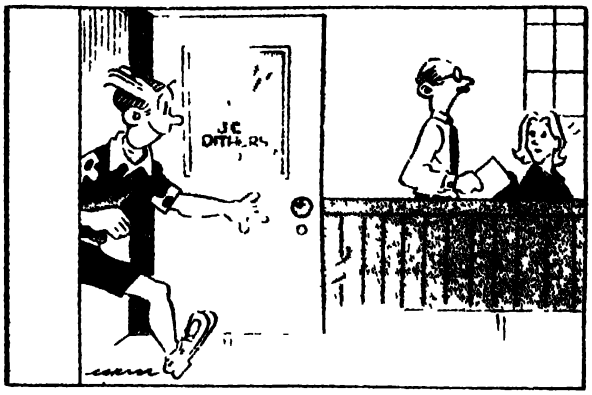
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

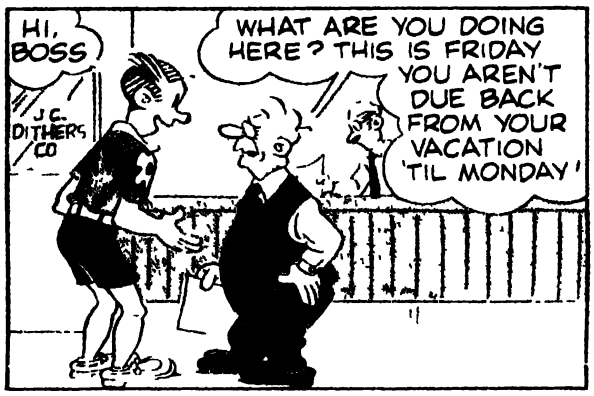


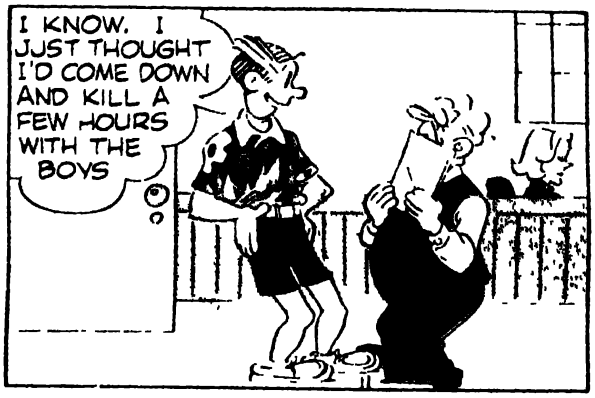
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

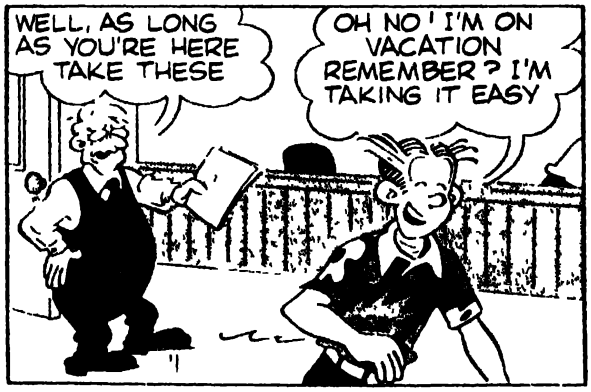






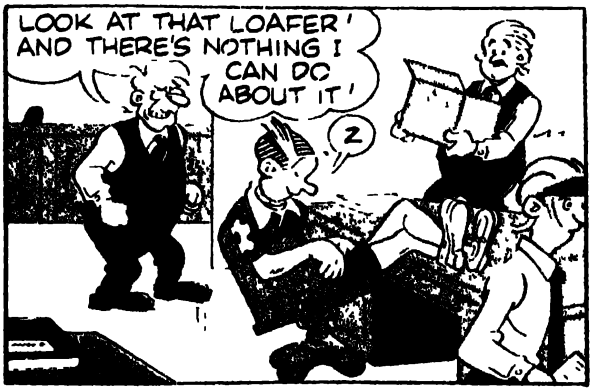


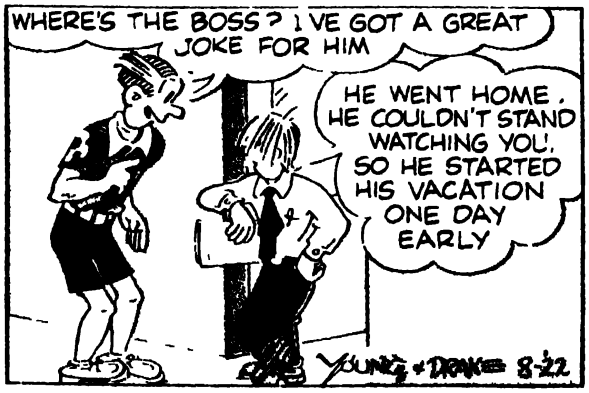






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Wearing History



Avartan —era, a system of chronology starting from a specific point of time, with impetus from traditions past, is also the revivalist name given to Bela Shanghvi's textile art collection

Her range was born after years of arduous labour in museums and libraries, visits to far-flung rural belts, and meeting, in course of her work, a wide cross-section of people

Skilled *kaarigars* were deeply enthused by her endless reserves of energy to resume the livelihood their forefathers had once pursued

What followed was a resurrection Of Aashavali, Atlas, Bandhni, Block Prints, Paithani, Patola, Chanderi, Chintz, Mashru, Tanchoi, Taheriya and the breathtaking varieties of embroidered textiles Dharwar, Kasauti, Rabari work and Kathi work, to name a select few

Each work of art, blends antiquated motifs and techniques with the embellishments of Avartan's own distinctive signature

It has also taken into its stride customised orders with clients encouraged to choose the material, the myriad colours, motifs, design construction and technique to be used along with precious pearls and stones in gold and silver encasements

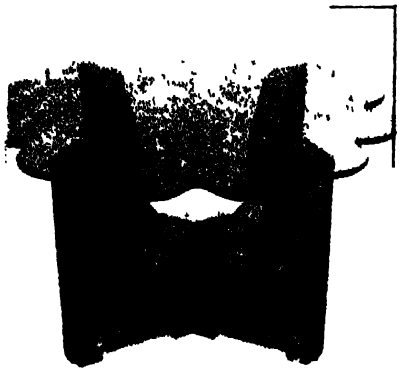
Weaving strands of history, Bela Shanghvi's priceless pieces are a joy to behold - and wear

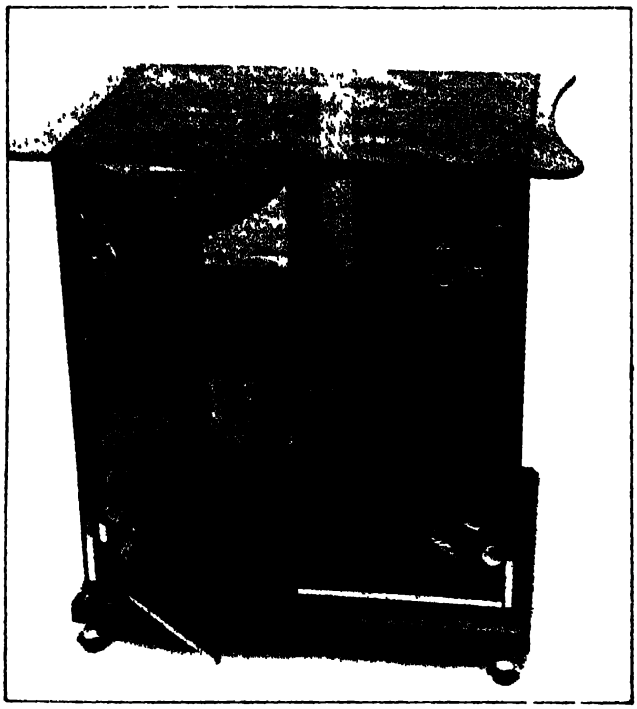
Classy and Glassy

With dwindling reserves of green cover, wood is today getting dearer and furniture-making costlier

In the wake of this 'grow more trees' climate, Glassy decided on the idea of total glass made furniture as a means to substitute wood

Glassy's various items are created by drawing and designing---the onus of whose exclusivity rests entirely on its proprietor, Shantanu Mukherjee





This high-tech mode of interior decoration combines the glamour of glass and the tough tolerance to weight, of wood -- making its furniture non-fragile It's washable and can be handled with relative ease

The classy yet contemporary designs have been used to make dining tables, TV stands, book shelves, mirrors, or even sofas and chairs

On display at the recently held Industrial India Trade Fair, Glassy's wares have made it the Best Award Winner at the city's prestigious trade meet

Glassy has truly brought in some wood-shattering innovations

Rajlakshmi Bhattacharyya

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

Police Academy Mission to Moscow Just when we thought the cold war was over, leave it to the Academy guys to put the heat on



After half a century of opposition and a bitter cold war, the two largest super powers have finally begun working together As part of the cooperation plan there is an exchange visit of the Academy mates to Moscow city, where the mates would display their super-efficiency and also impart training to the Moscow police

Russian police, for years, have always feared the Russian godfather, Konstantine Konali (Row Perlman) Hence the good old mates get banded together in Moscow to tackle Konstantine

But Konali has a master plan — to swindle the entire world with the help of a video game which can access any computer in the world Once the video game breaks them, be it the the New York Stock Exchange or the Landen Fish Market, any computer is easy

BOOKS

***All the Nice Girls*, Barbara Anderson: The story is set in 1962. Sophie Flynn loves a sailor at Devonport Naval Base in New Zealand. However, he's not her trusting husband, William. She's fedup with the womanising Commodore and to win him back she decides to to break every moral and naval rule she lives by.**

An engrossing social comedy in which the author has perfectly detailed the time and place, thereby making Sophie's dilemmas agonisingly real.

You simply can't ignore the



small details penned by the author to discover whether Sophie finally gets what it takes to make herself a life.

Published by Jonathan Cape; £14.99.

LIFESTYLE

Strolly It's VIP's latest launch in the Skybags range of soft luggage

There's a cabin-sized bag with an inbuilt trolley that makes travelling smooth and convenient What's more, it is made with imported denier polyester



which gives it durability and a distinctly with-it look

A telescopic handle and a set of recessed wheels make travel just a cake walk And yes, you could have your pick from a choice of three colours black, blue and green

Priced at Rs 1,625, care to travel hassle-free?

ART

***Art for arts sake:* In a bid to promote art, Park Hotel, Calcutta, has once again come up with a unique way of showing to the cultured cognoscenti its aesthetic inclinations.**



This follows since the play it had helped stage in one of its banquet halls — reaffirming that haute cuisine needn't be its only cup of tea.

Works of 30-odd painters from Arts Acre are on display at the exhibition-cum-sale, capturing through ink, ink and acrylic, watercolour, oil and mixed media the artists' perception of life and colours.

The hotel's makeshift gallery will be open to visitors from 12 noon-8pm everyday till January 20 — an experience you ought not to miss.

TASTINGS

Break with flakes What better way to get cracking every day than to have Kellogg's ready-to-eat cereals in three crunchy options corn, wheat and basmati rice

If their hype is to be believed, Kellogg's cereal with milk and fruit, not only satisfies the family's morning energy needs — it's actually proven to increase alertness and memory

And before we forget, Kellogg's cereals are toasted, not fried (99 per cent fat-free and 100 per cent cholesterol-free) So weight-watchers can actually make a meal of it

Right now, you can only have these nutritious packs ordered from Bombay



RASOI



JIGGS KALRA



We met the beautiful Sheridan Rogers when she visited India to record a series of programmes for Radio Australia We were delighted to discover that the interviews were to be conducted by a food lover with a penchant for Indian delicacies We carried our conversations over three extended and extraordinary sessions distributed over a car ride and several restaurants Unlike other foodwriters with preconceived notions about Indian food who habitually put words in your mouth, Rogers was astonishingly easy on the nerves presence Considering her stature she is a major celebrity she has a wonderful knack of engaging you in dialogue and ferreting out the information she requires

Trained at the Leiths School of Food & Wine in London, Rogers writes for major Australian newspapers and lifestyle magazines She is the author of three superb food volumes We wheedled from her two recipes to usher in the New Year for Rasoi readers – both published in *Seasonal Entertaining* and have great pleasure in presenting them to you

BLOWAWAY SPONGE WITH CRYSTALLISED ROSE PETALS

INGREDIENTS

The Sponge

4 Egg yolks
4 Egg whites
A pinch of Salt
110 g / 1/2 cup Sugar
60 g / 2 oz Cornflour
6 g / 2 tsp Flour (all purpose)
5 g / 1 tsp cream of Tartare
2.5 g / 1/2 tsp Baking soda
Icing sugar for dusting
Single light cream to spread

The Rose Petal Jam

200 g / 7 oz Rose petals
375 g / 13 oz Sugar
30 ml / 2 tbs Lemon juice
Commercial Pactin

The Crystallised Rose Petals

100 g / 3 oz Rose petals
1 Egg white
A pinch of Salt
220 g / 1 cup Castor sugar (vanilla flavoured)

Serves 4

PREPARATION

The blowaway sponge

Beat the egg whites with a pinch of salt until stiff, then gradually add the sugar until thick and glossy While still beating add the yolks, one at a time, and continue beating until mixture forms a ribbon on top Sift the remaining ingredients and fold gently through the egg mixture

Grease and dust with flour two 8" sandwich tins (layer cake pans)

The rose petal jam: Heel* and wash the petals, then put into a large saucepan with 720 ml/3 cups of water, bring to a boil, cover and simmer for 30 minutes Remove, strain, reserving liquid and petals

Put the reserved liquid back in the pan, add the sugar, stir over medium heat until all the sugar is dissolved Increase to high heat, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat, add lemon juice and commercial pactin (read the sides of the packet to decide the required quantity, the quantity can vary from brand to brand), cook for 10 minutes or until the jam has reached setting point Remove from heat, add the reserved petals, stir and transfer to hot, sterile jars Seal when cold

The crystallised rose petals. Wash the rose petals carefully and pat dry Beat the egg white with salt and 5 ml/1 tsp of water until foamy Brush foam gently on each petal with a pastry brush Make sure that there is no excess white on the petal surfaces (you may require another egg white) Shake or dust the sugar on to both sides of the petals so that they are delicately, but evenly, coated Put on a tray lined with waxed paper and allow to dry for 2-3 days Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator until required

The oven: Pre-heat to 375°F

BAKING

Put the tins in the pre-heated oven and bake for 20 minutes or until the

Blowaway Sponge with Crystallised Rose Petals



tops spring back when touched with a finger and the cake has shrunk slightly away from the sides of the tin Turnout immediately onto grease-proof paper which has been dusted with icing sugar

ASSEMBLING
When cool, spread equal quantities of whipped cream and rose petal jam on each of the two sponges

TO SERVE
Place one sponge on top of the other and garnish with crystallised rose petals

*To heel a rose, remove the white part at the base of the petal

TURKISH DELIGHT

INGREDIENTS
50 g / 4 tbs Gelatine
900 g / 2 lb Sugar
1 strip Orange peel
20 ml / 4 tsp Rosewater
Few drops Cochineal (red food colouring)
125 g / 1 cup Pistachio nuts or Roasted almonds
Icing sugar mixed with a little cornflour

Serves: 8

Preparation time: 1 30 hours

PREPARATION
The gelatine. Put sugar in a saucepan, add 300 ml/1 1/4 cups of water and stir over medium heat until it dissolves (it should look clear and runny)

The sugar: Put sugar in a heavy saucepan, add 300 ml / 1 1/4 cups of water and the strip of orange peel, stir over medium heat with a wooden spoon until the sugar dissolves (if crystals form on the side of the pan, brush down with a brush dipped in warm water), bring to a boil, remove from heat and add dissloved gelatine Return to heat and simmer gently over low heat for 15-20



Turkish Delight

minutes, stirring con stantly Remove from heat, take out the orange peel, stir-in rosewater, cochineal and nuts, cover the pan and reserve for minutes

Skim off any skin that has formed on top and pour into a 11" × 7" × 2 1/4" lamington tray (jelly roll pan) which has been rinsed with water Allow to set, preferably overnight, in the refrigerator

Sift together the icing sugar and cornflour, and rub a little of this over the surface of the Turkish delight Using a sharp knife, dipped in the icing sugar mixture, cut the Turkish delight into squares or diamonds (like *burfee*) or any other shape that you like and toss in the icing square mixture Decorate with *chandi ka varq* Store between sheets of wax paper with more sifted icing sugar and cornflour placed between each sheet

NOTE: All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross ■

LAKSHMI PARVATHI, *who left her husband of 20 years and grownup son to move into the NTR household as his biographer, is now his second wife. As the woman behind his re-emergence to political power, she is said to have a major say in affairs of the Telugu Desam Party. Lakshmi has plans, not to be the next CM as outsiders seem to think, but to begin a residential school, a library and a museum, all dedicated to NTR, besides penning a serial for a local magazine based on his real life.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Keeping faith in whatever you want to do, disregarding criticism, like my marriage to NTR

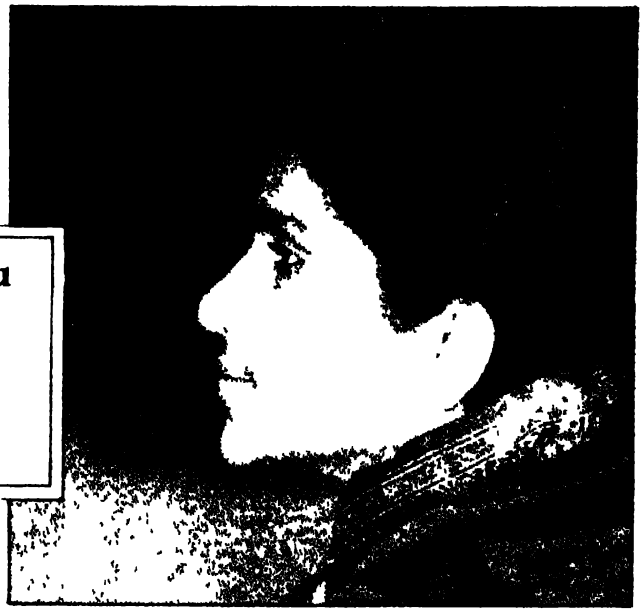
What is your greatest fear?
Fear of losing NTR I wish I had met him at least 20 years ago and married him then

Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
Literature Particularly, mythology I grew up in an orthodox family, though my father had communist leanings But it was NTR's films on mythology that gave a new direction to my literary talent Many of my admirers, while I was singing *Harikatha*, know how I used to copy NTR's couplets from the films

What do you dislike most in others?
Hypocrisy Many TDP leaders come to congratulate me on my marriage to NTR, but later ridiculed me behind my back

How would you like to die?

In NTR's laps


Sunil Sooley

What do you dislike most in yourself?
My short height I wish I had a better personality to suit NTR in stature Often, NTR has to bend to camouflage the height-gap when posing for a press photograph

What is your most precious possession?
The unpublished and unfinished works of NTR Now he wants me to complete them

What objects do you always carry?
My bag contains no cosmetics I always carry a book on *gayatrijapam* and some herbal medicine

What makes you most depressed?
My failure to come upto expectations of the adored 'deity' (*aradhyadaivam*) I cannot match his knowledge of Sanskrit scriptures

What do you dislike most on your appearance?
I feel embarrassed that I am neither a beauty nor an intellectual giant to stand next to NTR

What is your favourite word?
Service to society, through service to NTR

What is your favourite journey?
Earlier (before my marriage to NTR), it used to be the journey from Guntur to Hyderabad to meet him Now it gives me abundant pleasure to follow wherever he takes me

What is your favourite dream?
That NTR is in power always and serving the poor

What is your nightmare?
Life without NTR And to cook non-vegetarian dishes for NTR (I am a vegetarian, strictly)

What or who is the greatest love of your life?
NTR, of course

What is your source of sustenance?
My ability to adjust to new environment and keep pace with developments

What has been your happiest moment?

When NTR announced our marriage at Tirupati last year and called me, 'Lakshmi, come here'

On what occasions do you lie?
Never

What is your greatest regret?
I regret having caused pain to my parents when I decided to marry NTR Now, they too have approved the marriage

What has been your happiest moment?
When NTR announced our marriage at Tirupati last year and called me, "Lakshmi, come here"

What brings tears to your eyes?
My troublesome past and the vicious campaign of the Congress on my personal life

How do you relax?
I have to keep pace with NTR in his daily chores He starts his day at 2 30 am Only when he gets busy with party work or the government that I have free time I read and re-write many *slokas* and poems that NTR wants translated

What do you envy most in others?
When NTR reposes more confidence in others

How would you like to be remembered?
As a good housewife and as a lifelong assistant to NTR

How would you like to die?
In NTR's lap

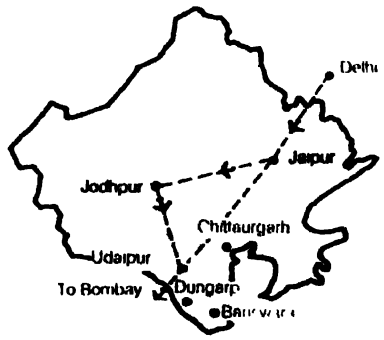


As Beautiful As The Land She Belongs To



Rolling hills, meandering streams and verdant forests Tucked away in the Aravalli ranges, this scenic landscape, comprising Banswara and Dungarpur districts and adjoining parts of Udaipur and Chittaurgarh, is the heartland of Bhil tribals.

Lively, sparkling people, Bhils have been celebrated in history and legend for their bravery Their name itself, deriving from 'Bil' meaning bow, testifies to their skill in archery Wedded to the forest, and never happy away from it, the Bhils represent a culture unique in itself. Their lifestyles and beliefs, their joie de vivre, their fairs and festivals, specially the **Baneshwar Fair (Jan-Feb) are altogether delightful.**



TRAVEL INFORMATION Nearest Airport-Udaipur
Distance by Road- Udaipur-Dungarpur 120 kms , Dungarpur-Banswara 135 kms , Udaipur-Chittaurgarh 112 kms

Rajasthan - The enchantment never ends

RAJASTHAN TOURISM PARYATAN BHAWAN, Govt Hostel Campus, Jaipur-302 001 Tel 370180, 376362, Tlx 383837, 389525 Fax 0141-316045 · Gram ATITHI
* Rajasthan Tourist Reception Centre, Bikaner House Pandara Road, N Delhi- 110003 Tel 383837, 389525 Fax 011 382823 * CALCUTTA Tel 279740 * AHMEDABAD Tel 420952 * BOMBAY Tel 2835603 * MADRAS Tel 8272093

This classroom has a pilot. A fashion designer. An architect.

A beauty queen

A surgeon.

And

a nasty spark

in

the mains.



Fortunately, MDS has done its homework.

MDS makes a wide range of electrical safety devices In this particular case the one that saved the classroom from catastrophe was a device which prevents short circuits and overloads

Without fail Each time Every time

In more than 30 years, we've produced the widest range of miniature circuit breakers manufactured by any single Indian company Most of which have *pioneered* and created a market in their categories Not startling really when you consider the facts

Technology from the best in the world.

Our technical collaborations for instance are with the world leaders in the field

Dorman Smith U K in 1962

ABB Stotzkontakt Germany in 1982

ABB Elettroconduttore Italy in 1985

And a second collaboration with ABB Stotzkontakt Germany in 1988 for a new product

Products as good as the best in the world

Each of our collaborations has helped us produce a unique electrical safety device, often the first of its kind in the country Not to mention products of the highest quality

Loadster for instance A miniature circuit breaker which we introduced over three decades ago Today it is the most popular brand in India

Loadkontakt, another miniature circuit breaker which protects from short-circuits and overloads by using a' Hammer trip" principle

Loadstop, a residual current circuit breaker, which automatically disconnects the current whenever there is a leakage It also protects costly electrical installations

Then there is ***Superfuse,*** a plug-in miniature circuit breaker a truly revolutionary product Instead of a fuse wire, there's a sensitive, pre-calibrated mechanism inside which we've tested 20,000 times already It switches off within milliseconds when there is a short-circuit or an overload

Of course we're working at increasing this range And we're growing as a company too With three factories and over 500 employees And you can rest assured each and every one of us knows exactly what it is at stake

MDS

Electrical Safety Devices

Anything else isn't safe enough.

For a free brochure on How to protect your home and office from electrical hazards write to Sr Manager Marketing MDS Switchgear Ltd 318/319 Shah & Nahar Estate Worli Bombay 400 018

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

The Mystique of Broadway

■ I was intrigued to find no mention of Charlie Chaplin in the cover story, 'Still a Hit', (December 11) It was in Broadway that Chaplin made his debut as a child thespian

Contrary to belief, Broadway has not wholly lost its pristine glory With the decline of London's West End, another Mecca for theatre lovers, Broadway today rules the roost

The fact that the theatregoers were disheartened at not getting tickets for *Les Miserables*, explains the unique mystique of Broadway, that it survives despite the enormous changes in the world of entertainment

Debashis Sen,
Calcutta

■ A visit to the United States is incomplete if one does not get to see a Broadway play Some of Hollywood's finest movies have been based on plays premiered in Broadway

Also, several Hollywood stars made their debut in Broadway theatres And many of them, in later years, have returned to Broadway

Calcutta, too, has a theatre tradition Could the Magazine do a story on this aspect?

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

■ Providing wholesome entertainment to the people for 101 years is no mean achievement. All the plays at Broadway have run to full houses and have been great hits.

B.N. Bose,
Calcutta



***Beauty and the Beast*: A runaway hit at Broadway**

■ It is amazing that Broadway has been surviving and entertaining for 101 years in the land of electronic entertainment

I wonder if the same could happen in India so that the onslaught of satellite invasion could be checked

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore

Rare Wit

■ The First Person interview with Amit Chaudhuri (November 20) was refreshing, witty and humorous Qualities rarely found in individuals these days

Tania Chakrabarty,
Kharagpur

■ Aishwarya Rai has rightly said her happiest moment would come, perhaps, when she would become a mother (First Person, December 4)

Biswajit Kar,
Kharagpur

INSIDE



M.G. Road, Bangalore

PAGE 4

WHY ARE more and more computer companies moving operations to Bangalore? Why is it that one can spend a two-week vacation in the city and yet not feel grotty about it? A look at what makes the Garden City so special, so seductive

SECTIONS

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Cover Bangalore Palace by T L Ramaswamy

COVER STORY

URBAN HOLIDAY

Commercial Street: Hub of activity



With over 900 pubs, balmy weather and food too tempting to be true, Bangalore is India's only city where one can live, earn and holiday, all at the same time, says
Padma Rao-Sundarji



Koshy's Bar One of the best places to eat and drink



IN BANGALORE TO INVESTIGATE FOR GERMAN RADIO audiences why the Karnataka capital is also India's 'Silicon Valley', I decided to commence operations by asking the captains of the industry.

Hoping a couple of pitchers of beer would loosen expert tongues enough to drop indiscretions, I started at one of the 900-odd pubs in the 'city of boiled beans', which is what Bangalore reportedly means.

"Was it the clear, relatively dust-free air that made it easier for you to assemble computers here?" I asked Rajan Shetty, a Bangalore boy and fervent cyberpunk who owns a computer firm

"No man, the weather's cool, that's all. See, people like to live here no, good facilities, eating out is great ," he said lurching towards a passing waiter at Take 5, Bangalore's pub for the mid-30s generation that cut its teeth on Dylan and the Doors

Bearded Chewdy Deshpande, the genial owner of Take 5, just grinned ruefully and shook his head "Ask a minister, and do it at 11 in the morning," he suggested.

"Mr Minister, why are more and more computer companies moving operations to Bangalore?" Silence, as the minister in white Khadi beamed at me and raised a finger to order a cup of tea Desperately flaying, I tried again.

"Why is Bangalore becoming so popular with industrial concerns? What is it that makes you so spe-

cial? Tell us, tell Germany ," I urged grandly, edging forward to thrust a gigantic microphone under his nose

He shifted ever so slightly and regarded me with the oh-so familiar "I'm about to spout Congress propaganda" look

"You seeeeee, weather's nice," he said, fiddling with the strap of his gold Rolex watch that matched the clasp of his cross strapped sandals

"Yes, but does that have a direct bearing on assembling computers? Is it of any particular advantage?" I persisted

"Peeeeeepull are nice," he supplied, shaking his head and smiling from ear to ear as he slurped the tea brought by a grovelling attendant

"Oh," I retreated, somewhat deflated "But what about other branches of industry? Why are they moving here? Surely the water problem

That got him Up he sat like a shot crisp Khadi crackling with starch, nostrils bristling with indignation

Water problem? What water problem? There is no water problem See, this tap water coming freeeely out, soooooo they like to come simply, that's all Let them aaaallll come, I say," he said magnanimously

As he spoke he reached out towards the wash basin, installed rather illogically in his office, making me suspect this was a frequently posed question

I wished I'd sent my Basavangudi grandmother with her plastic buckets to the minister's gleaming residence to store up enough water for the next two weeks and left to drown my frustration at Lake

Lake 5 teemed with bopping Bubpies A jazz band was tuning up to play to a jampacked, smoky room, constructed by zany Bangalore-based architect, Nicky Arni, who at that precise moment, was running his hand pensively down one of the half-built pillars that ran the length of the room, wondering whether it was losing its intentional look of being part-demolished

"I say, MTV's coming *daa*, MTV's coming *daa*," ran the buzz through the pub All at once, the ladies of Bangalore struck attitudes and geared up to answer unpromptu questions in the whackiest possible way while their men practised slouching more effectively over their pitchers of beer

A bald-headed Brit with an earring was holding forth in a loud East London accent on how "poob loonches would mike awe the diffrince, mate to his silent, staring friend

Took a walk in Cubbon Park full of gnarled trees aflame with vermilion brilliance to figure out how to find someone who could enlighten me an I stopped at the marble statue of Queen Victoria grouching into several chins that guards the entrance to the green expanse in the heart of the city

As the first rays of the sun settled on the Queen, who - it is rumoured - is soon to make room for an iridescent-blue plaster-of Paris one of some illustrious freedom-fighter, pointing as usual - to an unknown object in the sky, the answer dawned



Brigade Road Bangalore's showpiece

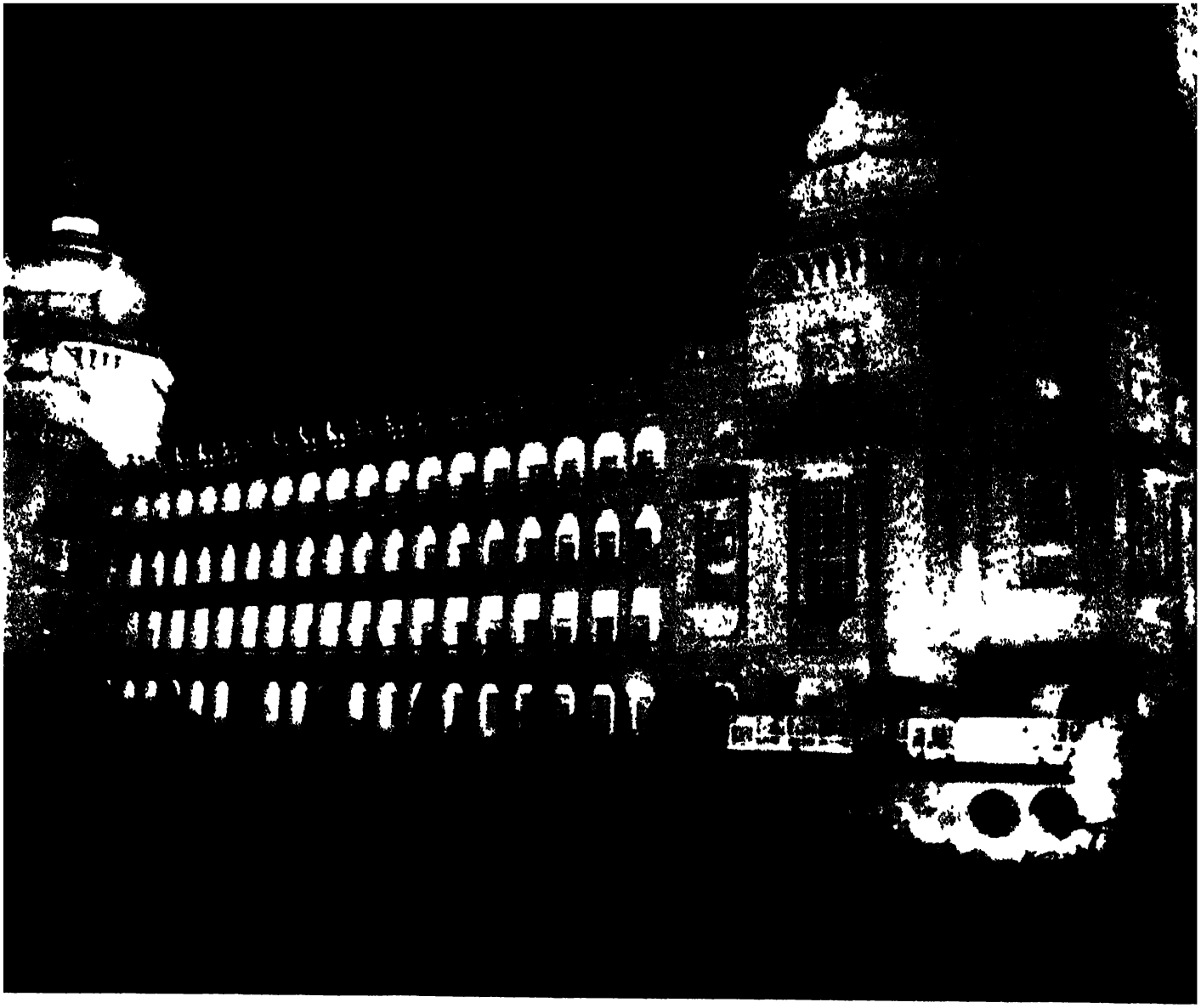


Rashbehar Das

The illuminated Assembly House



People consume vast quantities of alcohol in public with nobody — cops included — losing their shirts over the fact and women go out late at night without having to reckon with the grandsons of chief ministers giving them the chase to pinch their buttocks or worse



on me

It really was as simple as that Bangalore is the only city in India where it is possible to live, earn and holiday at the same time In other words, this is India's only urban centre where you can spend a two-week vacation at home and not feel too grotty about it

Apart from an ideal location six to 10 hours away from the coast (Mangalore, Goa), three to six away from the mountains (Coorg, Nilgiris) and mercifully a three-hour flight and thousands of kilometres away from Parliament House, New Delhi—dammit, they were right

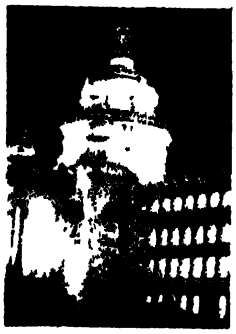
The climate really is seductively perfect and a perfectly valid reason for anyone - be it computer companies or shower curtain-ring salesmen — to move here

Houses and flats are better constructed, they've heard of parquet flooring and even use it to advantage in Bangalore, and your money generally gets you better value for almost anything you covet

People consume vast quantities of alcohol in public with nobody -- cops included - losing their shirts over the fact and women go out late at night without having to reckon with the grandsons of chief ministers giving them the chase to pinch their buttocks or worse

No longer is the night bird restricted to dark, five-star pleasure-domes where an omlette would cost him his nest egg

And, best of all, many a lazy afternoon can be spent licking the salt off



There is none of the frenzied survival panic in Bangalore that is so evident in Bombay and even Delhi. Karnataka shopkeepers display teeth-picking nonchalance but no must-buy-otherwise-get-lost rudeness that typifies smart establishments elsewhere.



DS Nawaz

A remnant of colonial architecture

Bloody Marys at the Bangalore Club, where the chattering, wandering *jeunesse doree* of Bangalore, anxiously place vast orders of kababs to swaying, soporific waiters who get them all mixed up and nobody minds — or remembers what they ordered anyway — as the drunken afternoon wears on

The Jazz Yatra can be witnessed in an open air amphitheatre instead of going through the ignominy of being frisked by sweaty New Delhi cops and holding up inside the claustrophobic Siri Fort auditorium, guaranteed to kill spontaneity, the very essence of jazz

Yes, the weather is nice, the people are nice, albeit rendered somewhat sluggish by too much of La Dolce Vita — and the water problem not half as bad as Madras or other cities

Theatre groups are constantly writing, re-writing and performing all of India's evils translated in dramatic terms — ranging from Arjun Sajnani's slick, polished productions to Mahesh Dattani's — very justified — *angst* for the plight of Indian elite existence

Urban professionals abound everywhere — in smart suits and ties — darting around as if vast fortunes were to be made any minute and curiously still seem to have the time to spend with harried friends from Delhi under Hotel Victoria's sprawling raintree for Sri Lanka pork curries

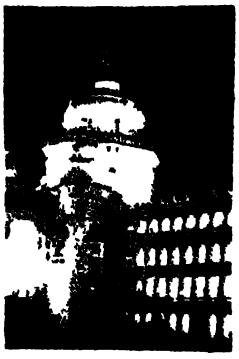
There is none of the frenzied survival panic in Bangalore that is so evident in Bombay and even Delhi Karnataka shopkeepers display teeth-picking nonchalance, but no must-buy-otherwise-get-lost rudeness that typifies smart establishments elsewhere

Restaurants serve up value for money and — more important — food unavailable even in the smartest five star speciality restaurants elsewhere in Indian conurbations

Prince's on M G Road is one such example Forget the mock-Regency interiors and concentrate instead on the feast Continental means just that — no indigenous versions like Punjabi-Provencal here

Guzzle barrels of beer or roll your tongue on Grover Vineyards' full-bodied but dry red wine and indulge in the luxury of juicy medallions of beef or whatever you like dissolving in your mouth along with your best resolutions to watch your calories And at the end of it all, even your wallet still bulges with well-being

Everyone seemingly has time to waste and so should you, if you're passing through Bangalore Hang out in the garden restaurant of the Hotel Victoria where it takes an average of an hour for each order to arrive, but the



Tipu Sultan's summer palace, once beautiful, is a sorry sight today. Nothing, but nothing, remains of the murals and elaborate carvings that must have once adorned the walls. All that is liberally splattered everywhere are signs that *paan*-chewing killjoys were once here

waiters are delightful relics — almost as old as the house itself — who serve you with gentleness and shaky hands

Bangaloreans take their siesta very seriously and it can often stretch to four hours an otherwise busy local executive cousin being a perfect example, so use it as an opportunity to stroll down Brigade Road, off M G Road

This is where you can browse through odd assortments of cheap, outrageously smart but also notoriously warped sunglasses, sassy clothes, shoes and peek into a rundown but popular Chinese restaurant which many Bangaloreans swear belongs to the Dalai Lama's sister

In Brigade Road, stop to ask for some passion fruit juice at the Nilgiris Dairy juice stall

"*Gotthilla*" — Dunno — is not what the man at the counter is likely to say, nor will he bat his eyelids in incomprehension at the mention of the exotic fruit "Season *illa*," is what he might settle for

"*Gotthilla*" is the prerogative of the city's notorious rip-off autorickshaw drivers who, like their counterparts almost all over India can tell you are an out-of-towner almost just by watching you walk up to the vehicle



It is typical that in a country where five-year-old brats at steering wheels make headlines in national dailies, Pub World and many others turn a blind eye to goggle-eyed kids of all sizes, shapes and ages and at all times of the day, silently witnessing their parents and other adults getting sozzled and seemingly enjoying it

Reckon with being taken for many joy-rides, but don't get hot under the collar — it'll probably give you an opportunity to see parts of the town you are not likely to visit, such as Richard's Square and Russel Market

A profusion of bright plastic buckets and kitchenware greets you at Russell Market But don't be put off Behind the pots and pans, is a delightful back alley full of junk and antique shops, abounding in weird and wonderful objects like old British ladies' travelling mirrors and ceramic water filters

The shopkeepers will dolefully beseech you to pay them their price as they all have daughters ranging between six and 12 in number to marry off but haggle with hard-hearted resolve till they relent

Russell Market is also where the small, bustling Taj restaurant serves the richest biryani this side of the Golconda Fort

Work it off by walking across to Commercial Street to buy mosquito nets and nifty hats in all colours, sizes and shapes, but not before you've peered into the shops that buy and sell old

Russell Market Selling anything from flowers to fowl



C S Nawaz

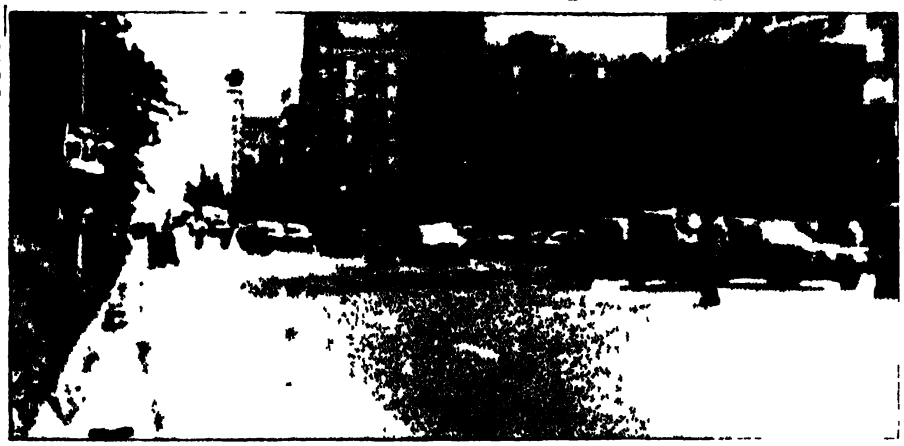
bottles by the kilo on the way there

The narrow road leading to Commercial Street is full of busy men sitting on cushions and talking business on the telephone amid mounds of beautifully coloured old soda bottles and those huge, sweet jars you see lying on their sides in shops

Commercial Street also has some very old shops in venerable houses which have still retained their intricate wrought-iron railings, patterned tiles and grandfather clocks

But an even better place to get a feel of the kind of grandiose colonial and Fifties-style architecture is the downtown Bangalore Cantonment area — more precisely Lavelle Road, Grant Road, Vittal Mallya Road and Kasturba Road

Many residents have thankfully preferred to retain the look, even



D S Nawaz

M G Road High profile

though — as one tired, elderly aunt told me — it is getting increasingly difficult to maintain such lavish gardens and living space

No matter what anyone tells you, do not take the trouble of driving out to view one of India's oldest banyan tree on the outskirts of Bangalore or even Tipu Sultan's summer palace The tree is but a slate for thousands of Suresh loves Ritas, Raju loves Malinis and a *pissoir* for every urgent male on a visit

It also abounds in aggressive monkeys, both of the rhesus and human variety, the only difference being the former kind live on the branches of tress while the college-going latter variety is wilfully brought to the spot in buses

Tipu Sultan's summer palace, once beautiful, is a sorry sight today Nothing, but nothing remains of the murals and elaborate carvings that must have once adorned the walls All that is liberally splattered everywhere are signs that *paan*-chewing killjoys were once here

Do visit Basavangudi's Nandi temple on the outskirts of the Lal Bagh Gardens which themselves can be avoided, unless you want to gasp at the ingenuity of gardeners who cut hedges like elephants, camels and tigers or inspect boringly predictable rows of horticultural prowess

Nandi in the temple is a great, black, shining hulk of a stone bull and the shrine is admirably devoid of unnecessary ceremony and fussy priests who force coconuts and *prasad* on you and proceed to charge you for it

The temple is as it was meant to be quiet, cool, dark and meditative — at least it was when I visited it

There isn't much else by way of tourist sites in Bangalore except for the Old Post Office and the Library — charming old buildings — in the middle of Cubbon Park The Library is said to have a cobwebbed, dusty collection of curious old British books

But if you are 30-ish, not particularly into religious form or ceremony or 'haring' around from tourist spot to spot with your nose buried in a travel guide, then your time is bound to be taken up just checking out all the watering-holes and feeding-troughs Bangalore has to offer

There is Pub World, a somewhat gaudy establishment divided into four supposedly international sections including a German one called 'Der Keller' (The Cellar)

But it is typical that in a country where five-year-old brats at steering wheels make headlines in national dailies, Pub World and many others turn a blind eye to goggle-eyed kids of all sizes, shapes and ages and at all times of the day, silently witnessing their parents and other adults getting sozzled and seemingly enjoying it

It is pointless to try and urge potential travellers to go to Black Cadillac or this, that or the other, largely because given the profusion, everyone is bound to discover a hang-out of their own

The same holds good for the restaurants But one of the better ones is Shezan a leafy, garden-restaurant which does competent steaks and great apple pie, located just across the Airlines Hotel (itself to be avoided at all costs unless you want to ride the slot-machine toy horse in the garden)

If you're a chronic insomniac, then you shouldn't have a problem arriving at Mavalli Tiffin Rooms shortly after 6 for unforgettable dosas and idlis which, however, are usually sold out by the time the rest of us bleary-eyed night animals rise for breakfast at — say, 8

One of the best places to eat, drink or even just read or write over endless cups of tea is Koshy's Bar and Restaurant Forget the Jewel Box — shaded-glass section for courting couples — go for the dining hall Great Appam breakfasts on Sunday and divine colonial curries on all other days

And as at the Victoria Koshy has delightful waiters who wander around distractedly, flicking at little specks of dust here or there and placing the sauce, pickles and salt and pepper cellars down for the millionth time that day

They give you a fatherly, disapproving look as you hiccup your second order of beer and will occasionally bring it to you holding it in a napkin to protect your feminine honour — actually unnecessary, given that the gorging, largely unconcerned Bangalore males around are used to the sight of female tipplers

And like the Bangalore Club, Koshy's is also a great place to eavesdrop on conversations at lunch to gain valuable insights into what makes Bangalore boys and girls tick

Try and get friends to take you to Hessarghatta Lake for a day's outing with a game of tennis thrown in at the adjoining Boathouse, where toothless ballboys in khaki shorts, chortle delightedly as they bound across the makeshift fence to gather balls for you

When I finally left the city described in a thousand cliches as Asia's fastest-growing, Silicon Valley, Garden City, etc, my questions were pretty much answered

The only one that still nagged me and played on my mind was, why on earth the Dalai Lama's sister would choose to sell momos in Bangalore when she could have picked any sympathetic and — more affluent — country than ours? The weather perhaps? ■

INNER EYE — Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21 – April 20



Ganesha says the moon's quarter makes you personalise, focus on things near to your heart and your secret desires At the same time, pressures of work will continue to mount rapidly and you will have to give your best shot to cope with it January 11, 14 and 15 hold promise of success

Taurus

April 21 – May 20



Venus ushers in money, say by loans, foreign affairs, buying/selling A trip is more than probable, in fact, it is fated Or, visitors meet you for work and play Expenses will mount Religious ceremonies, pilgrimages, enlisting in clubs, socialising and publicity are fated

Gemini

May 1 – June 20



Friends and associates will pitch in Be amiable Smile Believe me, it will help you Mercury-Jupiter happy placing enhances your status and you could bag a contract, a tender Invest wisely Now is the time to buy and sell, if you feel like, you can get expert advice Reach out to people

Cancer

June 21 – July 20



Hard work, a round of fun, and a job well done sums it all up for you Accept invitations and be a part of the crowd and the proceedings Many of you will make a mighty splash because Venus conjuncts Jupiter That means, you could well be a step or two nearer your desire

Leo

July 21 – August 21



You will be upto your eyes and ears in work, changing the course and direction of your work pattern, taking chances and making up for lost time, and your creative juices will flow most powerfully Your range will vary from a simple trip to a journey A promising week

Virgo

August 22 – September 22



There are three trends in simultaneous operation Childbirth, education, research, developing a hobby is one Focus on the home/office in terms of renovation, decoration, buying and selling could be another important direction of the year A sense of justice and fairplay foretold

Libra

September 23 – October 22



It is in your dealing with mate, partners, and people in general, that you will be tried and tested thoroughly Not to lose your cool On the positive side, you will be well known, have admirers and connect creatively with people Your house will be the centre of attention

Scorpio

October 23 – November 22



Stimulating encounters give you the fillip to grow, generate money have more friends and thus be happy Working folks could expect a pay hike, a bonus, big and beautiful Relationships can be improved by working on them Letters, calls, news and views should be given priority

Sagittarius

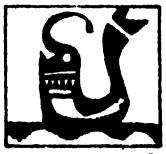
November 23 – December 20



Expect financial gains to come your way There will be struggle for power and position Get rid of unnecessary expenses A trip, a journey, or maybe a pilgrimage of sorts is on the cards This is time to make a major move Long-distance connections could be in the offing

Capricorn

December 21 – January 19



You will be in your element organising, experimenting, clearing dead wood, separating the grain from the husk Home conditions and influences will apply strongly for you Whether you are the benefactor or the beneficiary, goodwill is evident and that will go a long way

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18



There is definitely plenty of movement The week also points to a journey, calls, letters, correspondence, contacts, collaborations, negotiations and even final settlements A good week to move forward Changes on the anvil You will also entertain extensively

Pisces

February 19 – March 20



The sun conjuncts Neptune, your ruling planet, giving you both vision and tenacity the two attributes which often lead to success There will be talk of a promotion and it will happen in the next four months, says Ganesha Focus on finance and family could help recharge your batteries

BIRTHDAYS

January 8: Moon's quarter could pose a few problems for you, says Ganesha. Home conditions may not be quite pleasant and congenial.

January 9: Venus-Mars in unhappy placing means you will have to progress slowly, protect your flanks from the flak of the opposition The worst should be over by April

January 10: Moon-Saturn in good formation leads to progress, may be a bit slow, but most certainly very sure Your sacrifices will also be noted and appreciated.

January 11: There will be good luck in store and the resultant prediction will be success, glory, teaching, writing, ability to grow and evolve

January 12: Moon-saturn bad placing could mean health and relationship problems Colleagues and subordinates could trip you

January 13: Sun-Neptune conjunction leads to great vision and determination to succeed.

January 14: Venus-Jupiter gives you the charm and luck to complete unfinished projects and start new ones Those whose work or love has an overseas slant, find sweet satisfaction

FICTION

PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST

BY AMIT CHAUDHURI

The house was in a lane in a middle-middle class area which curved at a right angle at one end, and, at the other, led to the main road During the Durga Puja, the balconies of the neighbouring houses would be lit with green and blue neon lights, and families would walk towards the end of the lane that curved to the right, and join the crowd that was either coming from or walking towards the goddess Bank clerks, schoolteachers, small businessmen, with their wives and children, the boys in shorts and the girls in frocks, looking like the pictures of children on the covers of exercise books, formed that tireless crowd On the other side of the lane, after one had crossed the main road, one came to a lake with spacious adjoining walks where couples strolled in the evening, and children, accompanied by maidservants, came to play Binoy and I would walk past the lake in the afternoon, when women washed saris or scoured utensils with ash on its steps, and the heat had just ebbed into a cloudy, dream-like vacancy

It was in my uncle's house that, during one of my visits, I met my cousin's English tutor, whom they never referred to by name, but called 'mastermoshai' He was once a manager in an English firm, but had apparently left it after his wife and children had died in a motor accident After that, he had roamed the streets of Calcutta for a year, seldom returning home, and only lately had he reached, once more, a kind of settled state He now lived in his house with his servant, Ganesh, and gave English tuition for a small fee to children like my cousins How he had materialised into my cousins' lives I never really found out, but I gathered that he had been recommended to them by a relative on their mother's side

When I met mastermoshai I was 16 years old, and had had a poem published in the *Youth Times*, a magazine now defunct Prior to the meeting, while I was still in Bombay, my cousins had shown it to him, so that when I arrived, Binoy smiled and said to me, "Mastermoshai was very impressed by your poem" On Saturday morning, I saw a bespectacled man in his early fifties, dressed in a shirt and lungi, enter the small room where Binoy and Robi studied Approaching the room later, I saw an unlikely lesson in progress, for Binoy and Robi, and even little Mou, were sitting, heads bent, each staring at a book, while the bespectacled man seemed to be reading the exercise books in which they had written their answers It was a time of particular significance, for Binoy, at fifteen, would be writing his matriculation finals at the end of the year, as would Robi two years later After the finals, Binoy would have to decide whether he would take Science or Commerce, he would have to be readmitted to his school, or to another school, depending on how well he did, for his upper matriculation exams, and his life would receive an abrupt push towards a certain direction Even so, he would not be free of the English language and its literature for at least the next two years, although it would be increasingly marginalised from his life

So they sat in that room, reading poems by Longfellow or Tennyson, or short stories by Saki, Binoy the least interested among them, for his favourite subjects were arithmetic and art, and his favourite pastime, football But it said something for their affection for this man, who sat studying their answers, that even Binoy had begun to show signs of interest in the English lesson Interrupting the tuition at one point, my aunt took me into the room and introduced me to the tutor He had a very Bengali face, with short, slightly wavy, hair, a forehead of medium breadth, spectacles that belonged to his face as much as his eyes did, deep lines around his mouth, and teeth that jutted out from under his lip, making his face belong to the pre-orthodontal days His teeth were tobacco-stained, I was to find that he, like most Bengali men, smoked constantly Having now lived in England for several years, where not many men smoke, my memory of him taking a long puff on a cigarette is associated with the anachronistic, old-world atmosphere of Calcutta, with its small dreams and ambitions I don't know why I recall his face in such detail, except that there are some faces, especially those of men belonging to his generation, that have stayed in my mind, perhaps because the world that produced them is now inconceivable He was not at all handsome, but I see that he might have been attractive to his wife when he was a young man It would have been an attractiveness that is different from that of the young men of my generation, one has only to see old Bengali films to realise that men were slighter and smaller in those days, but with a proportionate elegance and agility

Robi got up from his chair, and I sat down next to mastermoshai Robi, sitting on the bed, and Binoy and Mou, looking up from their books, had formed a small, expectant audience Mastermoshai was shy, he was expected to say something about my poem When two literary men meet in Bengal, they do not ask each other personal questions, but straightaway enter realms of the abstract and articulate Mastermoshai's first question to me was, in an English accent tempered by the modulations of Bengali speech "Are you



profoundly influenced by Eliot?" Though I was taken aback, I countered this with a few names I had recently discovered in the Penguin Modern European Poets series —Mandelstam, Montale, Brodsky Mastermoshai was impressed The next time he came to the house, he brought me a novel, a Penguin Modern Classic It was *Malone Dies* by Samuel Beckett, the copy, he said, belonged to one of his 'disciples' The cover had a grim but beautiful picture,a pencil sketch, of a human skull In the pages inside, difficult words had been occasionally underlined, and their meanings noted A strange world had been described there, one that I could not make sense of I took the book with me back to Bombay

It was mastermoshai who first spoke to me of Baudelaire He knew the names of the French existentialists and the titles of their books—Sartre, Camus, *Being and Nothingness*, *The Fall*—but his highest praise was reserved for Heidegger's *Being and Time*

The words 'being', 'subject', 'object', frequently entered our conversations,especially when he was discussing my poetry, of which I had begun to produce sizeable quantities "Every writer needs his Pound," he said to me *"Il miglior fabbro*— Eliot's better craftsman " He was my first impresario, showing my poem in the *Youth Times* to his friends and 'disciples' On another occasion, he compared himself to Leopold Bloom and me to Stephen Dedalus, adding, "Every writer needs a guide, a father-figure " On one level, he *was* a father to me, and on another level, a friend For, behind the big talk about literature, a fondness had grown between us, based on the ardent exchange of ideas that belonged to a foreign language and continent, ideas probably already obsolete over there, but which here, in the comfortingpresence of relatives and friends, took on a unique intensity, a freshness, a friendship that could only have formed in a country with a colonial past Even more provincial, and marginal to Europe, than Dublin was in the early 20th century, was Calcutta at the century's close Trams, rickshaws, markets, office buildings with wide, creaking stairs, bookshops, little magazines, literary critics, uncles, aunts, created this Dublinesque metropolis of which mastermoshai was a part

By the time I visited Calcutta again, another one of my poems had appeared in the large, loose-leafed pages of *The Illustrated Weekly of India* This magazine, easy to roll, generous to the touch, had circulated among members of my mother's family and even reached mastermoshai He had tucked it under his arm, emerged from my uncle's house, and walked off to show it to his friends— for, in south Calcutta, many literary critics and poets lived within walking distance of each other "Extraordinarily mature for seventeen years old," Binoy reported him to have said He was now ready to introduce me to his 'contacts', clerks and accountants who led a shadow-life as editors, poets, and intellectuals They were a small, stubborn band of people struggling to keep alive a sense of the urgency of modern poetry and its many movements in the midst of an enervating climate and a society with other preoccupations

One morning, mastermoshai arrived at my uncle's house He seemed to be in possession of a secret He told me to hurry up, for he was taking me to meet the editor of the *Living City* It was a magazine locally published in Calcutta, and I recalled that I had once picked up a copy from a pavement stall in Park Street I had found it interesting in a strange way, because its contributors were Bengalis I had never heard of, with the kind of common reassuring name you think must belong to learned people—Sukumar Mukherjee, Shibnarain Sen—all writing articles in quaint, textbookish English about Bengali literature and culture It confirmed my suspicions that the most important work in literature was being done in the regional languages In Bombay,for instance, I had sensed with some awe that Marathi poets had a highly-developed network of meeting-places and discussion groups organised around a series of roadside cafes and Irani restaurants Here, in Calcutta, the contributors to *Living City* seemed more middle-class and academic, and yet oddly impressive, inhabitants of a world apart The editor himself, R D Banerjee, had written an article on the Baishnab Padabali, the poets Chandidas and Bidyapati and their influence on Tagore, and the emotions associatedwith *birana*, or separation from the loved one or God In neat boxes by the side of certain pages, there were small poems written in a language that somehow seemed to fit in naturally with the style in which the essays had been written It was a language that all the contributors to *Living City* had in common, so that one man, almost, might have composed the contents of the entire magazine There were some pages that had the simplest form of advertisement—a message, or the name of a firm that could not possibly have any interest in literature— personal gestures of goodwill, old friendships, that sustained such a project,

That morning, Binoy and I were relaxing in the house, Binoy in kurta and pyjamas, and I in pyjamas and full-sleeved shirt Dressed like this, both of us accompanied mastermoshai in a



:xi, to a house in one of the lanes near thern Avenue, Binoy sitting at the :k with mastermoshai, who was nging a Rabindrasangeet, and I, in ie front, next to the taxi driver, with ne elbow in the open window In hose days, when I came to Calcutta, Binoy took a personal interest in my literary career, and visited, with mastermoshai and me, the houses of everal editors, a spectator who silently listened to our discussions and eported them later to my mother and is parents He had been my closest ompanion in childhood, we had played and fought with each other Now, it sixteen and seventeen, he and I were as tall as each other, we had reached our full adult height, though we were still boys The taxi entered a lane with two and three-storeyed houses, trees and flowers in their tiny courtyards, their facades in stages of disrepair It was the time of day when children go to school, and men to their offices, and a domestic calm in which these houses belonged entirely to women and servants was evident as we passed through the lane To be part of this pre midday hour was rare for a man The taxi driver, on mastermoshai's command, stopped at a small yellow building Stone stairs of no particular colour, which we climbed up slowly because of the darkness, mastermoshai our leader, took us past the identical bottle-green doors of the two flats on every floor, till we reached the door which had R D BANERJEE in white letters upon a black plastic nameplate Mastermoshai pressed a buzzer The three of us stood in that small space that formed the landing at each flight of stairs and the common area outside the flats, a dark square box from which stairs radiated upward and downward A balding man in spectacles, dressed in a cotton shirt, black trousers, and sandals, opened the door for us It was Mr Banerjee himself, politely but tacitly he led us inside The door, once opened, led to a long corridor that was also a verandah which formed a border to the flat, to its right, there were three rooms with their doors open, and a curtain hanging from each doorway The verandah ended in a wall, and to its left, there was a rectangular space, and then, the verandah of the opposite flat, with the same three doors The building thus seemed to enclose an empty rectangle, with the flats on its margins

Mr Banerjee took us into the first room through a white curtain with printed flowers It had a centre table, a small sofa against the wall, two armchairs facing each other, all in a faded green cloth upholstery, wooden shelves with glass panels on the left, with a few hardcovers upon them Mr Banerjee switched on the fan There was a window at the other end, with curtains that were smaller versions of the curtain at the doorway Mr Banerjee sat on the chair at that end, Binoy on the sofa, mastermoshai next to him, and I on the other armchair Mr Banerjee nodded at Binoy, and said to mastermoshai



"Is he the poet?" Binoy shifted uncomfortably, possibly wondering, suddenly, what he was doing here But, dark-complexioned, almost black, in kurta and pyjamas, large-eyed, he did look poetic

"No, no, ' said mastermoshai "He is *his* uncle's son This is the boy whose poems I showed you " Mr Banerjee turned to look at me

"I see," he said Unsmilingly, he told me, "I liked your poems "

Magically, tea and biscuits on a plate arrived from nowhere Our presence had set off a small domestic machinery in the flat Conversation opened up, and mastermoshai told Mr Banerjee more about me, while Binoy sipped his tea and listened

"I noticed a mood of *biraha* in your poems," Mr Banerjee told me "Have you ever read the Baishnab Padabali?"

"No, I haven't," I said a little hesitantly "But I am interested Could you tell me where I can buy a copy?"

"He has trouble reading Bengali," explained mastermoshai, "because he grew up in Bombay As for the Padabali, you should find it in College Street '

"I will publish your poems next month," said Mr Banerjee

Delight made us all silent We finished our tea, got up to leave, and mastermoshai thanked him profusely, while Binoy and I, as before, had merged into the background and assumed the status of bystanders Mr Banerjee closed the door, and that was the last I saw of him

On my next visit to Calcutta, I found that mastermoshai had widened his interests, he was thinking of freelancing as a copywriter, and relinquishing his job as private tutor He had inserted a small message in the Classifieds column of *The Statesman*, advertising



his skills and availability, but the message showed such a command of the idiomatic resources of English that it would have been unintelligible to most Bengali readers. One day, he came to me and gave me a piece of paper. It was for my father, who worked in a firm that had dealings with Britannia Biscuits. "Ask him to show it to them," he said with great pride and self assurance. The piece of paper, which seemed blank at first glance, had its entire space filled with three large words written with a ball point.

BRITANNIA
IS
BISCUIT

A few days later, he came up with another slogan for one of Britannia's new creations, the orange-flavoured 'Delite', and this I liked very much for it spoke to me of his whole personality. "Your taste is our Delite." I handed it to my father, who liked it as well. But, once it reached the offices of Britannia biscuits in Bombay, it was, I think, forgotten.

On my last visit before I left for England, I found that mastermoshai had already left his copy-writing days behind him and moved on to new things. He had set up a shop with his servant, from which they sold cooking-oil to customers. "I've instructed Ganesh," he told my aunt, "to make his hand tremble a little while measuring out the oil." He added, in explanation, "These are hard times." On this occasion, I did not stay in my uncle's house, but in the flat my father had bought many years ago, which now, at last, was furnished. It was the flat to which my parents would move after my father's retirement. My mother told me not to waste my holidays and to make use of my time by taking Bengali lessons from mastermoshai. "After all, he is a learned man," she said. Thus, for the first time, mastermoshai came to our flat. It was a different world inside the flat, but he regarded our affluence and difference without envy, he was not embarrassed or diminished by it. He reminisced to me about a man he had once known, the son of a maharajah, who could no longer step out of his great mansion because he could not understand the world. We sat, in an air-conditioned room, at a study-table by a great window that looked out on trees and old, aristocratic houses. The book we began to read together was the slender *Chhelebela*, or *Boyhood*, by Tagore.

"Are you enjoying it?" he asked me at one point.

"I like it very much."

"Of course," he informed me, 'you cannot understand, beneath all its lightness, its spiritual rhythm."

I protested then, a little offended. But I know now that he was right, that the music of a piece of writing becomes richer with the passing of time. Mastermoshai's *Chhelebela*, with his life behind him, was not the same as my *Chhelebela*, at the age of seventeen. The Bengali lessons continued, interrupted by discussions in which we spoke of various things, including my most recent poetry, an inexhaustible theme, and the strangely refreshing absence of tragedy in Sanskrit drama. But we did not complete the book. Mastermoshai had a small disagreement with my mother, and then my uncle, a few childish, irrational outbursts, after which I myself became rather childishly cold with him. It was not a serious breach, and would have healed. I met him again, by chance, a few days later in my uncle's house. I had put a record of Hindustani classical music on the gramophone, and listening to it, was waving one arm passionately in the air, keeping time with the music. Unknown to me, mastermoshai came and stood behind me, waving his arms as well. When I saw Binoy smiling, I turned. Mastermoshai stopped immediately, and became completely serious. With adult restraint, we acknowledged each other, and he went down the stairs.

Soon after, I left for England. Sometimes, I would ask my mother on the phone, "How is Bishnu Prasad Chakrabarty?" — for that was mastermoshai's name. Information about him was scarce, however. It seemed that, after a series of sporadic and silly quarrels, he had left his tuitions, and taken up the cooking-oil business in earnest. When I came to Calcutta from England, I longed to make up with him, but no one knew where he was. I heard that he had moved into Ganesh's house beyond the railway lines, where the nomadic poor — domestic servants, factory workers — lived in a different society with a different kind of life. Then, a few years later, my mother told me that he had died, leaving everything to Ganesh. I see now that the period in which I knew mastermoshai was a transitional one: when, after having lost his wife and children, having seen through life, he returned to his youthful enthusiasms — Baudelaire, Eliot — to temporarily regain his sanity. And then, for no good reason, he loosened his ties again.

Since that first meeting, much has changed in my life. Going to England blurred certain things and clarified others. I realised that a strange connection between this small, cold island and faraway Bengal had given rise to the small-town world of Calcutta, and even to mastermoshai, from a distance, I saw it gradually in perspective — a colonial small town, with its trams and taxis, unknown to, and cut off from, the rest of the world, full of a love for the romance of literature that I have not found anywhere else, and that is somehow a vivid part of small-town life. As for Binoy, I hardly see him these days. I live, for most of the year, in another part of the world, while he has stayed on in the house in Calcutta. He works in his father's business, and has also joined, I hear, a political theatre troupe, and performs, occasionally, in street-plays. I saw him once on the stage, dressed in silk and costume jewellery as a medieval king, a turban on his head, his dark face made pale and floury with powder. Calcutta is his universe, like a dewdrop, it holds within it the light and colours of the entire world.

(Courtesy *London Review of Books*)

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS

DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC-741	0710	3 6	IC-742	0940	3 6
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
M9 304/109	0855	1 3 5	M9 110/301	1900	1 3 5
AIZAWL					
PF-705	0730	daily	PF 706	1100	daily
BAGDOGRA					
PF-707	1130	2 4 6	PF-708	1510	2 4 6
IC-721	1300	1 3 5	IC-722	1540	1 3 5
BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
BOMBAY					
AI-431	0100	2			
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
9W 202	0920	daily	9W-201	0840	daily
AI 309	1930	6	AI 306	1730	5
IC-273	1945	daily	IC 274	1850	daily
9W-212	1955	daily	9W-211	1920	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
COOCH BEHAR					
PF 707	1130	2 4 6	PF 708	1510	2 4 6
DELHI					
			IC-262	0815	2 4 7
IC 263	0700	daily	M9-303	0825	daily
M9 304	0855	daily	4S-806	1115	1 2 3 4 5 6
4S-805	1745	1 2 3 4 5 6	AI-682	1145	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC-401	1155	daily
IC-402	1715	daily	M9 301	1900	daily
IC 261	1900	2 4 7	S2 005	1900	1 2 3 4, 5 6
M9-302	1930	daily	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
S2 006	1940	1 2 3 4 5 6	IC-264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
IC-703	0715	3 5	IC 704	1345	3 5
D2-181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2-181	1620	1 3 5 7
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	D2 183	1620	2, 4 6
4S-815	1145	1 2 3 4 5 6	IC 702	1630	2, 4 6 7
IC-701	1240	2 4 6 7	4S-816	1705	1 2 3 4 5 6
DIMAPUR					
IC-257	1150	4 7	IC 258	1650	4, 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
GUWAHATI					
IC-703	0715	3 5	IC-704	1345	3 5
IC 707	0715	1 4 6	IC 708	1345	1 4 6
IC 711	0715	2 7	IC 712	1400	2 7
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	D2 183	1620	2 4, 6
4S 812	1145	1 2 3 4 5 6	4S 811	1705	1, 2 3 4 5 6
IC 257	1150	4 7	IC-230	1620	daily
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC-258	1650	4 7
IC-229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4, 6
HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1500	2 4 7	IC-778	2005	2 4 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
IMPHAL					
IC 707	0715	1 4 6	IC 256	1320	3 5
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC-708	1345	1 4 6
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2 6
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2 172	1740	daily	IC-766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2, 4, 7
SHILLONG					
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1, 3 5 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC-260	1110	1, 7
IC 259	0830	1 7	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2 6
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC-212	1740	4 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5

FLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL-876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7
BANGKOK					
IC-731	0855	2, 4 5 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3 6
TG-314	1355	1 3 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 5, 7
AI 306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
■ BUCHAREST					
RO-076	2040	5, 7	RO-075	1035	5, 7
■ CHITTAGONG					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
■ DHAKA					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2, 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1 2, 3, 6, 7
IC-723	1300	1, 2 5, 6, 7	IC-724	1620	1, 2 5 6, 7
BG-094	1905	1 2, 3 5 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2 3, 5 6
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG-095	2020	1 5
■ KATHMANDU					
IC-747	1115	1, 3 6	IC-748	1455	1 3 6
RA-214	1400	4, 7	RA-213	1315	4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
■ LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA 143	1525	3 7
■ MOSCOW					
SU 538	1855	4	SU 537	1655	4
■ PARO					
KB-106	1200	3	KB 105	1040	2 6
KB-106	1300	5			
■ SINGAPORE					
AI 430	1300	1	SQ 416	2040	2 5
SQ-415	2200	2 5	AI 431	2235	1
■ SOFIA					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
■ TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Romanian Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tue Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303		**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 15	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	21 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Su Mon Wed & Fri		
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopar) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182

Up	Time	Sealdah	Time	Dn
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50 6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10 8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15 2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15 8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20 8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00 2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40 7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940 7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45 6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20 8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05 8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00 8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10 8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30 8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25 8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30 2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15 8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00 8046
8017	16 15	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25 8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45 2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15
		Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express Saturday only	13 45 6321
		Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45 6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45 6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15
–	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45 6519

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EADS AND TAILS



Maneka Gandhi

MEATING ECOLOGICAL DAMAGES

Instead of writing my column this week I am reproducing an article from the *Worldwatch* magazine This is an important article because India is going exactly the same way and, therefore, natural law will dictate the same results

It is in three parts, so cut this out and read with the others in the following weeks I would like you to send it to as many members of the government/administration that you can — specially Manmohan Singh and Pranab Mukherjee who have placed meat-eating and meat-selling at the top of their priorities

"When most Americans sit down to dinner they're only a bite away from unwittingly worsening the environment The overlooked offender is tonight's steak, pork chop or chicken breast The unpaid ecological price of meat is so hefty that Americans could end up eating themselves out of planetary house and home

"Putting half a pound of red meat and poultry on the table each day for every American citizen rings up quite a tab The industry that supplies the world's leading nation of meat-eaters is associated with environmental ills ranging from depleted and contaminated groundwater to an atmosphere pumped full of greenhouse gases

"Even modern egg production participates in the ecological wrongdoing There's nothing anti-ecological about cows, pigs, and chickens themselves, rather, American-style farms burden nature because they have outgrown their niche

"In the US, livestock stand at the centre of agriculture, absorbing much of the country's crop harvest along with vast quantities of energy and water

"In other parts of the world, livestock used to be raised as sideline to crops In some circumstances they turn plants people cannot eat, into food they can Every nation in the world that's wealthy enough, nonetheless, is taking notes from the US and is starting to shower resources on raising animals for meat — US style farms seem to be the wave of the future

"If the American-style diet alone does not pose a mortal threat to the world its adoption round the world certainly would The prospect of five billion people eating the way Americans do is an ecological impossibility, requiring more grain than the world can grow and more energy, water and land than the world can supply

"Some shifts in American dining rooms are already apparent Fresh fruit and vegetable sales are climbing Many restaurants feature meatless sections and there is a booming trade in vegetarian cookbooks Also, airlines report a growing number of requests for vegetarian meals But Americans are not yet fat-shunning herbivores

"While beef consumption per person has declined slowly since 1976 and per capita egg consumption peaked years ago, poultry has more than taken up the slack Americans have been jumping from one animal product to the other, eating fewer burgers and more chicken nuggets, fewer eggs and more turkey

"The annual consumption of red meat and poultry together is at an all-time high of 178 lbs per person, up from about 137 lbs in 1955

'Last year, Americans ate about 65 lbs of beef and veal, 63 lbs of poultry, 49 lbs of pork plus 139 eggs and dairy products made from 70 gallons of milk For a family of four, that works out to half a steer, a whole pig and a hundred chickens a year

"Churning those quantities of animal products takes all the ingenuity agriculturists can muster Consequently, modern meat and egg production bears little resemblance to the family-farm idyll that still colours the imagination of most Americans

"In the US, animal foods are produced in concentrated agro-industries, not cow barns and chicken coops In fact, animal farms are as much factories as they are farms Of all the farm animals in industrial countries, only cattle spend most of their time in the daylight Broiler chickens live exclusively in gigantic darkened sheds where thousands of birds are fed measured rations of grain Eggs come from similar installations where hens are crowded into stacked cages, eating from one conveyor belt and laying eggs onto another Pork comes from warehouse-size sheds built over sewage canals that sluice away manure

"Beef cattle graze a year before the ranchers truck them to vast outdoor feedlots to be 'finished' for slaughter Their last months are spent gorging on



Worldwide, 630 million people are hungry today. The most immediate problem of raising animals on grain is the waste of resources. The effectiveness with which animals turn grains such as corn into food products varies enormously. Nearly seven lbs of soya and corn are needed to put one lb of boneless trimmed pork on the table in the US

rich rations of corn, sorghum and soyabean-meal that fatten them for slaughter

"Dairy cows, unlike other farm animals, continue to live something not unlike the old fashioned farm life, often grazing outdoors part of each day However, they too are sent to slaughter when their milk production falls off and their male offspring—useless in the milk business, except for a few breeding bulls—usually become veal calves or 'baby beef'



"Regardless of the animal type, though modern meat production involves intensive use—and often misuse—of grain, crops, water resources, energy and grazing areas In addition, animal agriculture produces surprisingly large amounts of air and water pollution Taken as a whole, livestock rearing is the most ecologically damaging part of American agriculture

"Animal farms use mountains of grain Nearly 40 per cent of the world's total and more than 70 per cent of US production is fed to livestock, according to the US Department of Agriculture data

"Last year, 162 million tonnes of grain, mostly corn, also sorghum, barley, oats and wheat were consumed by livetstock Millions of tonnes of protein-rich soyabean meal rounded out the diet No other country in the world can afford to feed so much grain to animals

"Were all that grain consumed directly by humans, it would nourish five times as many people as it does after being converted into milk, meat and eggs, according to the Iowa-based Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, a non-profit research group

"Worldwide, 630 million people are hungry today The most immediate problem of raising animals on grain is the waste of resources The effectiveness with which animals turn grains such as corn into food products varies enormously Nearly seven lbs of soya and corn are needed to put one lb of boneless trimmed pork on the table in the US

"Cattle require less—4 8 lbs of grain and soya per lb of meat—because unlike pigs, they eat grass most of their lives American chickens eat 2 8 lbs of feed per lb of meat and egg-layers do better at 2 6 lbs

"American feed takes so much energy to grow—counting fuels for farm machinery and for making fertilisers and pesticides—that might well be a petroleum byproduct Cornell University's David Pimentel, a specialist in agricultural energy use, estimated that 14,000 kilo calories are required to produce a pound of pork in the US—equivalent to the energy in nearly half a gallon of gasoline

"Pimentel's data show that energy use, like grain consumption, declines from pork to beef, chicken and eggs" [Courtesy *Worldwatch*]

(Sanctuary Features)

The Telegraph

is publishing poems regularly.

JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and **not** to The Telegraph. Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper. Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned.** All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates No enquiries will be solicited.

Fill in the coupon below and send with your contribution

___ Block letters please .

Name_____

Age_

Address_

KUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THE VANISHING TREES

The peace and quiet of the Maplewood hillside disappeared forever one winter. The powers-that-be decided to build another new road into the mountains and the PWD saw fit to take it right past the cottage, about six feet from the window which overlooked the forest.

In my journal, I wrote: Already they have felled most of the trees. The walnut was one of the first to go. A tree I had lived with for over 10 years, watching it grow as I had watched Prem's small son Rakesh grow up, looking forward to its new leaf-buds, the broad green leaves of summer turning to spears of gold in September when the walnuts were ripe and ready to fall. I knew this tree better than the others. It was just below the window where a buttress for the road is going up.

Another tree I will miss is the young deodar, the only one growing in this stretch of the woods. Some years back it was stunted from lack of sunlight. The oaks covered it with their shaggy branches, so I cut away some of the overhanging ones and after that the deodar grew much faster. It was just coming into its own this year — now cut down in its prime like my young brother on the road to Delhi last month. Both victims of the road — the tree killed by the PWD, my brother by a truck.

Twenty oaks have been felled just in this small stretch near the cottage. By the time this bypass reaches Jabarkhet, about



six miles from here, over a thousand oaks will have been slaughtered, besides many other fine trees — maples, deodars and pines — most of them unnecessary as they grew some 50 or 60 yards from the roadside.

The trouble is, hardly anyone (with the exception of the contractor who buys the felled trees) really believes that trees and shrubs are necessary. They get in the way so much, don't they? According to my milkman, the only useful tree is the one which can be picked clean of its leaves for fodder! And a young man remarked to me, "You should come to Pauri. The view is terrific, there's not a tree in the way!"

Well he can stay here now and enjoy the ravaged hillside. But as the oaks have gone, the milkman will have to look further afield for his fodder.

Rakesh calls the maples butterfly trees because when the winged seeds fall, they flutter like butterflies in the breeze. No maples now. No bright red leaves to flame against the sky. No birds! That is to say, no birds near the house. No longer will it be possible for me to open the window and watch the scarlet minivets flitting through the dark green foliage of the oaks, the long-tailed magpies gliding through the trees, the barbet calling insistently from his perch on the top of the deodar.

Forest birds, all of them, they will now be in search of some other stretch of surviving forest. The only visitors will be the crows who have learnt to live with and off humans and seem to multiply along with roads, houses and people. And even when all the people have gone, the crows will still be there.

Other things to look forward to — trucks thundering past in the night, perhaps a tea and *pakora* shop around the corner. The grinding of gears, the music of motor horns. Will the whistling thrush be heard above them? The explosions that continually shatter the silence of the mountains as thousand-year-old rocks are dynamited have frightened away all but the most intrepid of birds and animals. Even the bold *langurs* haven't shown their faces for over a fortnight.

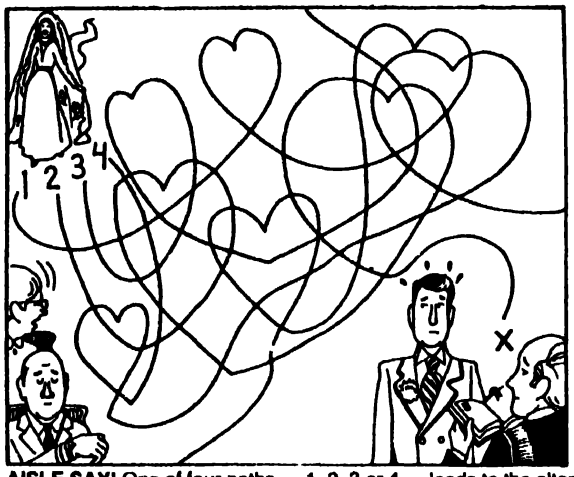
Somehow, I don't think we shall wait for the tea shop to arrive. There must be some other quiet corner, possibly on the next mountain where new roads have yet to come into being. No doubt this is a negative attitude and if I have any sense I'd open my own tea shop. To retreat is to be a loser. But the trees are losers too and when they fall, they do so with a certain dignity.

Never mind. Men come and go, the mountains remain.

(Sanctuary Features)

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JUNIOR WHIRL



AISLE SAY! One of four paths — 1, 2, 3 or 4 - leads to the altar above Which path? Take a guess then trace lines

PEAK-ABOO! What mountains keep a doctor away? The Apple ations What mountains do odd jobs? The Handy Andes What mountains sing soprano? The High C erras



BACK-UP WORDS TO PONDER

SEE if you can find a four-letter word to complete each of the seven words beginning with BACK below In No 1, for instance, add PACK

1 Hiker's carryall BACK—
2 Spinal column BACK—
3 Loud auto report BACK—
4 Tennis stroke BACK—
5 Baseball screen BACK—
6 Stage set item BACK—
7 Poor filter function BACK—

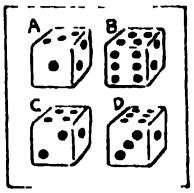
Remember each requires a four letter word

2 Bone 3 Tire 4 Hand 5 Stop 6 Prop 7 Wash

PIP POPS! Roll a pair of dice Double number of points rolled on either die, add five, multiply by five, add number of points on other die and subtract 25 Alakazam, digits of resulting amount reveal at left, points on first die, and at right, points on second die

And, speaking of dice, one of four pictured below has a flaw — that is to say, one side shows an incorrect number of pips Which one?

The 3 single pip at side bumps it bottom Two pips should appear where single pip is shown



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Cap is reversed 2 Stones are missing 3 Fish is smaller 4 Pole handle is shorter 5 Tree is missing 6 Float and line are missing

FUNSPOT



SPOT CHECK! "Where do we go from here?" ask these curious hikers Colorcode 1—Purple 2—Dk blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

HOSTELRY

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

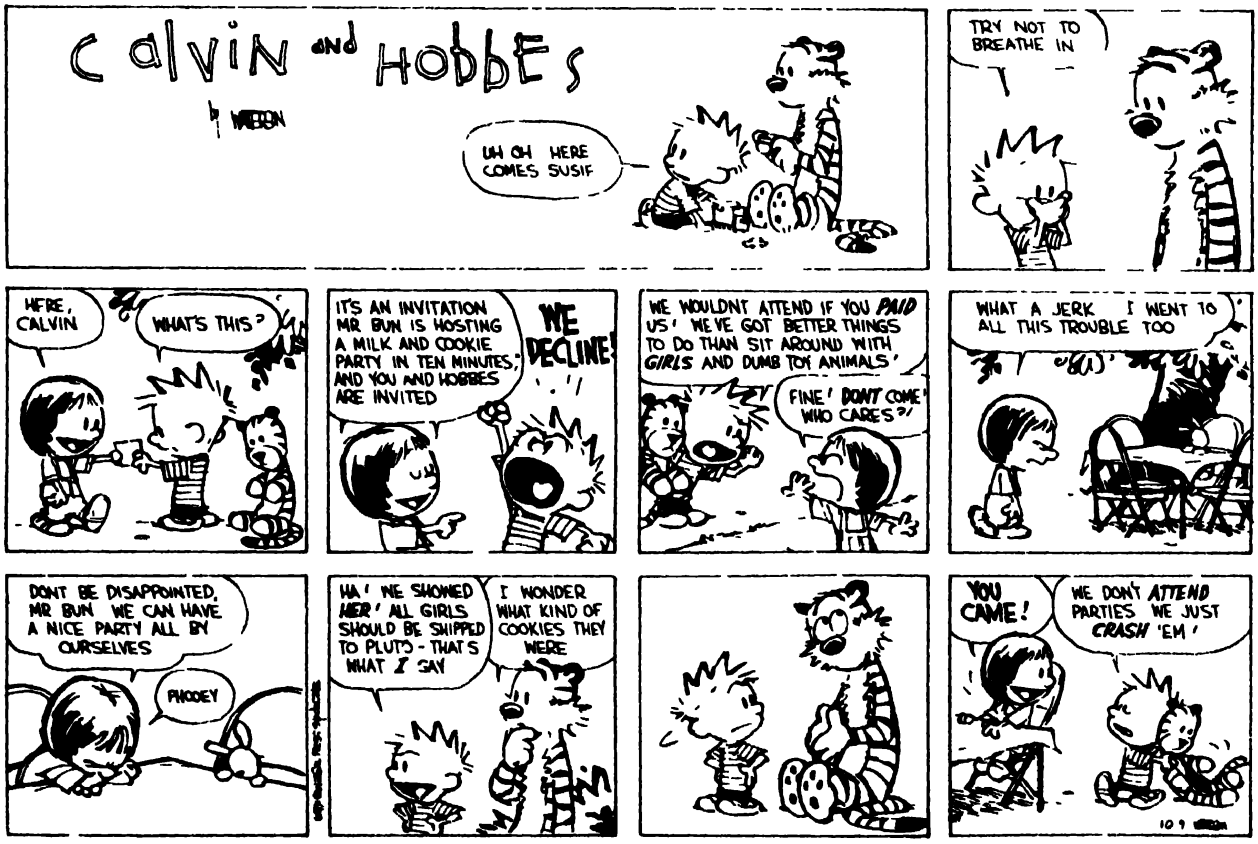
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome Rely host

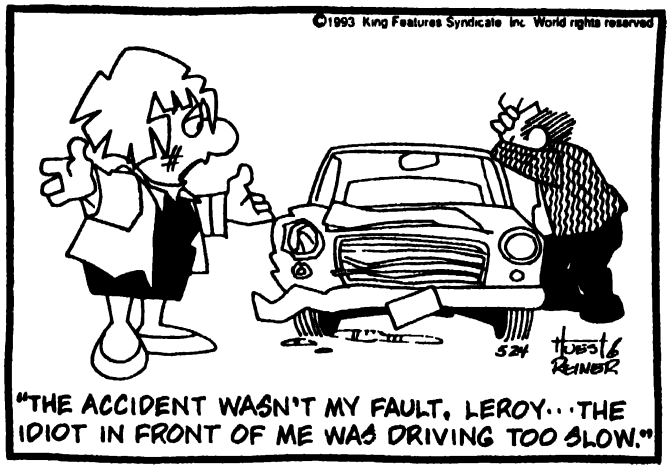
ARCHIE



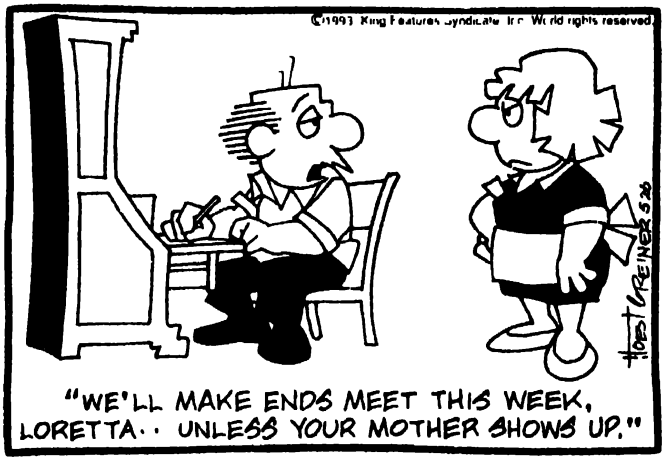
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON

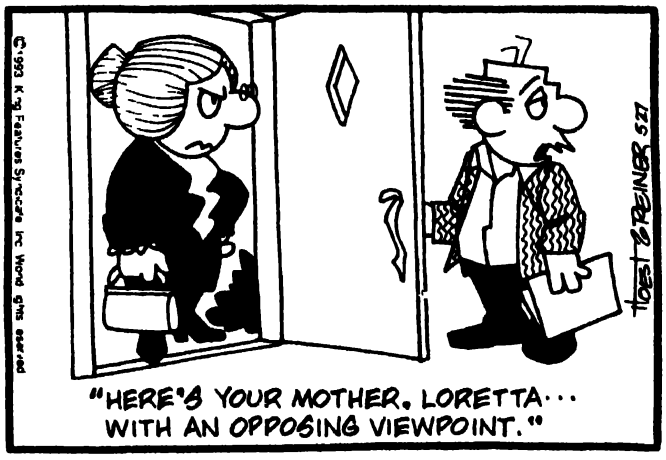


THE LOCKHORNS

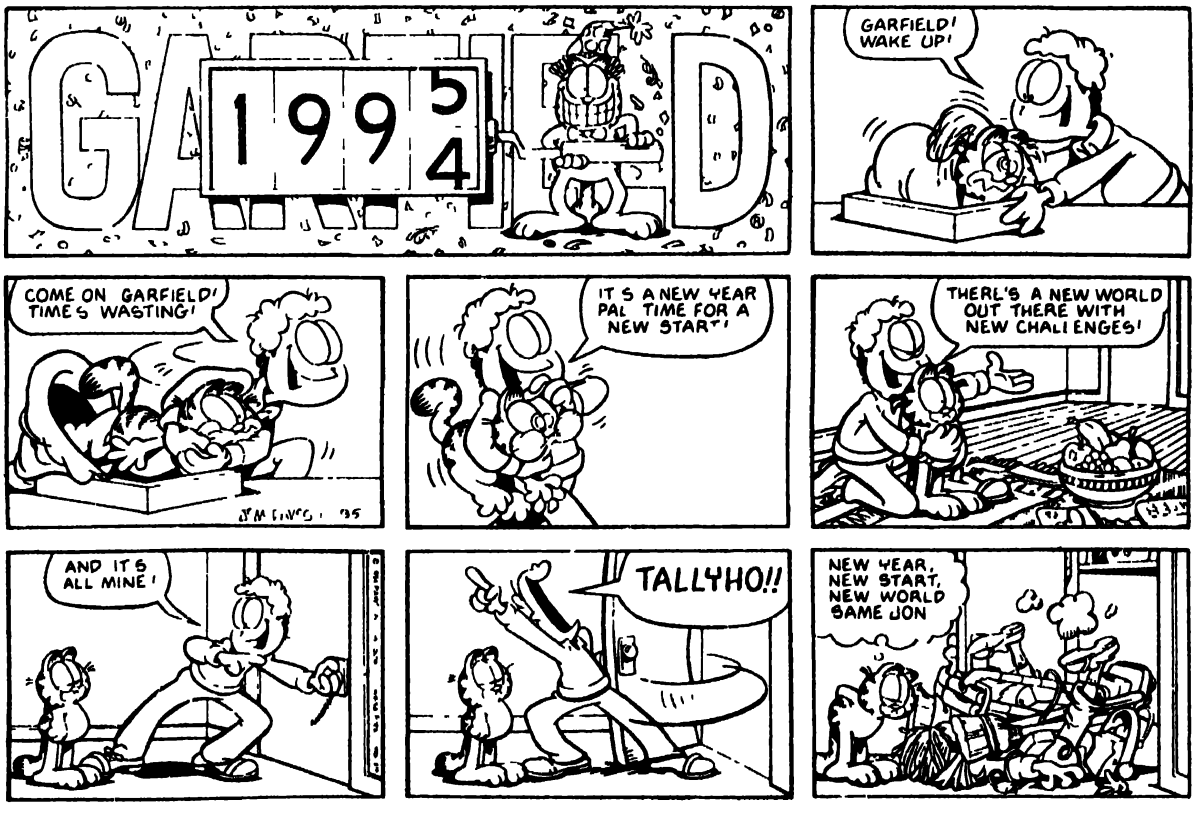






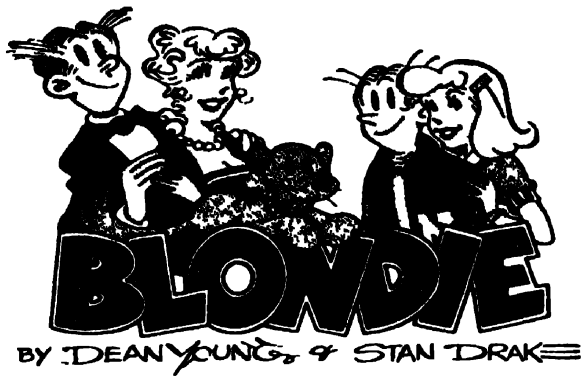


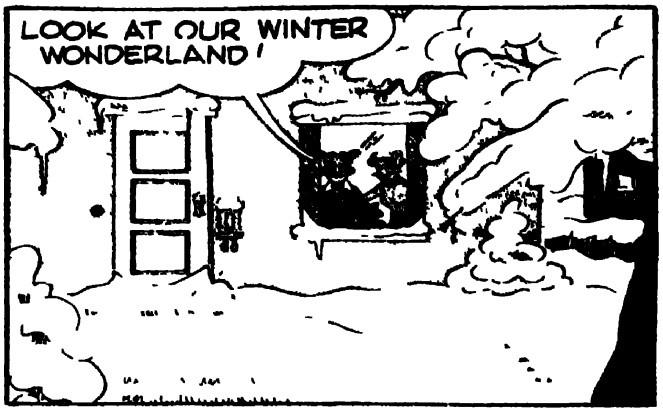
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



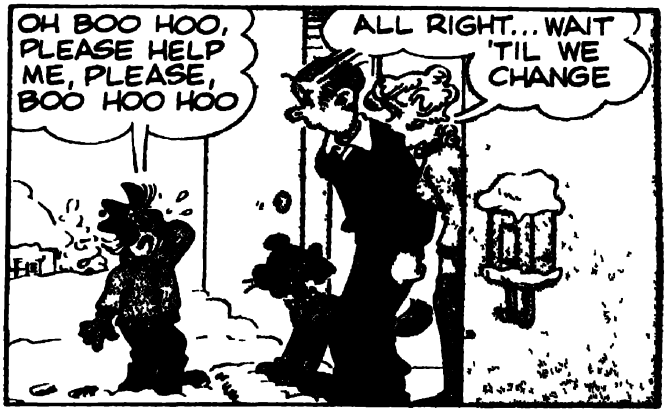
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP









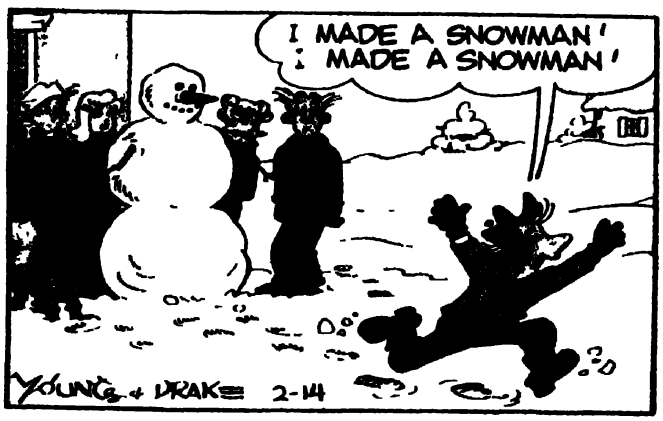






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100 Years of Cinema



Stills from films depicting realism

The teething stages of cinema are but a century old For, it was in 1896 at Watson's Hotel, Bombay, that the projectors first began to roll

Indian cinema, with an annual input of 1,000 films, makes India the largest film-making nation in the world, generating a culture which is as popular as it is unbeatable

The Watson Hotel episode began the trend of makeshift screening programmes for which lay the curiosity in Indian motion pictures

The first coherent and consolidated effort was made by Dadasaheb Phalke, the maker of India's first feature film, *Raja Harishchandra*, in 1913, unfolding a story that formed an indivisible part of life



The romance of *Aawara*

Indian cinema has unravelled since Phalke's times, a cornucopia of life in its teeming multiplicity Its tongues, too, are varied, divested with the past and the present, and carrying with it the hopes of the future The stars and stardom, worshipped by the country's millions, were an inevitable fallout of this social revolution

Golmaal: Genre of comedy



Its wide verisimilitude has within its perview both fact and fiction, life and legend, contributing to an experience that could only be described as exceptional

To commemorate cinema in its 100th year, Shaw Wallace has come up with a calendar which is not a compilation of a pictorial history, but an overview of the major ideas, impulses and trends that have governed great establishments and their fitting antecedents

As a tribute to the screen's macrocosm, it focuses on the six areas of cinematic interest — biographical, comedy, romance, woman, action and realism — depicting the vigour and vitality, the energy and excitement that symbolise the centenary celebration of celluloid ■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

The Diamond World

Sorry Antwerp, Sorry Amsterdam, Sorry Jaipur,
Sorry Renoir, sorry Rembrandt, sorry Husain,
You cannot help fron that peaked brilliance

Of the hills atop the gems, the diadems,
The artistry, the avalanche—

Your blurred dreams, luxury ridden,
Exclude my fellows, my friends
In slow denudation and silent dessication
Even I, once, could not see them
Through that gossamer Monalisa veil

But now I'm grown from
My previous pigmy dazzle
Crossed over from Brussels and Surat
To mingle with the blooms and corn
From Guntur to the remotest corner
Of Bhopal, of Muzaffarpur,
Danced with the maadal mahua of Palamu,
Breathed foliage and rain scented mud

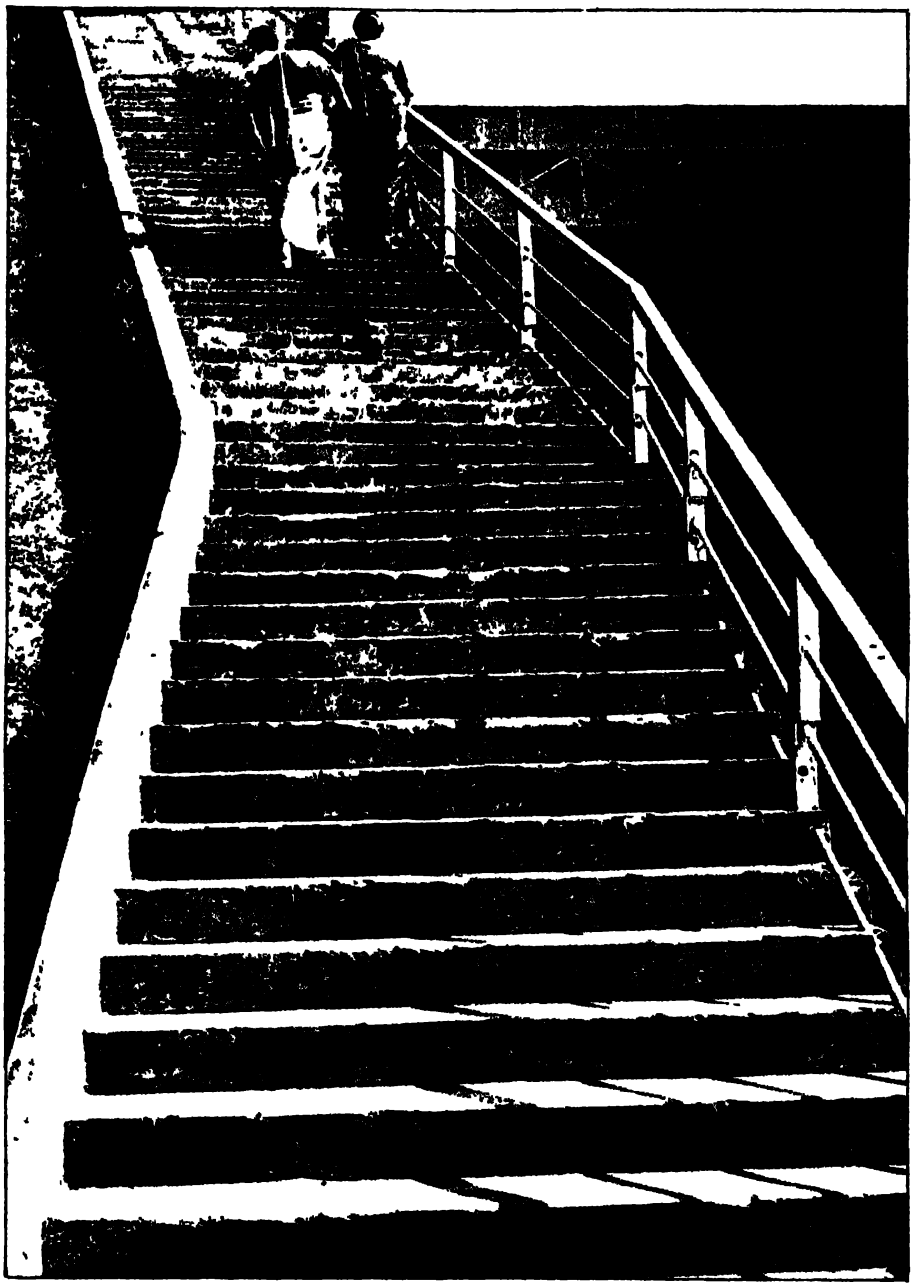
Somalia and Bosnia, Bihar and Bangla
Are shreds of kites torn
Across your diamond-hard skies,

Stuck in gem trees forever

Glistening teardrops, of the Kashmiri
Apple cheek beggar woman,
Hanging from the ruby sapphire chandelier
Eardrops in the displays
Of Place Vendome or Zhaveri Bazaar

Now and forever beckoning me
To rise

Laksmisree Banerjee



The Would-Have-Been Girl Child

I did not know how long I floated in what weightless,
dark world
And I did not bother about the time,
For it seemed to be timeless
It seemed that I had all the time in the world—
The time to come out.
To look at the sky,
To look at my parents,
To pick up a flower one day,
And, on another day, a book to prepare for a test in the school

I did not know that my parents were arranging for
Another kind of a test in a clinic

Then, the time ran out

Susmita Bhattacharya

RASOI



JIGGS KALRA



"Discovering and celebrating seasonal produce," says Australia's leading food writer, Sheridan Rogers, "is a way of becoming more attuned to nature." From the earliest times, the seasons have shaped almost every aspect of man's life. When we become aware as our ancestors were to this rhythm, our cuisine becomes much more satisfying. Therapeutics and aesthetics combine to make food sublime. This wisdom preserved in a passage from *Ecclesiastes*. "To every thing there is a season, a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Rasoi couldn't agree more. We wish there were others like Rogers who put a seasonal accent on food. Believe us, if such were the case, the planet would surely be a healthier and happier place.

Two recipes from Rogers' *Seasonal Entertaining*.

BARBECUED QUAILS MARINATED IN OIL AND THYME

INGREDIENTS
12 Japanese Quails

The Marination
300 ml / 1 1/4 cups Olive oil
1 bunch Lemon thyme (fresh and leaves only)
1 clove Garlic
1 Bay leaf
10 stalks Parsley
18 Black Peppercorns (freshly and coarsely pounded)

Barbecued Quails Marinated in Oil and Thyme





Potato Eggplant and Leek Frittata

Salt

The Bruschetta
1 loaf French bread
Olive oil
1 clove Garlic
Sun-dried Tomato paste
A few sun-dried Tomatoes

Serves: 4
Preparation time: 3 30 hours
Cooking time: 5 minutes

PREPARATION
The quails. Snip wingtips from the quails, then cut down their backbones with a pair of kitchen scissors Press down hard on the breast bones to flatten
The herbs: Clean and wash thyme and parsley stalks Peel and crush garlic
The marination: Place the quails in a large earthenware dish, pour on the oil and add the thyme, garlic, bay leaf, parsley and pepper Cover and reserve for at least three hours, turning occasionally
The bruschetta: Cut the French bread diagonally into medium-sized slices Peel garlic, halve and then crush, discarding a half. Toast on the barbecue, watching carefully and turning when golden Brush with a little olive oil, rub with the garlic and smear the paste Strew with the sun dried tomato julienne

COOKING
Arrange the marinated quails on the barbecue and cook over medium heat on both sides for 4-5 minutes or until golden

TO SERVE
Remove to a serving dish, garnish with roundels of fennel and onions and salad greens of your choice Serve with Bruschetta

Note: You can substitue plain tomato paste if you can't find sun-dried tomato paste

POTATO EGGPLANT AND LEEK FRITTATA

INGREDIENTS
2 Potatoes (approx 400 g / 14 oz)
90 ml / 6 tbs Olive oil
200 g / 7 oz Eggplant
1 Leek (medium)
Black Pepper powder
Salt
6 Eggs
60 g / 2 oz Parmesan Cheese
1/2 bunch Basil (fresh)
15 g / 1/2 oz Butter

Serves: 4
Preparation time: 25 minutes
Cooking time: 15 minutes

PREPARATION
The potatoes: Wash, peel and thinly slice
Put enough water in a pan, add salt, bring to a boil, add the potato slices and cook for 5-7 minutes or until just soft Drain and keep aside
The eggplant: Wash, peel and thinly slice
The herbs: Wash and slice leek in half lengthwise Clean, wash and chop basil
The parmesan: Grate
The vegetable mixture: Put oil in a heavy oven-proof frying pan, add eggplant and leek, saute over medium heat until soft Then add the potatoes and sprinkle pepper and salt
The eggs: Whisk until the yolks and whites are combines, stir-in the vegetable mixture, Parmesan and basil

COOKING
Melt butter in a frying pan, pour in the egg mixture and cook over low heat for 15 minutes or until the eggs have begun to set and only the top remains runny
Heat the grill and put the Frittata underneath to set the top

TO SERVE
Slide the Frittata onto a dish using a spatula, cut into pie-like wedges and serve warm or cold

NOTE: All weights are nett, that is ' post-preparation, and not gross ■

SAGI LAKSHMI VENKATAPATHI 'MUSCLES' RAJU, *25, has been in and out of the India XI ever since his Test debut in 1989-90. After emerging as the most successful bowler (on either side) in the series versus the West Indies, the left-arm spinner should now be an automatic first XI selection. Fun-loving, Raju is gutsy, too, as was evident in the Mohali Test.*

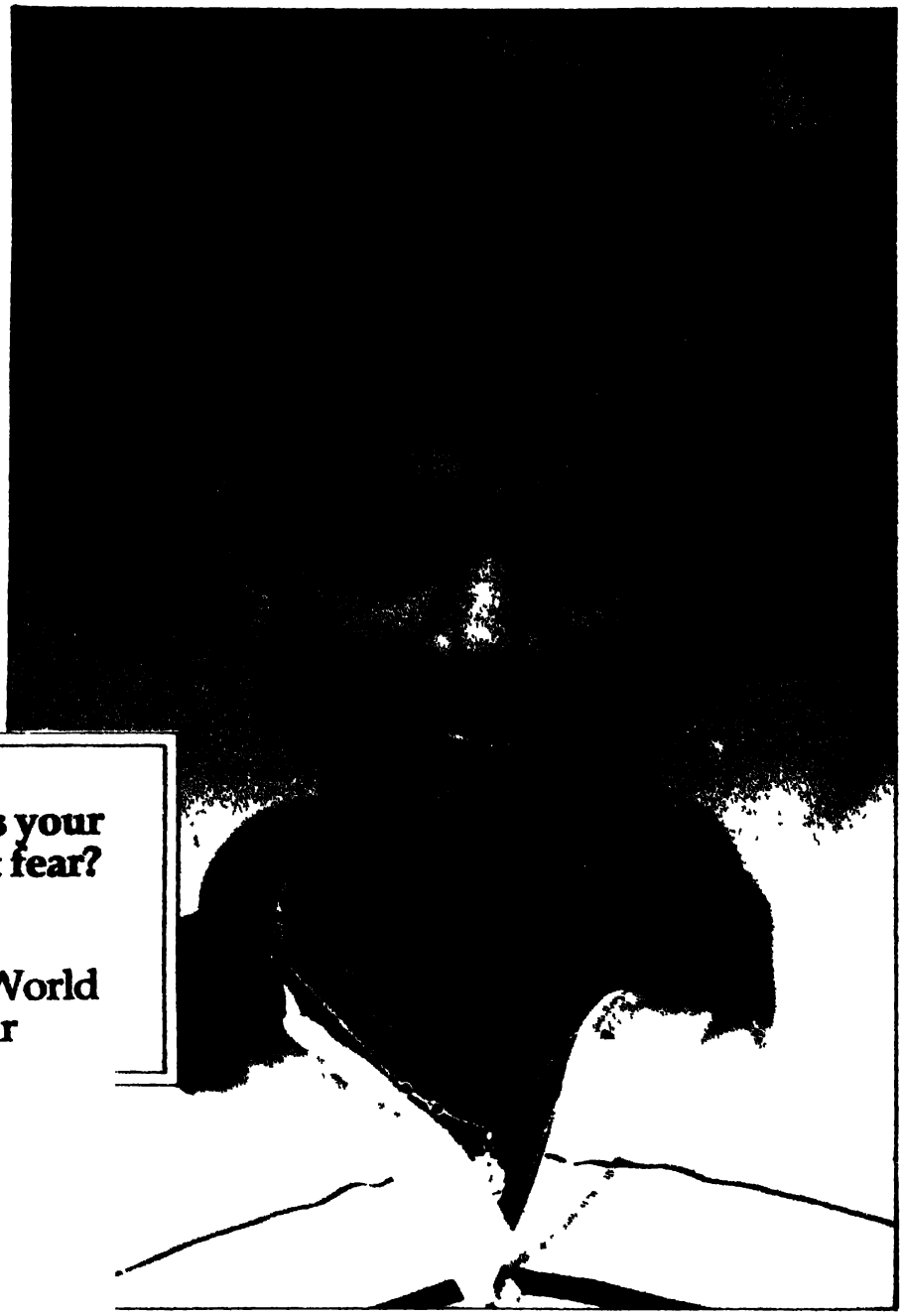
What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Spending time with parents after a long and hard cricket tour
What is your greatest fear?
Third World War
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My dad
What do you dislike most in others?
Back biting
What do you dislike most in yourself?
Getting angry very often
What is your most precious possession?
My Sai Baba locket
What objects do you always carry?
My shaving kit
What makes you most depressed?
Child labour
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My slim body
What is your favourite word?
Oh, God
What is your favourite journey?
Cape Town to Cape Point, South Africa
What is your favourite dream?
None really
What is your nightmare?
Snakes
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Cricket
On what occasions do you lie?
When I want to avoid a party
What is your greatest regret?

What is your greatest fear?

Third World War

What is your most precious possession?

My Sai Baba locket



So far no regrets
What has been your happiest moment?
Being picked for the Indian cricket team in 1990
What brings tears to your eyes?
Poverty in India.
How do you relax?
With friends in my farm.
What do you envy most in others?
Their humour
How would you like to be remembered?
As a friendly person who never hurt anyone
How would you like to die?
Very, very peacefully without troubling others



SUITABLE TRAVEL WEAR FOR A PALACE-ON-WHEELS HOLIDAY

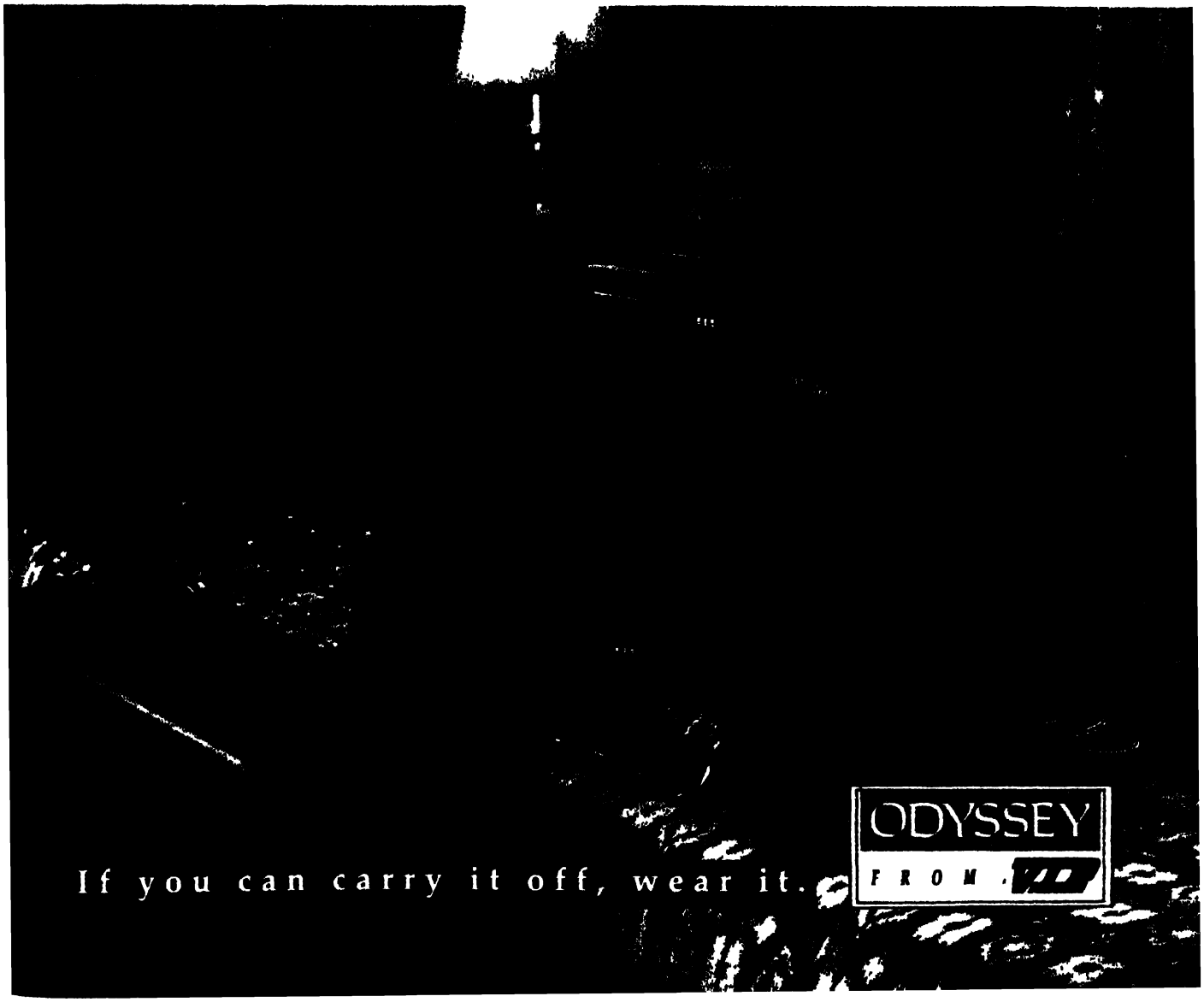
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Enterprise/SCB/16/

The Telegraph

15 JANUARY 1995

POST MORTEM

Chat—Without the Giggles

■ What makes chat shows popular on television is that they discuss off-beat subjects — social, family and other issues, and not always politics and economics ('Chatter on the Box', December 18).

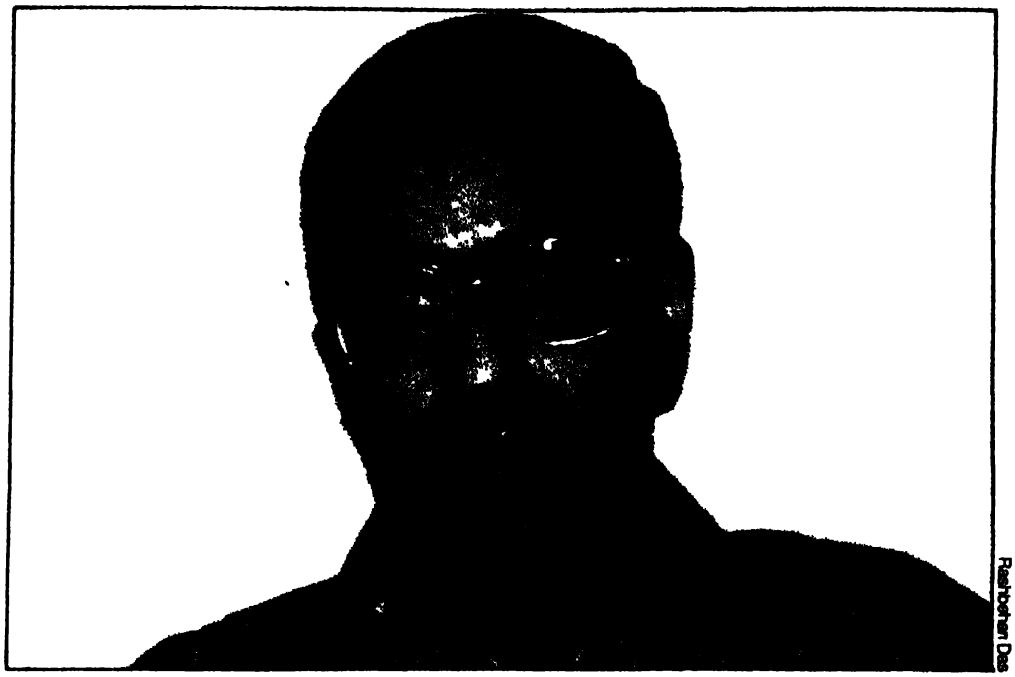
Chat shows have been instrumental in bringing problems of dowry, child abuse, atrocities on women and corruption to the fore and even looking for tangible solutions

It was regrettable, though, that while pondering over the achievements of chat show hosts like Karan Thapar, Vinod Dua and others, the Magazine ignored Nalini Singh whose trendsetting serials have become a conscience keeper of sorts.

Her popular serial, *Hello Zindagi*, gave us the true picture of society as it was The serial was instrumental in bringing to light certain key issues along with the darker and neglected side of society In contrast, other chat shows have been grossly gossipy

Chat shows should ideally be a kind of public forum where people's grievances can be aired and redressal sought They will lose their relevance if they become a mere question-answer forum, sprinkled with giggles and silly retorts

Santosh Kumar Sharma,
Kharagpur



Rashbehari Das

Chat show host Karan Thapar: Bringing people to the fore

■ The article showed the other face of television which is not tainted by sex, violence and nudity The chat shows are both entertaining and informative.

Presenters of these shows must have a pleasing personality and the necessary skill to extract the best out of their guests

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

■ Indian chat shows still have a long way to go before they can acquire the gloss and glamour of American television's *The Donahue Show* or *The Oprah Winfrey Show*

However, the local versions brought to us by the likes of Vinod Dua and Rajat Sharma are entertaining and informative in their own way

Sanhita Pramanick,
Serampore

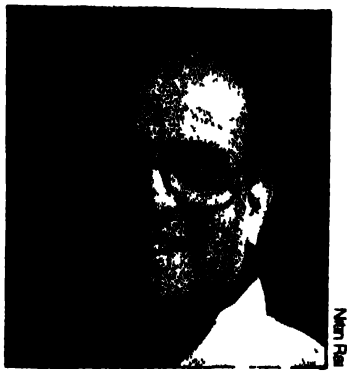
New Ramayana

■ In 'Ramayana Retold' (November 27) Nari Kripalani says the Panchvati forest was located in Sumatra (Indonesia) and, contrary to common belief, Lanka was in Australia

We expect some convincing evidence on his claims

R.N. Sahu,
Rourkela

INSIDE



Nitin Rai

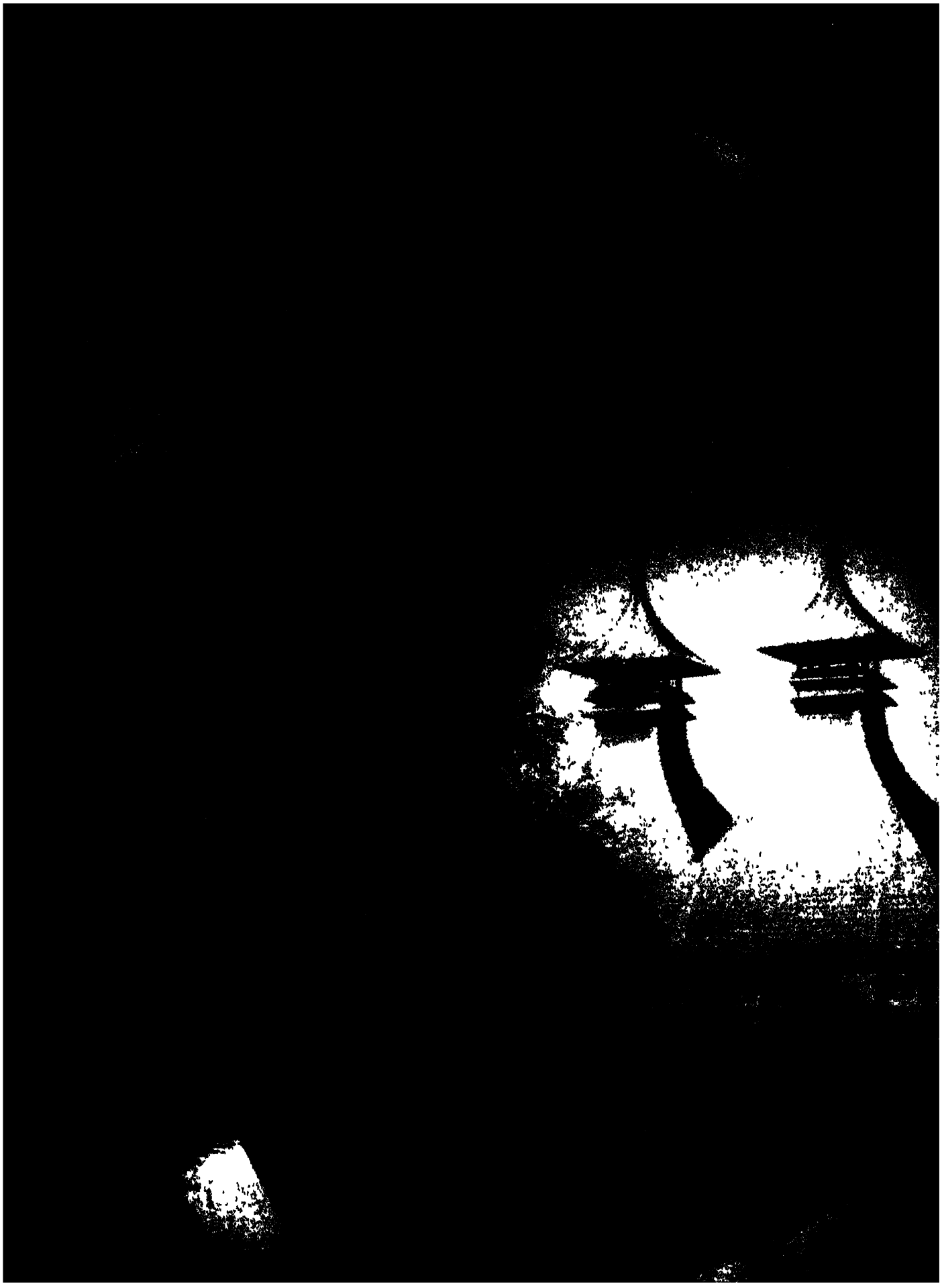
PAGE 8

VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH has been both a man of mission and a marginal man Basically a loner, he now seems to be entering a new phase of life and politics But, as always, he looks at it as yet another challenge

SECTIONS

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20 RUSKIN BOND
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22 COMICS
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30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Nitin Rai



"My art

is partly

acquired,

but mostly

inherited"

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CREAM THE FAT AWAY

Dr Joshua Leichtberg has invented abdomen and thigh creams that condition the body, turning fat into energy ***Frank Durham*** *reports*

Bearded, curly-headed Hollywood doctor Joshua Leichtberg is feeling a lot better these days after taking a dose or two of his own 'medicine'

Before that, the 42-year-old obesity guru freely admits, he had been letting himself go, fat-wise

So he decided to use himself as the first-ever guinea pig to test a magic cream he had just invented

After rubbing it into his abdomen night and morning for three weeks or so, Dr Leichtberg turned into the lean, mean, medical machine he had always dreamed of being

The flab each side of his waist — the doctor called this his "love handles" — just melted away

And when the cream did the same for 10 other guinea pigs, the doctor named his invention Ab Cream and put it on the market

Now the Hollywood glitterati and thousands of other flab-conscious people are religiously rubbing the doctor's new cream into their stomachs and waists

Some people, according to Dr Leichtberg, also use it to magic away double chins or fatty upper arms

Tinsel Town folk are spurning harsh, killer diets And they can thankfully escape the cosmetic surgeon's scalpel for 'tummy tucks' and fat reducing liposuction operations by using the doctor's gentler method

This uses the body's own mechanism to get people into shape

He insists that, for the best results, cream-rubbers have to eat healthfully and exercise as well It is more a spot-target operation

Dr Leichtberg, author of *Doctor's Secret to Great Legs* and *How to Lose Weight Healthfully without Dieting*, says modestly "This is the triumph of science over fat"

His jars of Ab Cream — priced at between US $14 95 and US $19 95 - join those containing his other invention -- thigh cream — on the shelves of hundreds of bathrooms in Hollywood mansions

The thigh cream, he explains, attacks cellulite as well as fat where it is most rampant on hips, buttocks and thighs

Women go more for the thigh cream, and it's mostly men who rub along with the abdomen version

The two creams have made the doctor a star in the city of stars Television, radio and newspaper reporters have beaten a freeway to his door

Now Dr Leichtberg is negotiating to cream off part of the lucrative slimming market in Britain and Europe

He told me "My abdomen cream is unique in the world And it's ideal for people here in Los Angeles, where everybody is concerned with the way they look

"I first became interested in creating these creams when patients came to me who were agonising about how difficult it was to remove fat from certain parts of the body

"Many were going into liposuction Surgery in this town is rampant

"I have a special interest in nutrition, weight loss and skin care

"So it was a natural extension of these interests to see if I could come up with a topical cream that would cause people to lose weight where they wanted to lose it And thereby help them to avoid surgery"

The doctor hungrily spooned up his

Dr Joshua Leichtberg



lunch of Okra gumbo vegetable soup But he warily pushed aside "some kind of chilli" that his wife Sherry had made for him

How does the abdomen cream work? Dr Leichtberg explained "Both my creams function naturally, so things don't happen overnight A man won't turn into an Adonis straight away

"There are many substances, like nicotine or oestrogen patches that are applied to the skin — yet work on the inside This formula is designed to get the fat layers below the skin

"What we want is for the fat cells to shrink To do that, receptors lining the surface of those cells must be stimulated "

The doctor went on "Every day, the body does this when it calls for fat to be released to use for energy Normally, in men, the body will call up the fat in the stomach area last

"In women, it is the thighs that are last in line So we move the priorities up, so that the body uses the fat cells in the target areas first

"Normally, the body is stubborn in the way it works I want to direct it to take the fat from where *I* want it to, rather from where *it* wants to "

Dr Leichtberg invented the thigh, hips and buttocks cream first, using this system It sold as fast as tickets to a royal premiere

Every time he was interviewed, the doctor was asked if the cream would also work its magic if it were rubbed on a bulging stomach or waist

This set him thinking And his thoughts led him to inventing the abdomen cream He explained the difference in the contents of the two creams

Dr Leichtberg told me "Women's thighs tend to accumulate cellulite but abdomens don't So the thigh cream alone has an anti-cellulite component

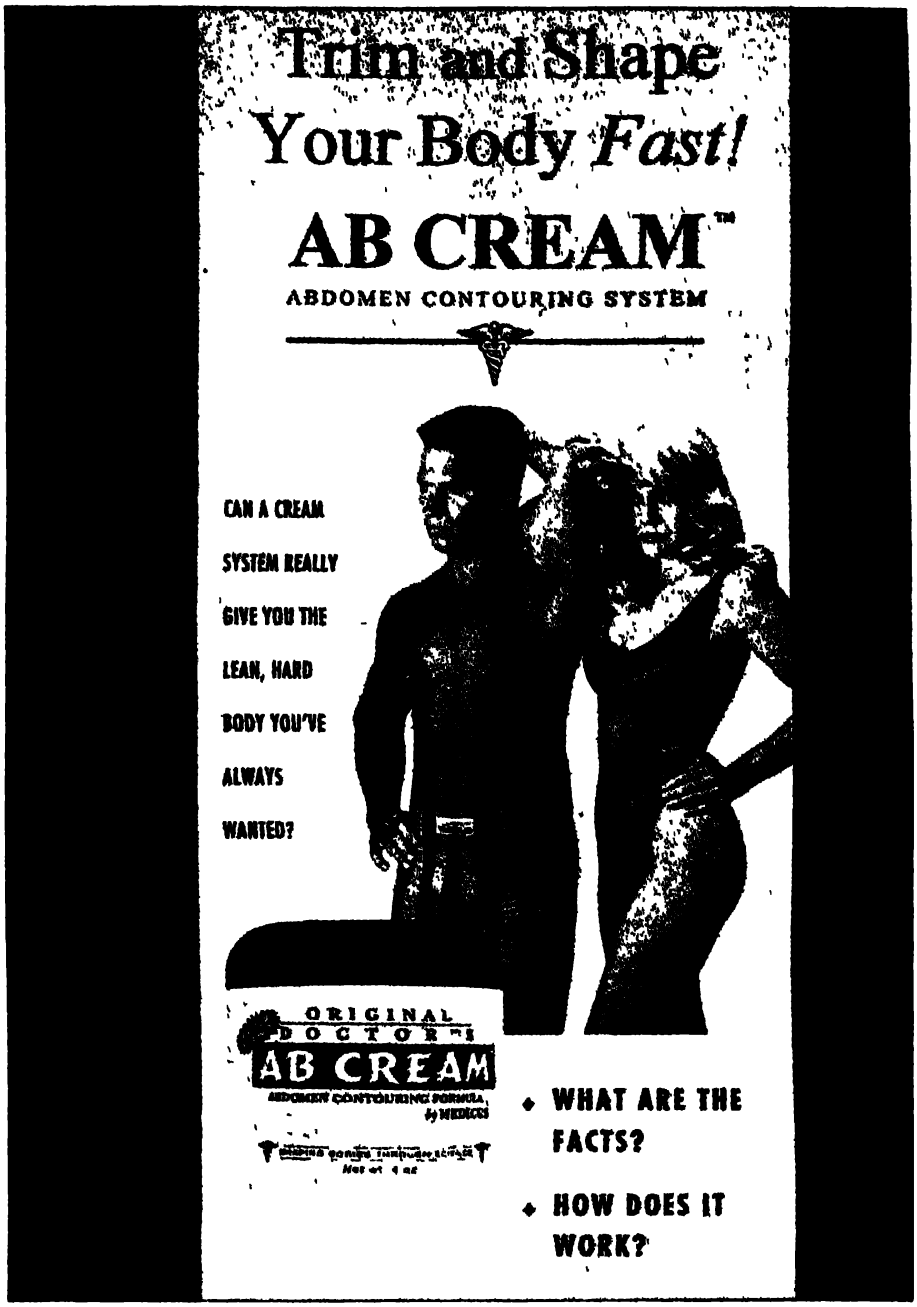
"In the abdomen cream, I have bumped up the anti-fat component, which is a theophylline-based molecule "

The doctor's creams don't work miracles He told me "If someone is very obese, they're going to stay that way

"These creams are designed for people who need a little help in getting rid of that last bit of fat in the thigh or stomach areas

"They will help people most who are already losing weight And there will be no problems with those whose weight is stable

"The more you exercise, the better the results will be Then there is the



An advertising leaflet for the slimming cream

diet I strongly recommend that people *don't* diet in the usual sense of the word

"What this means these days is a temporary alteration of one's eating habits for the purpose of losing weight I'm talking about altering the eating pattern permanently

"For example Don't eat food with added fats and oils Apart from obesity, these can cause cancer and heart disease "

How fast can Dr Leichtberg's abdomen cream, rubbed on night and morning, slim you down? He said "The best result I ever had was 10 days

"The thigh cream works after a minimum of three weeks It gets quicker results than the abdomen cream because taking raw fat off is harder than getting rid of cellulite

"I suggest that people should wait six weeks to get the whole picture They can shed up to two inches I myself lost a total of about five "

One of the doctor's happy customers, blonde, 28-year-old office manager Julie Steele from Los Angeles, said gleefully "I tried everything to get rid of the stubborn fat on my thighs

"Nothing worked But when I rubbed in the cream, I lost an inch and a half off each thigh in three weeks "

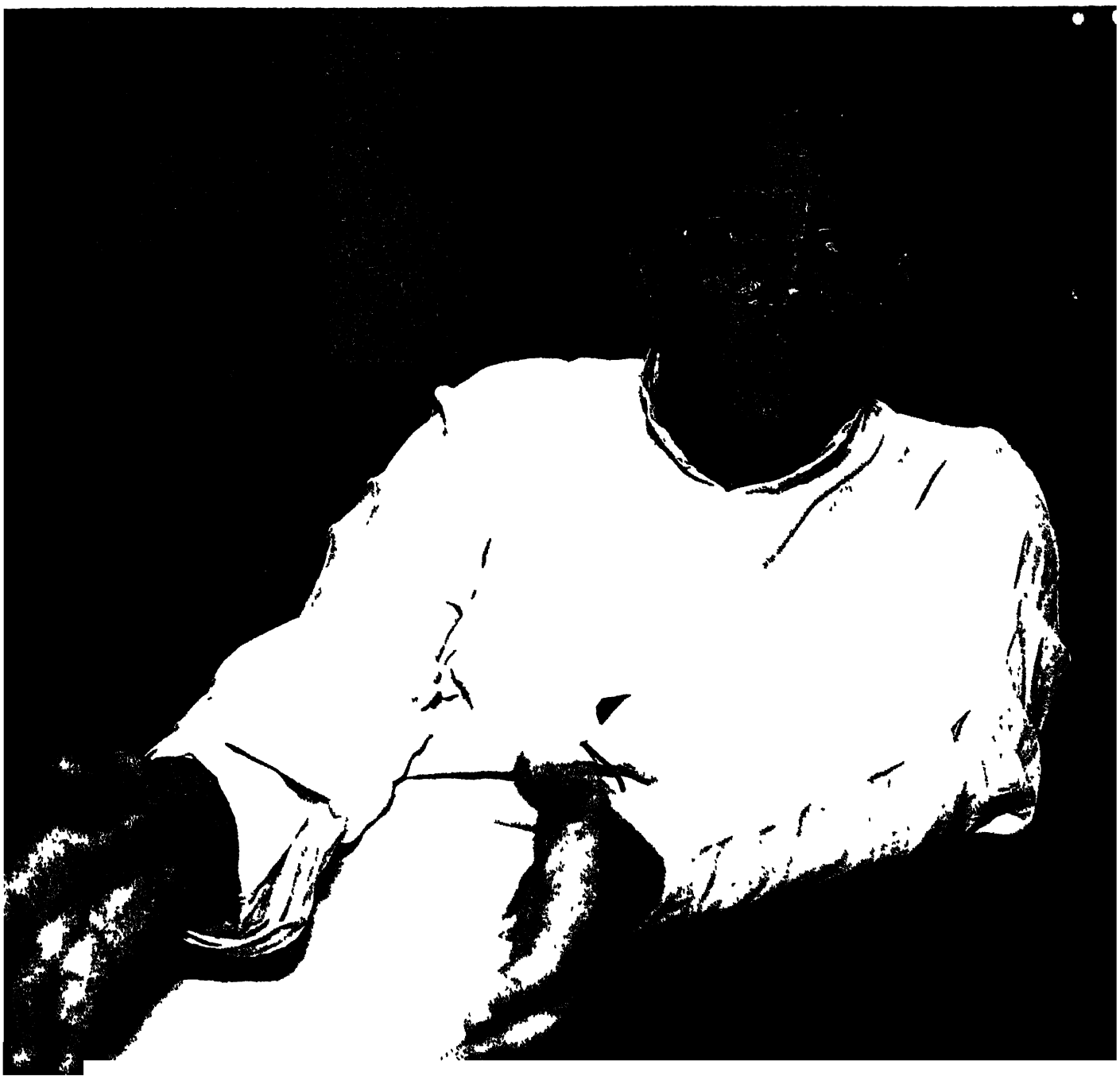
Dr Leichtberg is delighted There is nothing the father of two likes more than to see less of his patients Pounds less

(Asia Features)

COVER STORY

LONER

The challenge of life is not quite over for Vishwanath Pratap Singh ***Bishakha De Sarkar*** *discovered some steel in him while talking to him about his future*





In Calcutta, October 1994 Life's a big challenge

IT WAS LUNCH TIME AT AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL IN ALLAHABAD A NINE-YEAR-OLD, STANDING all by himself, was suddenly accosted by a boy, just a few years older "You don't know me, but I am your elder brother And don't tell anyone at home that you met me — or else they'll move you to another school," he warned, and left after giving his younger sibling an ice-cream

The small boy was Vishwanath Pratap Singh, living, perforce, away from his family. His brother, C P. Singh, grew up to be a Justice in Uttar Pradesh.

Forty years later, it was the killing of the Justice that pushed V P Singh, the then chief minister of UP, to the national limelight Many believe that more than anything else, it was his resignation a few months after the Justice was shot dead by dacoits that gave him the aura of a man on a mission.

"It is generally believed that I resigned because of my brother's killing," says Singh, sitting back in a cushy chair and tucking his feet into a voluminous cream shawl "But that's not true. I resigned three months later, after a group of dacoits attacked Dalits and minorities," he says.

Today, Vishwanath Pratap Singh — former Prime Minister, Union minister and chief minister — is seen as the messiah of the same constituency of Dalits and minorities This is the man whose life's greatest ambition was to be a Member of Parliament "I never ever

thought beyond that," he says In these many decades, politics and political equations have changes as never before

The man whose sudden announcement of the implementation of the Mandal Commission report one humid day in the August of 1990 plunged the nation into turmoil looks back at life with a measure of satisfaction There are, often enough, underlined sentiments of pride and, just once in a while, well-wrapped notes of regret

V P Singh is perhaps the politician who excites the most divergent and passionate of emotions Hated by some as much as he is revered by others, he has been pilloried and praised — all at the same time And while history may have the final word, what cannot be denied today is that the man makes news

If he is not stepping down as chief minister, he is rebelling against his own Congress government If he is not riding on a wave of electoral euphoria, he is falling, with his government, into unknown depths And when he is not seriously ailing, he is painting, penning verse and freezing images with a camera

The works of the 63-year-old painter-poet-photographer-politician pan across images and symbols A noose, in the form of a painting, warns of the future, a photograph of a single rose captures a moment in nature and a poem on stars wonders what shape his dreams will take And all his creations, in turn, seek to answer the question that is V P Singh

All along, the picture that emerges is that of a loner on a path not taken "But then, I was a lonely child," says Singh "It was quite traumatic and I felt really very lonely But I was very fond of nature — and that helped me in living with myself"

His childhood does seem to haunt him still At the age of five, he left his home and family when his parents decided to bequeath him to the childless Raja of Manda He was not allowed to meet any member of his natural family and grew up all by himself in the dimly-lit sprawling royal house of Manda

His adoptive father, Singh recalls, had an alcohol problem "He had a personal tragedy He was shown the photograph of one woman and then married off to another," he recounts He died when V P was 11, wracked by alcohol and tuberculosis "Every day, I was given five minutes to sit with him But because of his ailment, I was made to sit at a distance and converse," says Singh

Singh hints that though his comforts and needs were looked after, little love was showered on him He instead speaks of his foster father's "kindness" towards him, his intermittent stints away from home in a boarding school, of the constant movement from one school to another

The first time he came across filial love was when a government employee, Amar Nath, moved to Manda to look after the estate The Nath family filled in the needs that had never been thought of as important before And after his father's death, Amar Nath was named in his will as the guardian of the young Vishwanath

That was when his own family stepped in from neighbouring Daiya, seeking custody of the child "I realised something was wrong when Amar Nath came down to me, and stood there with tears in his eyes I refused to go with my father, held on to a chair and cried But I was physically picked up, put into a car and whisked away"

The circle had come to a full turn Singh's parents cut off all ties with the Amar Naths It was years later, when Singh was doing his graduation, that he received an invite from Delhi for the wedding of one of Amar Nath's daughters "Till then I had no idea



V.P. Singh is perhaps the politician who excites the most divergent and passionate of emotions. Hated by some as much as he is revered by others, he has been pilloried and praised — all at the same time. And while history may have the final word, what cannot be denied today is that the man makes news

Before the break Sharing tete-a-tete with Rajiv Gandhi



Jagjit Newsphoto Service



With Opposition MPs after resigning from Parliament over the Bofors issue in July 1989

CHEMISTRY THAT DIDN'T WORK

The man-who-was-king very nearly wasn't. Fondness for nature nurtured an interest in the sciences — almost making a nuclear scientist out of Vishwanath Pratap Singh

"I wanted to study science. But my local guardian thought that my job was going to be that of an administrator and I was told to study political science and economics," says Singh. "And those were the days when young people did what their elders asked them to do," he points out

So Singh went on to dutifully do law, got married and then one day — six years after that — suddenly spotted his brother-in-law carrying a physics textbook. Singh read it and, to his surprise, realised that he'd understood most of it. "That's because once I put my heart to a thing, I work towards it single-mindedly," he spells out.

It was then that Singh decided to formally study the subject Though theory was easy, the problem, he realised, was the fact that he needed to be affiliated to a college for his practicals

So he went to the principal of a well-known college in Allahabad and asked for permission to do his practicals there "Did you have science in your high school?" the principal asked. "No," replied Singh. "We are already into September. You think you can finish the course in six months?" the principal asked. "Yes," replied Singh.

The principal was not the kind to mince words. "You may be mad, but I am not," he said and dismissed a disappointed Singh. Singh, on the other hand, was not the kind to give up either. "I tried some *sifarish* and got into college.

"The principal agreed to give me a 15-day trial period. I prepared my theory well and passed the practicals. The principal was very happy and I was in," he recalls Six months later, he had earned a distinction in physics and chemistry Soon after that, he was in a train for Pune to pursue higher studies in the sciences.

Singh recalls that it was in the train that he first learnt about the chemical symbols — 'Au' for gold, 'Ag' for silver, and so on Singh did his B.Sc from Pune. He was all set to join Trombay, but was thwarted by fate. "I was over-age by a month," laments Singh 40 years later.

Back in Allahabad, "social circumstances" forced him to opt for a different stream. "I was not the least bit interested in politics. I spent my youth not even thinking of politics," he says. "But there were pressures on me — so many people around me had so many hopes and so many aspirations," he says.

ART, HIS JEALOUS MISTRESS

Like all artistes, Vishwanath Pratap Singh has his idiosyncracies. He does not like to explain his art, does not want to pin it down with a title and does not seek to categorise it. "The day you make your art conform to set parameters, it ceases to be a creation," he says.

Singh's studio is his bedroom, where he sits with his canvas and captures his emotions. Most believe that his art flourishes when the Janata Dal is on the upswing and stagnates when the party is in a shambles.

Though interested in the arts from the very beginning, V.P. used to be an erratic painter, finishing all of two paintings over 30 years. But now — with time on his side because of a spate ailments — Singh has taken to some serious painting.

"I first took up art as a hobby, but renewed the interest last year. I think, before that, the last painting had been done in 1962. In these 30 years, my brushes have all dried up," says Singh.

Today, he is ready to try out anything — from oil acrylics to water colours to charcoal, though most of his works are pencil sketches And, he stresses, there is no one school of art that inspires him in particular. "Each form is a medium of expression — be it realism, impressionism or total abstract," he says. "Some take sides — I don't."

V.P.'s paintings take on diverse subjects. A recent canvas symbolises what the former Prime Minister might describe as resurgence of the Janata Dal — a sunrise in shades of orange and yellow.

Another work, a sketch of a raised fist and an upright finger, echoes the thought. And though the artist doesn't say it in so many words, a painting of a hanging rope noose underlines the Congress decline.

V.P.'s fondness for animals finds a place in his drawings. He has done a series on dogs and cats, capturing every small detail of the animals. The paintings were among those which V.P. Singh carried to a multi-party meet in Ghaziabad some months ago — needless to say, at a time when the Dal's fortunes were looking up.

V.P. himself is a little wary of talking about his interest in the arts. "It is more of a personal expression, a reflection of my own feelings," he says.

Hand-in-hand with his love for painting comes his new-found interest in photography. During the long months when his illnesses curbed movement, he took a camera and shot everything that took his fancy. "I am not accomplished in any of these forms of art. But, graphy which interests me," he says.

But V.P.'s *ouvre*, perhaps, is poetry. He wrote his first poem nearly 30 years ago. "Then for a long time I did not write much, though some of my poems were published," Singh reveals.

The poems penned over the last few months hold a mirror to V.P.'s thinking. And greatly averse to having his poems translated, the politician himself is not too keen to sprout poetry

But, as one of his verses suggests, the poet does not want to define his borders. Says the poem: *Abhi tak/ main thos tha/ meri seemayen spasht theen/ sthan nirdisht that/ abh/ pighal raha hoon/ anaayaas/ dhul raha hoon/ taral ban/ bah raha hoon/ neeche/ neeche/ kahin to thahar jaoonga/ kisi gaddey mein/ apni paridhi paa jaunga/ anjuli bhar mujhe/ uthane ki cheshta na karna/ unglion ke beech/ sarak jaoonga/ oonchayion se darta hoon.*

With politics ever in a flux, Singh is not able to devote too much time to his interests. "But it is not politics, but art which vies with poetry," he says. For art, he adds, is a jealous mistress.

where they lived So I promptly landed up in Delhi and met them for the first time after so many years "

By the time Singh had graduated from school to college, his life was moving on an even keel A spate of firsts in school and college had given him the confidence to move ahead And it was in college that he first came across what was to turn into his life's leitmotif — his constant fight with the establishment



He [V.P. Singh] was a prefect in college when the student union elections were being held. One of the candidates had the support of the principal, which young Singh thought was 'absolutely improper'. He promptly penned down his resignation letter — the first of the many that were to follow

He was a prefect in college when the student union elections were being held One of the candidates had the support of the principal, which young Singh thought was "absolutely improper" He promptly penned down his resignation letter — the first of the many that were to follow

He was urged by his mates to stand for election — and decided to do so as an independent "I won hands down, and then came the clashes with the authorities " One of the main points of conflict revolved around a portrait of King George V which adorned the principal's room The young boys wanted it to be replaced with a painting of Rana Pratap

When the principal pleaded that he couldn't do so for lack of funds, V P initiated a fund-raising drive, making every student pay a rupee each "We collected Rs 700, but when even after



Announcing his resignation from the Lok Sabha last year. One of his recent paintings adorns the wall behind him

that the photograph remained unchanged, we decided to boycott the principal's Janmashtami celebration and organise one of our own," he recalls

There were four or five students at the principal's gathering, and a hall-full at V P 's parallel function "I think it was then that the principal realised what he was up against," laughs Singh

Though the seeds of politics were sown right then, Singh himself came into the arena much later — "at 38, when I was approaching middle-age " Singh realised the need to be in public life when he spearheaded a road-building drive in his village "For 15 days we worked on the road and did away with all the pot-holes But just to get a roller I had to run around so much that I did some re-thinking — it was so much easier to get the government to act when you were an MLA or an MLC," he says

It was then that for the first time in his life V P decided to seek a ticket to the UP Assembly Though Dinesh Singh and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed lobbied hard for his ticket, he faced an equally strong opposition from within the Congress "I told Indiraji that I had no past record to boast of — just as no other fresh candidate did But I could only promise the future It was like launching a new ship — either it sinks or sails "

And sail V P did As a deputy minister during the mid-Seventies, he thought the Emergency was "too much of a measure " But known widely as one of Sanjay Gandhi's men, he was asked to head Uttar Pradesh in 1980

His resignation brought him back to the Centre Several years and portfolios later — industry for a while, commerce, finance and defence — he elbowed Rajiv Gandhi out as the original Mr Clean

Then came the Jan Morcha, the Janata Dal and the National Front And though V P Singh did set the political agenda for the country, the criticisms came flowing in

Some believed that he was the one who gave legitimacy to the Bharatiya Janata Party by seeking its support to the National Front government at the Centre in 1989 There were others who believed that Singh has always ducked responsibility, and let down his political mentors and supporters Some thought that he had used Mandal as a convenient card in the game of politics

D Sengupta (PIB)



Taking oath as Prime Minister from then President R. Venkataraman in December 1989



With wife Sita Devi and Cabinet colleagues

Little wonder then that there were few — in high circles — who rued his government's fall and his believed exit from politics But just when V P 's bitterest critics had happily written him off as a bad dream, he emerged from the ashes as someone who was critically ailing, exciting curiosity, cynicism and condolences in equal doses

A protracted hungerstrike in Bombay caused renal complications, which were followed by a series of eye problems Then, in April last year, it was diagnosed that V P was possibly suffering from Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia, a variety of blood cancer common to India

Once his ailments — which caused V P to drastically cut down on his election tours — were out of the news, he hit the headlines by resigning from his parliamentary party "But I resigned because I had always said I would do so And I left at a point when the party was gaining strength," he holds

When everyone thought that V P was out of the reckoning, he swung right back into action with the November Assembly elections and now, with success behind him, V P Singh looks back at the changing political equations in the country with the air of a man who started it all "For the first time, the power equilibrium has shifted towards the depressed sections," he stresses

Long after V P 's government at the Centre has gone, it is indeed a reality that can no longer be wished away Not even 10 Prime Ministers, he says with an element of pride, can undo what has been done "There was a price tag attached to the change — and that was the price of a government We paid the price because we wanted the change," he says

And mission over, where does that leave the messiah? Though not out of the political arena — as yet — he has other interests to keep him busy His fight for social justice continues, he states And, meanwhile, he lifts his pen, writes a poem on listlessness, holds his brush, paints a squirrel, picks up his camera and shoots a flower

"All through my life and career I resigned either to keep my word, or because of the challenge," he maintains

When he resigned as the finance minister he points out, it was to fight the economic status quo and as the defence minister to fight against the political status quo "When I resigned as the Prime Minsiter, it was to fight the social status quo," he says And everytime, Singh maintains, his resignantion was the prelude to greater activity

"But the latest resignation is more for personal freedom," says he "This time it is really for a holiday " V P watchers, however, warn that his yearning for a vacation should not be taken seriously

For, more than words, it is the flair of his pyjamas which point to the direction that he is taking When he is in power, a tight churidar goes with his achkans When he is out of power and sidelined, he wears Aligarhi pyjamas And when he is out of power but plotting a coup, he moves on to the loose, wide-flaired Bengali pyjamas The flair, at this moment, couldn't have been any wider ■



When everyone thought that V.P. was out of the reckoning, he swung right back into action with the November Assembly elections and now, with success behind him, he looks back at the changing political equations in the country with the air of a man who started it all

INNER EYE — Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says the full moon reactivates your interest in home, and a spot of renovation/decoration could involve the office/shop as well Around January 17, both good and bad things happen, breaking at least the boredom of human existence Romance is foretold

Taurus

April 21--May 20



Though you are on a slightly choppy, changeful sea, expect things and matters to right themselves for you This holds specially true for finances, buying and selling It is absolutely certain that either you will be corresponding and travelling, or inviting visitors, or doing both

Gemini

May 21 --June 20



While finances and family posers are important, you will meet quite a few interesting persons A little care in relationships is advisable, as you should not hurt or be hurt by your loved one Buying/selling are focalised Many of you will be interested in ties

Cancer

June 21--July 20



Despite rough going, rest assured you will find enough to keep busy Also, you may expect some good news You are advised to reach out to people and places as contracts and assignments await you by doing so January 20-21 will be newsy Health safeguards are a must

Leo

July 21—August 21



Better gird up your loins and get work done While it will be incomplete, at least a start will have been made Romance blossoms and that should be welcome Tuesday/Wednesday will be important for Leons Get all personal work done and try to resolve problems then

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Friends may not succeed overmuch, but at least they try to help you The home situation should improve, giving you a little satisfaction and contentment January 19-21 will be specially important for decision-making and coming to grips with emotional affairs

Libra

September 23--October 22



Home, renovation and decoration are quite on the cards for Librans Ganesha says, your mental horizons and expertise will widen considerably, relatives will be very much in your life A trip is on the anvil It would be advantageous to take it Next, expect a wish-fulfilment

Scorpio

October 23--November 22



Friendliness and tact will take you places Many of you will be in a mood to take chances Home and family come in for a radical haul There are opportunities for advancement Entertain Socialise Attend functions and meetings Good for you

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



From January 17, Pluto, according to western astrology, enters your sign and will be there till January 27, causing dramatic and progressive changes in your entire lifestyle and behaviour patterns This week romance, mixed results in health and funds take up top priority

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



A week of chop and change, but it will help you to adapt and think of alternatives Partnerships of all sorts and human relationships are the issues here It seems you will have to adjust quite a bit However, it should be worth it Negotiations should take up your time

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Be careful of what you say and to whom you say, because insolence and impetuosity could land you into a lot of needless trouble On the positive side, job opportunities come your way Friends will certainly try to help you Superiors will like you A promotion is possible in February-April

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Best to take the long shot, be it job, love, family or signing a contract Pressures of work will be truly tremendous and decision-making could be a problem by itself Many of you will be seeking new outlets and directions for yourself and your loved ones, shedding away the old

BIRTHDAYS

January 15: Moon-Sun excellent placing means work will be done and you will regain lost position or status Love and romance come your way.

January 16: Full Moon could lead to tensions in partnerships and ties, unless you play it carefully and are ready to compromise A few not-too-pleasant choices necessary

January 17: Moon-Jupiter excellent placing assures children, love, artistic talent, managerial skills and probably the luck of the draw. A wish could come true

January 18: Moon opposes Mercury, giving you plenty of food for thought. Do not be hasty and overzealous This applies for both work and play, money and love.

January 19: Moon conjuncts Mars, favouring a change of scenary, though this could end up on the expensive side It could be a year favouring pilgrimages, publicity and planning.

January 20: Moon Saturn opposition could slow you down, but rest assured, you will get what you want. Home conditions ease, become better.

January 21: Moon-Sun happy placing spells success. Those in teaching, writing, management, statistics, tours and travel do an outstanding job.

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

■ AGARTALA

Departures Flt No	Time	Days	Arrivals Flt No	Time	Days
IC-741	0710	3,6	IC-742	0940	3,6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5,7	PF 702	1610	1,3 5 7

■ AHMEDABAD

M9-304/109	0855	1 3,5	M9-110/301	1900	1 3,5

■ AIZAWL

PF-705	0730	daily	PF 706	1100	daily

■ BAGDOGRA

PF-707	1130	2,4 6	PF 708	1510	2 4 6
IC-721	1300	1 3 5	IC-722	1540	1 3,5

■ BANGALORE

IC 771	0600	daily	IC-772	1140	daily

■ BHUBANESWAR

IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5

■ BOMBAY

AI-431	0100	2			
IC 676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
9W-202	0920	daily	9W 201	0840	daily
AI 309	1930	6	AI-306	1730	5
IC-273	1945	daily	IC 274	1850	daily
9W 212	1955	daily	9W 211	1920	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2-103	1935	daily

■ COOCH BEHAR

PF 707	1130	2 4 6	PF-708	1510	2,4 6

■ DELHI

			IC-262	0815	2 4,7
IC-263	0700	daily	M9 303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	4S-806	1115	1 2 3 4,5 6
4S 805	1745	1 2 3 4 5 6	AI-682	1145	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC-401	1155	daily
IC 402	1715	daily	M9-301	1900	daily
IC-261	1900	2 4 7	S2 005	1900	1 2,3 4,5,6
M9 302	1930	daily	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
S2 006	1940	1,2 3 4 5 6	IC-264	2210	daily

■ DIBRUGARH

IC 703	0715	3 5	IC-704	1345	3 5
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2-181	1620	1 3,5,7
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
4S-815	1145	1 2,3 4 5 6	IC-702	1630	2 4 6 7
IC-701	1240	2 4 6 7	4S-816	1705	1 2 3 4 5 6

■ DIMAPUR

IC 257	1150	4,7	IC-258	1650	4,7

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

■ AMMAN

RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4

■ AMSTERDAM

KL-876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7

■ GUWAHATI

IC-703	0715	3,5	IC-704	1345	3,5
IC-707	0715	1,4,6	IC-708	1345	1 4,6
IC-711	0715	2 7	IC-712	1400	2,7
D2-181	1135	1,3,5 7	D2-181	1620	1 3,5 7
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	D2-183	1620	2 4 6
4S-812	1145	1,2 3,4 5,6	4S-811	1705	1 2 3 4,5,6
IC-257	1150	4,7	IC-230	1620	daily
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC-258	1650	4 7
IC-229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4 6

■ HYDERABAD

IC-777	1500	2 4 7	IC-778	2005	2,4,7
IC-769	1525	1 3,5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5

■ IMPHAL

IC-707	0715	1,4,6	IC-256	1320	3,5
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC-708	1345	1 4,6
IC-253	1100	2,6	IC-254	1550	2,6

■ JORHAT

IC-213	0910	2 4,7	IC-213	1315	2 4,7

■ LUCKNOW

IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5

■ MADRAS

IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1,3 5
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2-171	1045	daily
D2-172	1740	daily	IC-766	2220	daily

■ NAGPUR

IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5

■ PATNA

IC-249	1430	2 4,7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
IC-812	1515	1 3,5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5

■ PORT BLAIR

IC-285	0640	3 5,7	IC-286	1100	2,4,6

■ RANCHI

IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2,4,7

■ SHILLONG

PF-701	1130	1,3,5,7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5,7

■ SILCHAR

IC-255	0830	3,5	IC-260	1110	1,7
IC-259	0830	1,7	IC-256	1320	3,5
IC-253	1100	2,6	IC-254	1550	2,6
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC-212	1740	4 6

■ TEZPUR

IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2,4,7

■ VISHAKHAPATNAM

IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1,3,5

INTERNATIONAL

■ BANGKOK

IC-731	0855	2 4,5,7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2,6	TG-313	1240	1,3 6
TG-314	1355	1,3,6	IC-732	1505	2,4,5 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
BUCHAREST					
RO-076	2040	5, 7	RO 075	1035	5, 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
DHAKA					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1 2, 3, 6 7	BG-091	1110	1 2, 3 6, 7
IC-723	1300	1 2 5 6 7	IC-724	1620	1 2, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG-095	2020	1 5
KATHMANDU					
IC-747	1115	1 3 6	IC-748	1455	1 3 6
RA-214	1400	4, 7	RA-213	1315	4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
LONDON					
BA-142	2050	3, 7	BA-143	1525	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
PARO					
KB-106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2, 6
KB-106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
AI-430	1300	1	SQ-416	2040	2, 5
SQ-415	2200	2 5	AI-431	2235	1
SOFIA					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways



TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13-40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	3104
5185	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6-50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12-00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	—
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	--
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
-	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22-35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
-	14-05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains, 2203535 44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203496-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

AN OUTSIDER INSIDE

Timothy the tiger cub was discovered by Grandfather on a hunting expedition in the Terai jungles near Dehra Grandfather was no *shikari*, but as he knew the forests of the Siwalik hills better than most people, he was persuaded to accompany the party which consisted of several VIPs from Delhi, to advise on the terrain and the direction the beaters should take once a tiger had been spotted

The camp itself was sumptuous — seven large tents (one for each *shikari*), a dining tent and a number of servant's tents The dinner was very good as Grandfather admitted afterwards It was not often that one saw hot-water plates, finger glasses and seven or eight courses in a tent in the jungle

But that was how things were done in the days of the Viceroys There were also some 15 elephants, four of them with *howdahs* for the *shikaris* and the others specially trained for taking part in the beat

The sportsmen never saw a tiger, nor did they shoot anything else though they saw a number of deer, peacock and wild boar They were giving up all hope of finding a tiger and were beginning to shoot at jackals, when Grandfather, strolling down the forest path some distance from the rest of the party, discovered a little tiger 18" long, hiding in the intricate roots of a banyan tree

Grandfather picked him up and brought him home after the camp had broken up He had the distinction of being the only member of the party to have bagged any game, dead or alive!

At first, the tiger cub, who was named Timothy by Grandmother, was brought up entirely on milk given to him in a feeding bottle by our cook Mahmoud But the milk proved too rich for him and he was put on a diet of raw mutton and cod liver oil, to be followed later by a more tempting diet of pigeons and rabbits

Timothy was provided with two companions, Toto the monkey was bold enough to pull the young tiger by the tail and then climb the curtains if Timothy lost his temper, and a small mongrel puppy found on the road by Grandfather

At first, Timothy appeared to be quite afraid of the puppy and darted back with a spring if it came too near He would make absurd dashes at it with his large fore-paws and then retreat to a ridiculously safe distance Finally, he allowed the puppy to crawl onto his back and rest there

One of Timothy's favourite pastimes was to stalk anyone who would play with him and so, when I came to live with Grandfather, I became one of the tiger's favourites

With a crafty look in his glittering eyes and his body crouching, he would creep closer to me, suddenly making a dash for my feet, rolling over on his back and kicking with delight and pretending to bite my ankles

He was, by this time, the size of a full-grown retriever and when I took him out for walks, people on the road would give us a wide berth When he pulled hard on his chain, I had difficulty keeping up with him

His favourite place in the house was the drawing room and he would make himself comfortable on the long sofa, reclining there with great dignity and snarling at anyone who tried to get him off

Timothy had clean habits and would scrub his face with his paws exactly like a cat He slept at night in the cook's quarters and was always delighted at being let out by him in the mornings "One of these days," declared Grandmother in her prophetic manner, "we are going to find Timothy sitting on Mahmoud's bed and no sign of the cook except his clothes and shoes!"

Of course, it never came to that, but when Timothy was about six months old, a change came over him — he grew steadily less friendly When out for a walk with me, he would try and steal away to stalk a cat or somebody's pet pekinese

Sometimes at night we would hear frenzied cackling from the poultry house and in the morning there would be feathers lying all over the verandah Timothy had to be chained up

At first, the tiger cub, who was named Timothy by Grandmother, was brought up entirely on milk given to him in a feeding bottle by our cook Mahmoud. But the milk proved too rich for him and he was put on a diet of raw mutton and cod liver oil, to be followed later by a more tempting diet of pigeons and rabbits



more often And finally, when he began to stalk Mahmoud about the house with what looked like villainous intent, Grandfather decided it was time to transfer him to a zoo

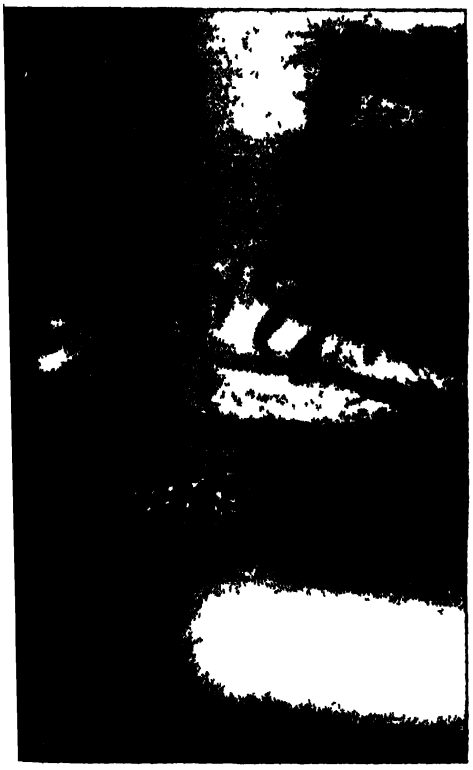
The nearest zoo was at Lucknow, 200 miles away Reserving a first class compartment for himself and Timothy — nobody would share a compartment with them — Grandfather took him to Lucknow where the zoo authorities were only too glad to receive as a gift, a well-fed and fairly civilised tiger

About six months later, when my grandparents were visiting relatives in Lucknow, Grandfather took the opportunity of calling at the zoo to see how Timothy was getting on I was not there to accompany him, but heard all about it when he returned to Dehra

Arriving at the zoo, Grandfather made straight for the particular cage in which Timothy had been interred The tiger was there crouched in a corner, full-grown with a magnificent striped coat "Hello, Timothy!" said Grandfather, and, climbing the railing with ease, put his arms through the bar of the cage

Timothy approached the bars and allowed Grandfather to put both arms around his head Grandfather stroked the tiger's forehead and tickled his ears and whenever he growled, smacked him across the mouth which was his old way of keeping him quiet.

Timothy licked Grandfather's hands and only sprang away when the leopard in the next cage snarled at him Grandfather 'shooed' the leopard away and Timothy returned to lick his hands, but every now and then the leopard would rush at the bars and Timothy would slink back into the corner



Mashed Ahmed

A number of people had gathered to watch the reunion when the keeper pushed his way through the crowd to ask Grandfather what he was doing "I'm talking to Timothy," said Grandfather "Weren't you here when I gave him to the zoo six months ago?"

"I haven't been here very long," said the surprised keeper "Please continue your conversation But I have never been able to touch him myself, he is always very bad tempered "

"Why don't you put him somewhere else?" suggested Grandfather "The leopard keeps frightening him I'll go and see the superintendent about it "

Grandfather went in search of the superintendent of the zoo, but found he had gone home early and so after wandering about for a bit, he returned to Timothy's cage to say goodbye It was beginning to get dark He had been stroking and slapping Timothy for about five minutes when he found another keeper observing him with some alarm Grandfather recognised him as the keeper who had been there when Timothy had first come to the zoo

"You remember me," said Grandfather "Now why don't you transfer Timothy to another cage, away from this stupid leopard?"

"But Sir " stammered the keeper "It is not your tiger "

"I know, I know," said Grandfather testily, "I realise he is no longer mine But you might at least take a suggestion or two from me "

"I remember your tiger very well," said the keeper "He died two months ago "

"Died!" exclaimed Grandfather

"Yes Sir, of pneumonia This tiger was trapped in the hills only last month and he is very dangerous!"

Grandfather could think of nothing to say The tiger was licking his arm with increasing relish Grandfather took what seemed like an age to withdraw his arm from the cage With his face near the tiger's he mumbled, "Goodnight, Timothy," and giving the keeper a scornful look, walked briskly out of the zoo

It was the only time Grandfather had been unable to recognise an animal

(Sanctuary Features)

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HEADS AND TAILS



Maneka Gandhi

MEATING INTO OUR ENVIRONMENT

This week's column is a continuation of an article from *Worldwatch* magazine about the longterm effects of intensive poultry and livestock farming on the environment While the examples and figures relate to livestock farming in the US, with our politicians promoting the meat and poultry farming industries aggressively and indiscriminately, natural law will dictate the same results in India

"Almost half of the energy used in American agriculture goes into livestock production, the majority of it for meat Producing the red meat and poultry eaten each year by a typical American takes energy equal to 50 gallons gasoline Supplying vegetarians with nourishment requires one-third less energy on the farm than supplying meat-eaters

"Of course, energy used on the farm isn't the whole story in the food system Processing, packaging, transporting, selling, storing and cooking foods use almost twice as much energy nationwide as agriculture does Yet, meat still leads the league in energy used per pound of product served Pork involves more than 15 times as much energy as fresh fruits and vegetables

"Feed grain guzzles water, too In California, now the nation's leading dairy producer, livestock agricultre takes nearly a third (the largest share) of irrigation water, according to independe t water analyst Marc Reisner of San Fransisco

"Animal raising accounts for similar shares across the western US, including areas irrigated with water from dwindling underground acquifers The beef feed-lot centre of the nation — Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and the Texas panhandle -- relies on crops raised with water pumped out of a depleting underground water source called the Ogallala acquifer

"Jim Oltjen, professor of animal science at the University of California at Davis, estimates that half of the grain and hay fed to American livestock grows on irrigated land He calculates that it takes about 430 gallons of water to produce a pound of pork, 390 gallons for a pound of beef, and 375 gallons per pound of chicken

"Thus the water used to supply Americans with meat comes to about 190 gallons per person per day, or twice what typical Americans use at home for all purposes

"The livestock industry uses half the territory of the continental US for feed crops, pasture, and range On the half of US cropland growing animal feed and hay, soil continues eroding at a frightful pace despite recent progress in conservation For each pound of red meat, poultry, eggs and milk, farm fields lose about five pounds of prime dirt

"The vast majority of land devoted to livestock is not fertile cropland or pasture, but arid public range in the western US which the government leases to ranchers for grazing Although the 270 million acres so used — an area larger than 14 eastern seaboard states — supply less than 5 per cent of the beef Americans consume, damage to the land is acute

"The worst harm was done in the great cattle drives of the last century An Environment Protection Agency (EPA) sponsored study describes the shameful history 'The land was used so ruthlessly that native perennial grasses were virtually eliminated from vast areas and replaced by sagebrush, rabbitbrush, mesquite and juniper,' the exposed soil was 'quickly stripped from the surface by wind and water unchecked flood flows eroded unprotected streambanks water tables fell lower Perennial streams became intermittent or dry during most of the year'

"Harold Dregne, professor of soil science at Texas Tech University, estimates that 10 per cent of the arid West has been turned to desert by livestock

"With open rangeland overgrazed, cattle concentrate in the narrow streambanks or 'riparian' habitats which are the cornerstone of arid land ecology Trampling and eating vegetation that regulates water flow, herds leave the land unable to absorb cloudbursts Floods then rampage downstream, carrying away soil and accelerating the process of ecological decline

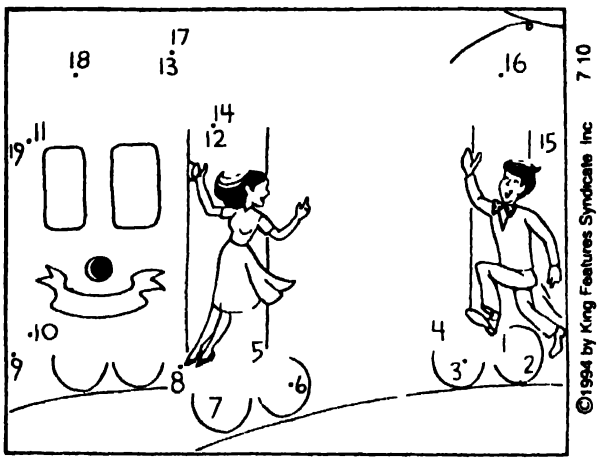
"The American appetite for meat has environmental consequences that extend beyond our national frontiers The US imports only 0 5 per cent of its beef from Central America but the effects of producing that meat are startling In Central America beef exports to the US have played a part in the tragedy of forest destruction Costa Rica, for example was once almost completely clothed in tropical forests, holding within its confines perhaps 5 per cent of all plant and animal species on earth By 1983, after two decades of explosive growth in the cattle industry, just 17 per cent of the original forest remained

"Producing a single Costa Rican hamburger involves the destruction of 55 square feet of rainforest — the area around the size of a small kitchen Such a swathe typically contains one tree, 50 saplings and seedlings of 20 to 30 species, thousands of insects comprising hundreds of species, and an almost unimaginable diversity and abundance of mosses, fungi and microorganisms," according to biologist Christopher Uhl of Pennsylvania State University and Geoffery Parker of the New York Botanical Garden Clearing that single patch of wet Costa Rican forest would also release as much as 165 lbs of the carbon it naturally stores, into the atmosphere in the form of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, according to Sandra Brown, professor of forestry at the University of Illinois That's as much carbon as a typical American car releases in a 20-day period "

[Courtesy *Worldwatch*]
(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

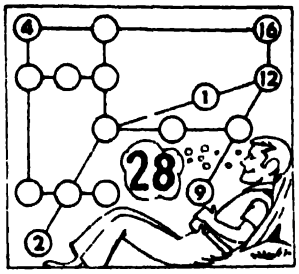
HAL KAUFMAN



ON THE GO! Our friend at right is off and running, as you will see when you complete the scene Connect dots

ENTRY LEVEL! Find four progressively longer words ending in "entry" 1 entry 2 entry 3 -- entry 4 -entry (Use proper noun for No 3)

1 Sentry (or gentry) 2 Reentry 3 Coventry 4 Carpentry



DREAM SCHEME TOTAL IS 28

DREAM ON! Note that two numbers — 12 and 16 — at top right of the dream scheme above, total 28 Coincidentally, when missing numbers between 1 and 16 are inserted correctly, each straight line trio of numbers will also total 28

Can you insert the missing numbers?

For starters, place 8 in circle at top row centre Thereafter, one 28 trio leads to another in most instances

Remember, only missing numbers between 1 and 16 are to be inserted

Time limit 7 minutes

Three in a row is mentioned more than 13 times in the solution. Can you find it?

FOUR CAST! You are challenged to answer the four questions posed below, pertaining to the subjects pictured in the diagram below

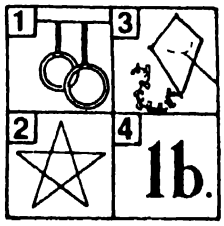
1 Rings are equipment used in gyms True or false?

2 The word 'kite' rhymes with verdict, indict, elite Which?

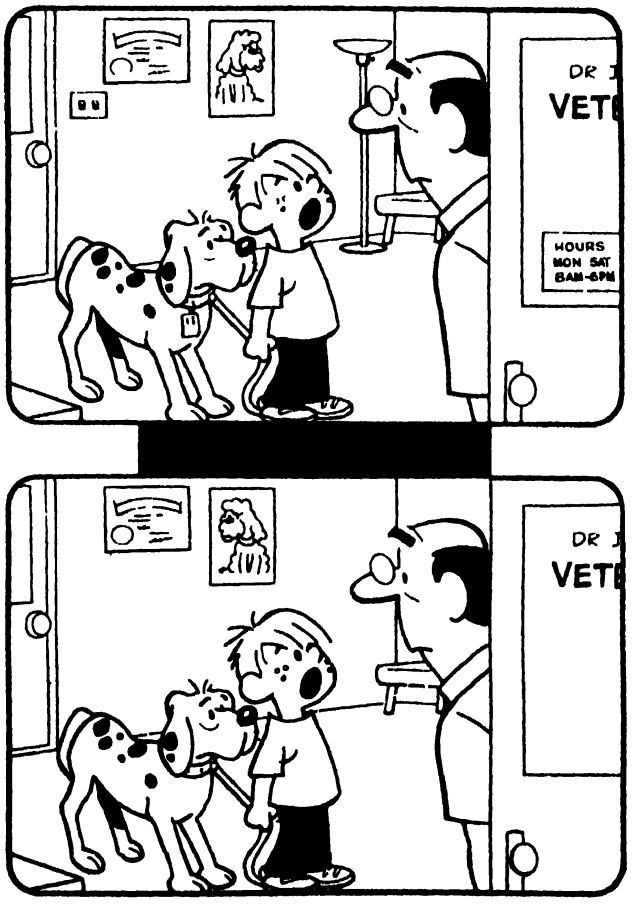
3 Another name for a five-pointed star is quintagon, heptagon, pentacle Which?

4 Letters lb used to designate pound are really an abbreviation of what word?

1 True 2 Indict 3 Pentacle 4 Libra Roman pound



HOCUS-FOCUS



(Drawings by Henry Scarpati)

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Switch is missing 2 Picture is reversed 3 Tag is missing 4 Lamp is missing 5 Sleeve is shorter 6 Sign is missing

FUNSPOT



SAND HO! "Hey, Mom, put me down! I want to play in the sand, too "

Code 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Purple 9—Black

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

POUNDAGE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

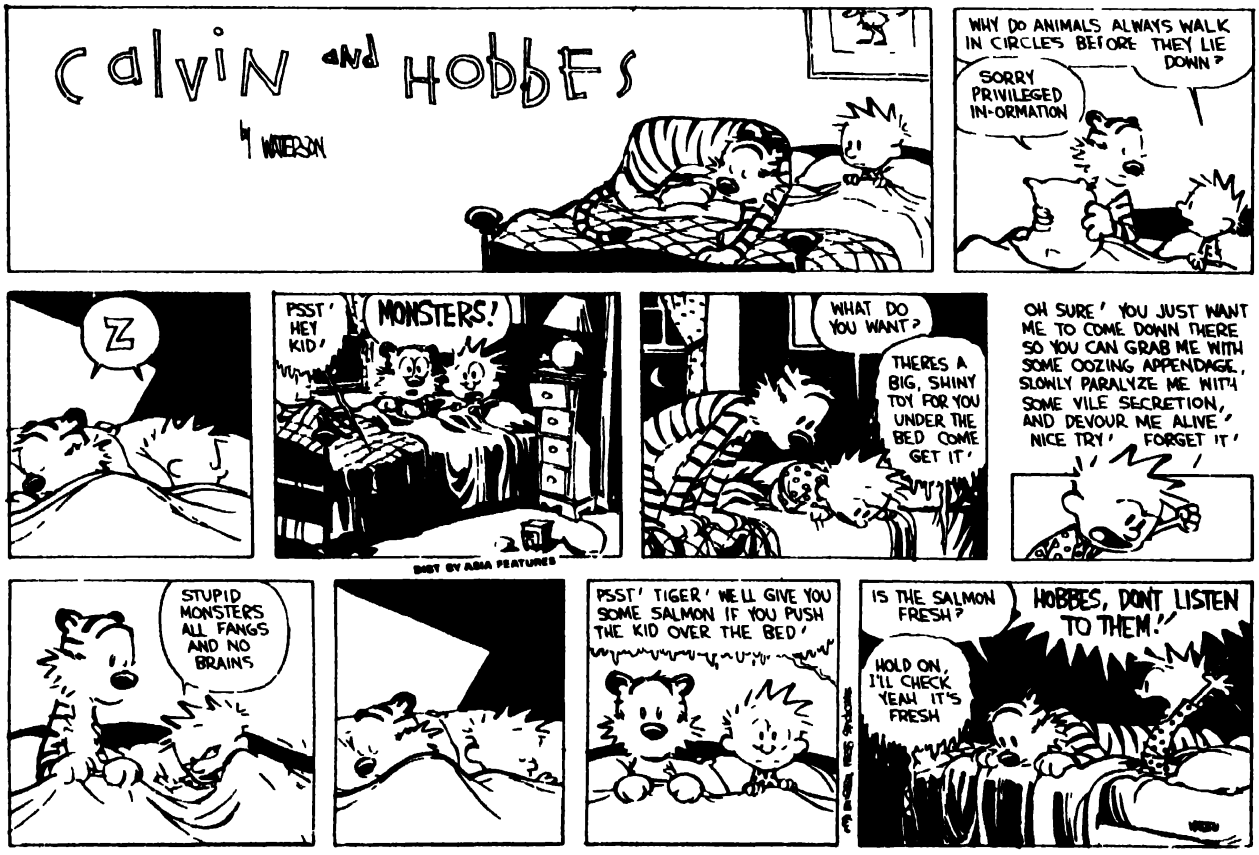
Possible twosome Undo page

COMICS

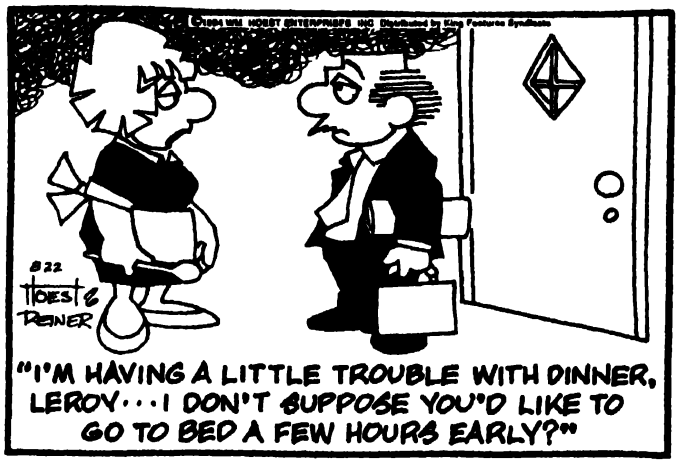
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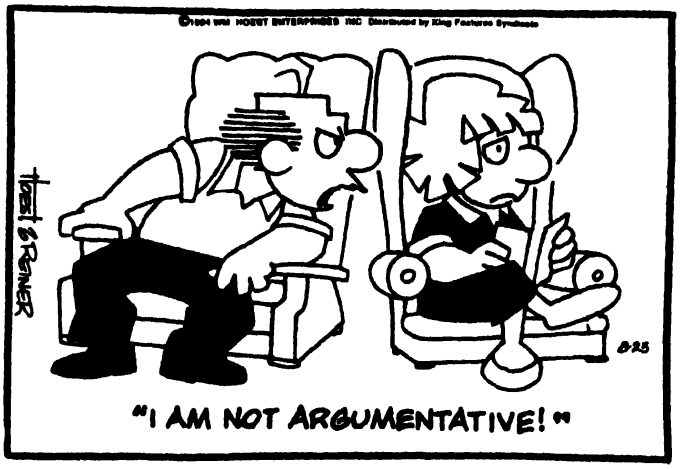


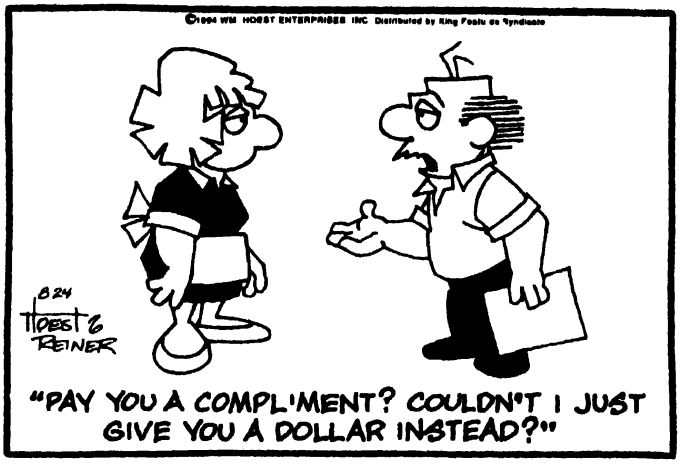
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON

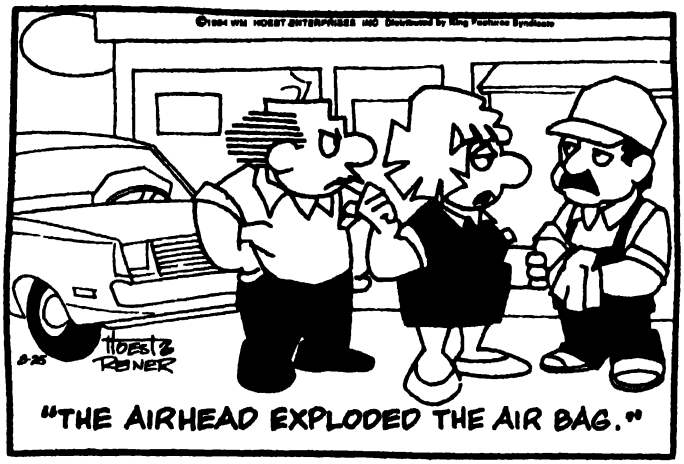


THE LOCKHORNS

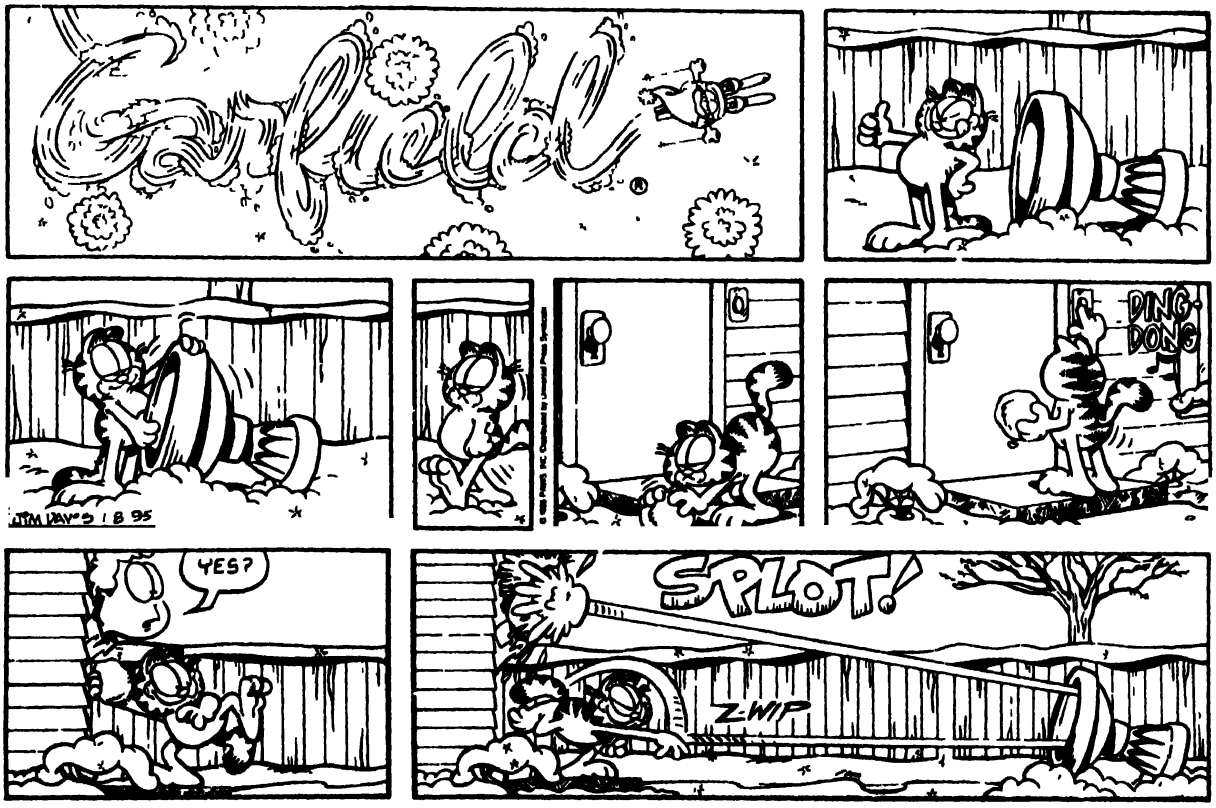




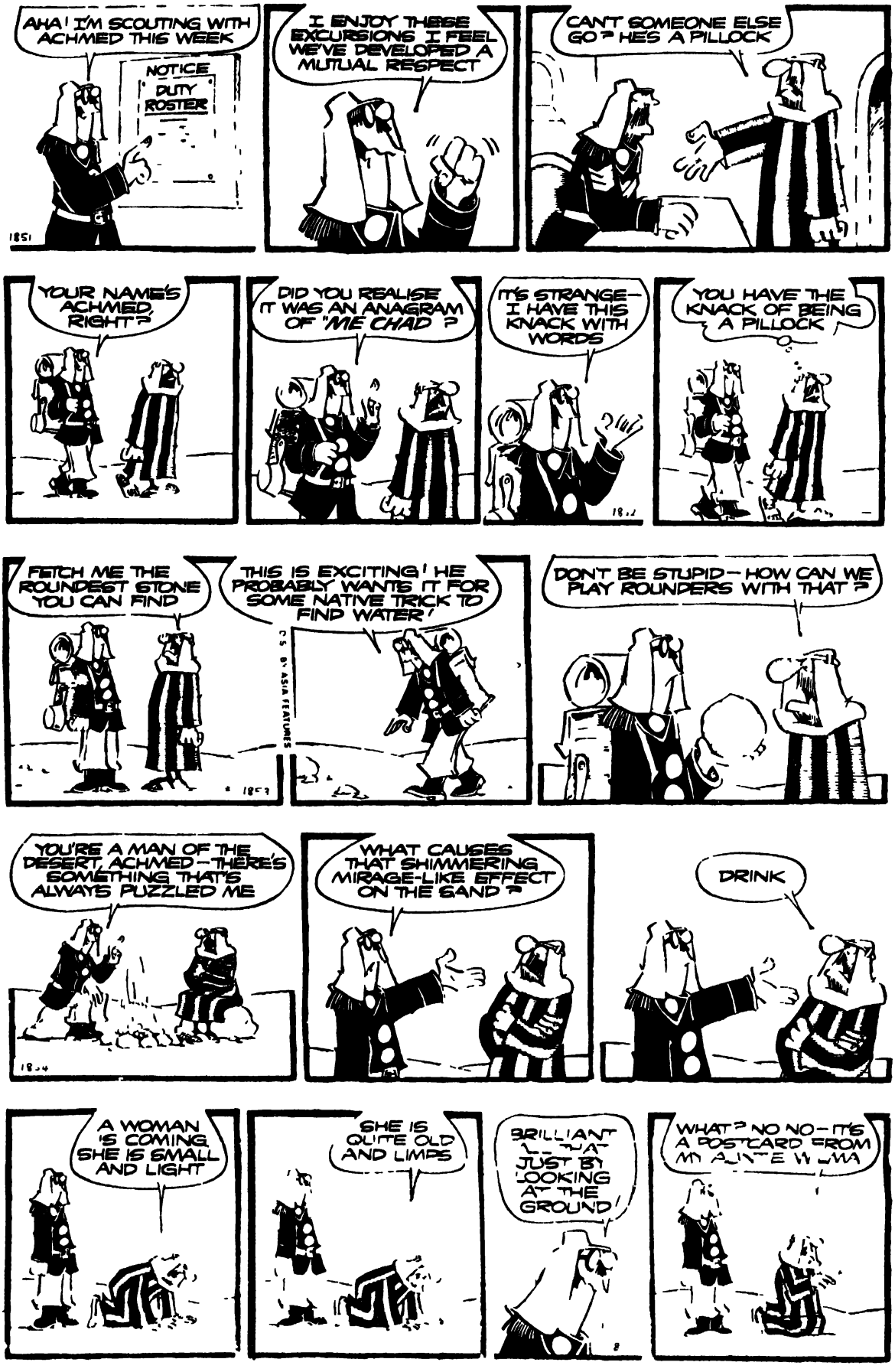


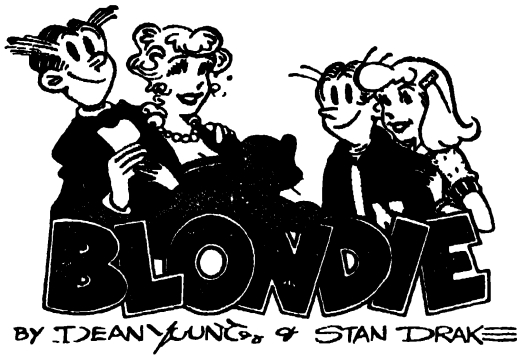


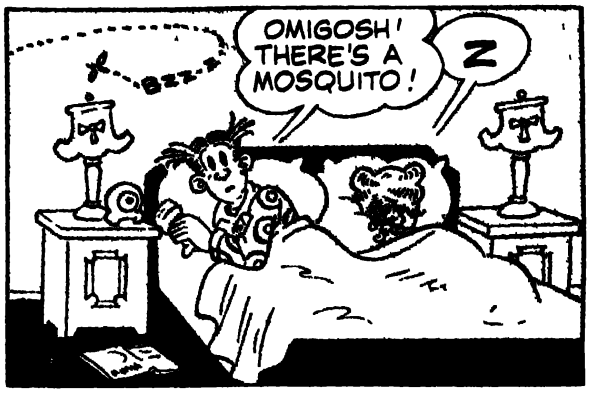
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

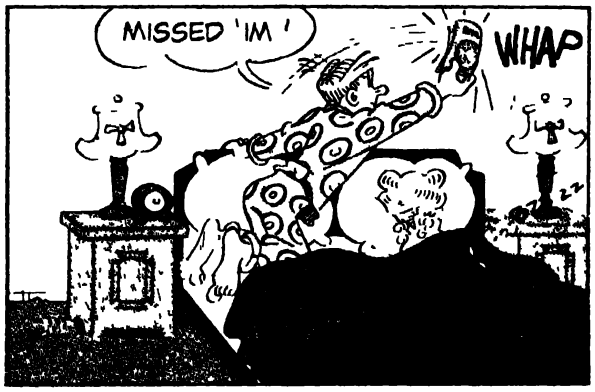


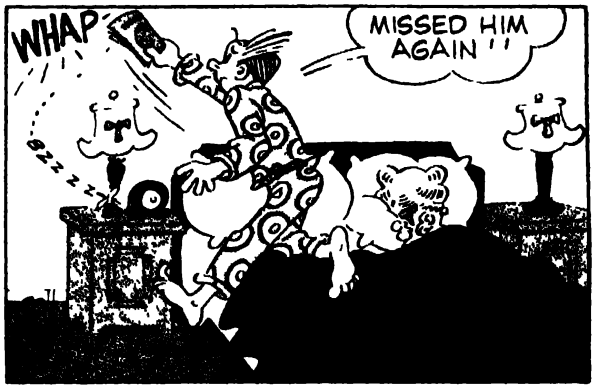
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

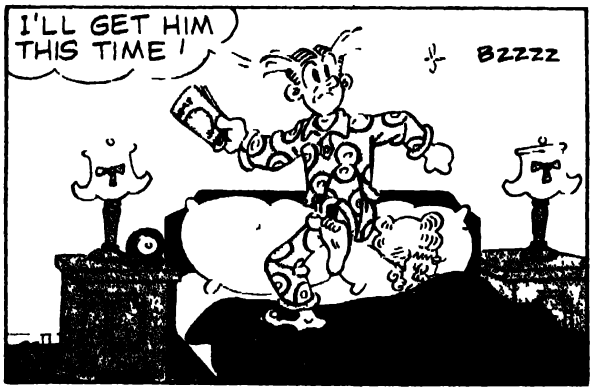


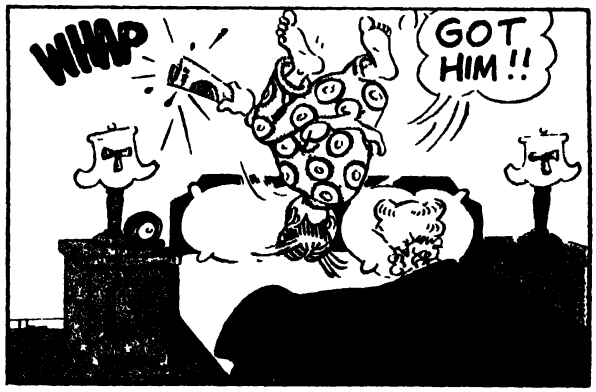


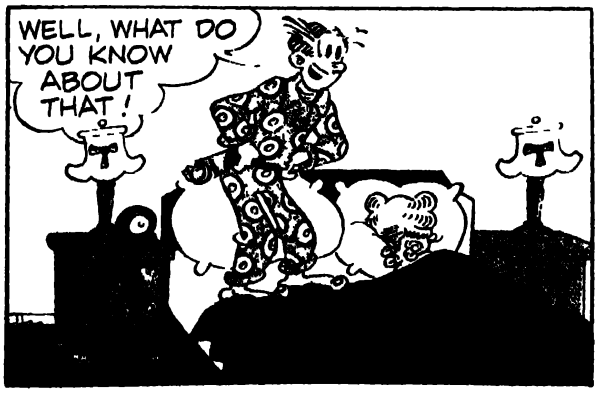




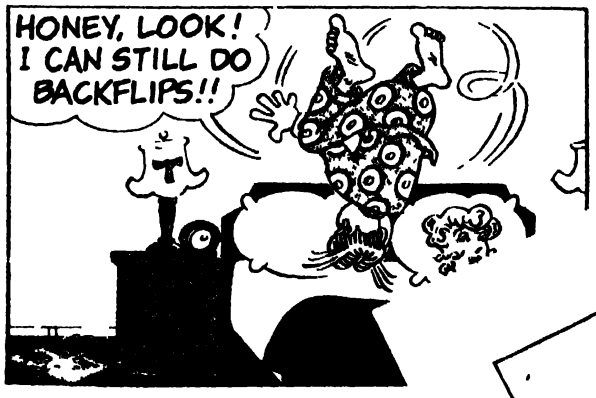








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Mudri IFB 2586 94 A

RASOI

JIGGS KALRA



For many years now, Rasoi - Pushpesh Pant and I— have been involved in cooking and creating menus according to the cycle of seasons As a matter of fact, at the Dehli Ka Aangan, where we consult, we have already done a summer, fall and winter menu Before long, we will be presenting a spring menu Farlier, we had done a special menu inspired by Kalidas' *Ritu Samhar* for Air India We were delighted to see an Aussie, the beauteous Sheridan Rogers, do a book, *Seasonal Entertaining*

We present two of her recipes in this concluding piece

ROCKPOOL'S TUNA IN HERB 'N' SPICE CRUST

INGREDIENTS

The Fish
6 Tuna steaks
1/3 small bunch Parsley
1/3 small bunch Coriander
1 Onion (red)
2 cloves Garlic
6 g / 2 tsp Cumin powder
6 g / 2 tsp Turmeric powder
6 g / 2 tsp Red chilli powder
3 g / 1 tsp Paprika
Salt
Olive oil
10 ml / 2 tsp Lemon juice

The Braised Eggplant
2 Eggplants (medium)
4 Tomatoes (very ripe)
6 g / 2 tsp Cumin powder
250 ml / 9 oz Olive oil
1/2 bunch Parsley (leaves only)
Lemon juice
Black Pepper powder
Salt

The Red Capsicum Puree
2 Red capsicum (sweet peppers)
20 ml / 4 tsp Olive oil
A few drops Balsamic or Malt vinegar
Black pepper powder
Salt

The Garnish
36 Snow peas
Salt

Serves 6
Preparation time 2 30 hours
Cooking time 12 minutes

PREPARATION

The fish Clean, remove

Rockpool's Tuna in Herb 'n' Spice Crust



the skin, wash and pat dry
The paste: Wash and remove parsley and coriander leaves. Peel, wash and roughly chop onions. Peel and roughly chop garlic. Put all these ingredients into a blender along with onion, garlic, spices, salt and enough olive oil to make a thick paste. Remove to a bowl, add lemon juice and mix well.
The marination: Coat the tuna steaks with the paste and reserve for 30 minutes.
The braised eggplant: Wash the eggplants and slice into 1/4" thick roundels. Sprinkle enough salt and leave to drain in a colander for 1 hour. Rinse and dry the eggplants on absorbent paper.

Skin the tomatoes by plunging into rapidly boiling water for 30 seconds, remove with a slotted spoon to a bowl of cold water and remove the skin. Then, chop the tomatoes and mix the cumin powder into the flesh. Clean and wash the parsley leaves.

Heat oil in a pan and fry the eggplant over medium heat, turning, until golden on both sides.

Heat a little oil in a separate pan and quickly fry the parsley leaves over high heat until crisp but not brown. Remove and keep aside. (The leaves will splutter when they hit oil, so be careful.)

Leave a little of the oil in the pan, add the tomatoes and cook over medium heat until soft. Reduce to low heat, return the eggplants and parsley to the tomatoes and mix well. Simmer the mixture gently for 30 minutes or until the eggplants are tender. Cover with a lid if necessary. Remove and add lemon juice, pepper and salt (to taste).
The red capsicum puree: Wash the capsicums, halve and deseed. Heat the grill, place skin-side up under the grill and cook until blackened and blistered. Put into a plastic bag to steam and, when cool enough to handle, skin the capsicums. Put in a blender and make a puree. Remove to a bowl and stir in the olive oil, vinegar, black pepper and salt by hand, stirring well, until smooth and lovely glossy red colour.
The garnish: String the peas and cut the top ends. Throw into a pot of salted boiling water for a minute, drain and refresh in a panful of iced water. Steam at the time of service.



Ceviche

COOKING

Heat oil in a frying pan/skillet and sear one side of the fish over very high heat until the paste is blackened and crusty. Turn and cook on the other side until the tuna is medium rare (or done to your taste, parenthesis ours). Remove and keep aside.

TO SERVE

Put a spoonful of braised eggplant on a plate and cover with red capsicum puree. Place the tuna steak on top and finish with a spoon of lemon juice. Serve with steamed snowpeas.

Note: Rockpool is a famous restaurant in Sydney.

CEVICHE

INGREDIENTS

The Fish
750 g / 1 lb 11 oz Salmon fillets
60 ml / 2 oz Lemon juice (freshly squeezed)
120 ml / 1/4 cup Lime juice (freshly squeezed)
4-6 Spring onions or shallots
1 stalk Lemon grass
1 Cucumber
2 Green chillies
450 g / 1 lb Prawns (medium)
480 ml / 2 cups Coconut milk
Salt
1/2 bunch Coriander

Serves 4
Preparation time 2-3 hours
Cooking time 12 minutes

PREPARATION

The fish: Clean, remove the skin, debone completely, using tweezers, if necessary, wash and pat dry. Then slice into thin strips and put an enamel or glass bowl.
The marination: Cover the fish with lemon and lime juices, cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.
The prawns: Clean, wash, devein and blanch for 3-4 minutes. Drain and keep aside.
The vegetables: Remove the whiskers and the outer layer, wash, cut the spring onion bulbs diagonally and the greens into juliennes. Wash and cut lemon grass diagonally. Wash and thinly slice cucumber. Slit green chillies, deseed, wash, finely chop and discard the stems. Wash and chop coriander.

ASSEMBLING

Remove the fish from the refrigerator, add the remaining ingredients, stirring gently, until well combined.

TO SERVE

Remove to a salad bowl and serve as a starter with a bread of your choice.

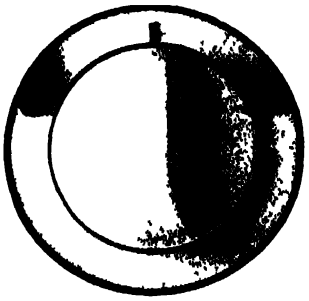
NOTE: All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross. ■

THE TWO FACES OF THE



AS SEEN BY YOUR JEANS

All men may have been created equal However, you can't say the same for clothes Most washing machines don't seem to understand this simple fact They insist on giving filthy jeans and exquisite Kanjeevarams the same wash Except, of course, an IFB Washing Machine



Temperature Control - Gives you the cleanest possible wash, for all fabric types

The Gentlest Wash

The IFB Washing Machine puts on velvet gloves while handling your expensive Kanjeevarams Its *Tumble Wash* system is the closest you can get to actually washing your clothes yourself Little wonder, then, that the Tumble Wash is the world's most preferred washing system

The Toughest Wash

Dirty jeans, on the other hand, don't stand a fighting chance The *Pre-Wash facility* gives them an initial soak to dislodge dirt Then, the main wash goes to work With its *powerful motor* and *Stainless Steel Drums* (both inner *and* outer), the IFB Washing Machine makes light work of the heaviest loads And, that's only the beginning

The Cleanest Wash

A *Temperature Control facility* lets you wash clothes at any setting, from room temperature to 95°C As most of today's detergents work better above 40°C, your clothes come out cleaner than ever While tough stains lose their grip at higher temperature settings

Sounds good? Well, there's more to come

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• *A faster Spin Cycle* dries your clothes in no time Even during the monsoon season

• The IFB Washing Machine has the *lowest water and detergent consumption* Only 85 litres of water, and up to 50% less detergent, for a full 5 kg load Making it the most environment - friendly washing machine in the market

We could go on and on However, to fully appreciate the capabilities of the IFB Washing Machine, drop in at any IFB Dealer for a demonstration You'll soon find out why clothes are happiest in an IFB!

IFB
THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED WASHING SYSTEM



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RASIPURAM KRISHNASWAMY LAXMAN, *quite easily the country's best-known political satirist, has been waking up thousands of newspaper readers every morning since 1947 with his witty and incisive cartoons Laxman, who prefers to see and speak through his most endearing creation — the bewildered common man in a check shirt and dhoti — is a vitriolic critic of the establishment, exposing the follies and foibles of politicians. A graduate of the University of Mysore, he is a self-tutored artist having been rejected by the J J School of Arts, Bombay The winner of Padma Bhusan and Ramon Magsaysay Award, among others, Laxman is also the author of* Sorry, No Room *and* Idle Hours

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
I can't think of perfect happiness One should have a little doubt Creativity is an agony and not an ecstasy
What is your greatest fear?
That I might miss the plane I am a nervous traveller
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
Myself
What do you dislike most in others?
Garishness, vulgarity and stupidity which you find in large measure everywhere
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My temper which is not very pleasant Also, prejudice
What is your most precious possession?
All my possessions are precious
What objects do you always carry?
Barely myself


Durgadas Basu

On what occasions do you lie?

Lie is not such a bad thing as truth makes it out to be. Lie is useful. He is a good fellow

How would you like to be remembered?

I don't think I will be remembered at all. Once I pass away no one will remember me

What makes you most depressed?
Early morning But the moment I brush my teeth it disappears
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My entire face
What is your favourite word?
Bloody nonsense
What is your favourite journey?
Any journey out of the workplace
What is your favourite dream?
You can't remember all your dreams
What is your nightmare?
Being awake
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Retiring after a hard day's work
What is your source of sustenance?
Hope
On what occasions do you lie?
Lie is not such a bad thing as truth makes it out to be Lie is useful He is a good fellow
What is your greatest regret?
That I have not been able to repair the clocks that have gone bad
What has been your happiest moment?
I am waiting for it

What brings tears to your eyes?
Listening to Carnatic and Western classical music
How do you relax?
I relax every moment Maybe not in a reclining position always
What do you envy most in others?
I don't
How would you like to be remembered?
I don't think I will be remembered at all Once I pass away no one will remember me
How would you like to die?
I don't want to die

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POST MORTEM

Missing Seshan

■ Although it is not easy to pack a year's happenings in one single writeup, mention should have been made of the Chief Election Commissioner, T N Seshan in the cover story, 'The Year of the Rai,' (January 1)

Seshan has converted an otherwise convoluted and boring electioneering process into an exciting one So much so that the people are taking an active interest in exercising their franchise

Who knows, 1995 may be the year of Seshan

Deepak Kumar Das Adhikary,
Calcutta

■ The firebrand Chief Election Commissioner has not only proved his super efficiency in handling the cumbersome election process but also shown he is a man of his words Sadly, the bureaucrat did not find a place in the cover story

Aishwarya Rai on the cover was well deserved A word about our ace pistol shooter, Jaspal Rana, in place of Azharuddin, would have been more justified considering



T N Seshan· Man of the Year?

India's dismal performance against the Windies in the final Test

B N Bose,
Calcutta

■ Why was there no mention of the photo identification cards introduced for the first time in the history of Indian voting by T N Seshan?

Undoubtedly, Seshan should have been featured on the cover

Debanjan Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ The cover story was a good way to begin the new year

With Sushmita Sen and Aishwarya Rai clinching the Miss Universe and Miss World titles, respectively, India scaled new heights of international fame Winning these coveted titles in the same year is a rare occurrence for any country

On the whole it was a year of progress for India On the economic front, liberalisation finally put the country on the right road to prosperity Manmohan Singh and Montek Singh Ahluwalia should be congratulated for spearheading India in the right direction

But there were thorns in the road to progress too — and they were in the form of ministers like Kalpnath Rai who got entangled in a major scandal Both N T Rama Rao and Kalpnath Rai present pictures of dishonesty and fraudulence — one with sugar, the other with rice

Mili Das,
Sindri

■ Aishwarya Rai and Kalpnath Rai could not have been more different from each other One is mired in controversy and scandal, the other is a perfect picture of grace and beauty One earned disgrace for the nation, the other brought dignity to her country

Mousumi Das,
Jamshedpur

■ The cover story headline once again proved the Magazine's obsession with glamour and power What has Aishwarya Rai really done to receive so much media publicity? Anyone who bares her body to the world and answers cliched questions cannot be a symbol of beauty and intellect, particularly for a country like India which boasts of its rich cultural heritage all the time

Lalu G. Chowdhury,
Calcutta

INSIDE



Aloke Mitra

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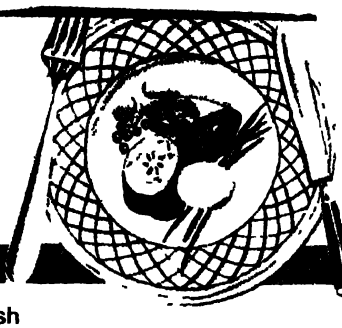
OLD AGE is not all sorrow and suffering One's faculties may eventually switch off, but there are certain unasked privileges to be enjoyed too An essay by R K Narayan on the calm and peace of mind one attains at 80 Also, a companion piece on how some octogenarians are ensuring their winters are full of sunshine

SECTIONS

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Cover: R K Narayan by Subrata Gangopadhyay

RASOI



JIGGS KALRA

Photographs by Sanat Ghosh



It is every chef's prerogative to signature a dish he has masterminded Alphonso at The Oberoi Grand's La Rotisserie is justifiably proud of the Italian-inspired Mozzarella Alphonso The dish's flavourful impact is enhanced by the subtle magic of oregano Just as delightful is the chicken 'drumstick' delicacy This particular ballotine is stufffed with vegetable sticks and, significantly, is prepared without aspic

MOZZARELLA ALPHONSO

INGREDIENTS

The Pasta Sheets

800 g / 1 3/4 lb Flour
4 Eggs
20 ml / 4 tsp Cooking oil
Salt
Flour for dusting

The Filling

175 g / 6 oz Mozzarella
45 g / 1 1/2 oz Parmesan
25 g / 3 tbs Onions
15 g / 1/2 oz Capsicum
16 Raisins
0 5 g / 1 tsp Oregano
3 g / 1 tsp Black pepper (freshly and coarsely ground)
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Nutmeg
Salt

The Honey Sauce

15 ml / 1 tbs Honey
260 ml / 2 tbs Tomato puree (fresh)
10 ml / 2 tsp HP sauce
5 ml / 1 tsp Worcester sauce
3 g / 1 tsp Paprika powder
2 tsp Orange marmalade
2 tsp Mixed fruit jam
45 g / 1 1/2 tsp Sesame seeds

The Remaining Ingredients

Butter for brushing Pasta sheet edges
Oil to deep fry Pasta

Serves 4

PREPARATION

The dough Sift flour and salt into a *paraat* or a tray on to a work surface and make a bay Beat the eggs in a bowl Put the eggs in the bay and start mixing gradually When fully mixed, knead to make a hard dough, cover with moist cloth, keep aside for 10 minutes, uncover, divide into 16 equal portions, make balls, cover with moist cloth again and keep aside for 5 minutes Dust the work surface with flour and roll out each ball with a rolling pin into a disc of 4" diameter

Mozzarella Alphonso



Heat water in a pan, sprinkle salt, stir and boil each disc for 45 seconds, remove and refresh in panful of iced water, drain and keep aside

The filling: Grate mozzarella and parmesan in a bowl Peel onions, wash and cut into fine dices Wash capsicum, deseed and cut into fine dices Wash and pat dry raisins

Melt butter in a frying pan, add onions and capsicum, saute over medium heat until onions are translucent and glossy Remove, add the sauteed onions and capsicum to the grated cheese along with the remaining ingredients, mix well, adjust the seasoning and divide into 16 equal portions

The stuffing: Brush the pasta discs with melted butter Place equal quantities of the filling in the discs, gather the edges and press with the fingers to make *potli* or little pouches After the filling is properly sealed, open the edges from the top to obtain a top view of an open flower

The sauce: Heat a *tawa*/griddle, spread the sesame seeds on top and toast over low heat until they emit their unique aroma and are lightly coloured

COOKING

Heat oil in a *kadhai*/wok, add the stuffed pasta *potli*/pouches and deep fry over medium heat until golden

Put the tomato puree in a saucepan, add 120 ml / 1/4 cup of water, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat and simmer until of thin sauce consistency Pass the sauce through a fine mesh soup strainer into a saucepan, return sauce to heat, add the remaining ingredients, except sesame seeds, and simmer until of sauce consistency Remove and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE

Make a bed of equal quantities of sauce on each of 4 individual plates, evenly sprinkle the toasted sesame seeds on top, place 4 pouches on the sauce and serve as a starter



Cuisses de Poulet Ballotine



CUISSES DE POULET BALLOTINE

INGREDIENTS

16 Chicken drumsticks
Butter to brush and grease
4 Carrots (medium)
4 sticks Celery
2 Capsicum (large)
75 g / 6 tbs Butter
30 ml / 2 tbs Cooking oil
180 ml / 3/4 cup White wine (dry)
300 ml / 1 1/4 cups Double cream
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Green mustard paste (preferably wasabe*)
A generous pinch of White pepper powder
Salt
10 ml / 2 tsp Brandy

Serves: 4
Preparation time: 45 minutes
Cooking time: 25 minutes

PREPARATION

The chicken: Clean the drumsticks but retain the skin Remove the sinews and tendons, remove the meat by carefully scraping along the entire length of the bone, ensuring that it comes off intact in its original shape (there should be no loose ends) Wash and pat dry

The vegetables. Peel carrots, core, cut into forty-eight 4" / 10 cm long sticks, blanch in salted boiling water for 2 minutes, drain and refresh in iced water Clean, wash and cut celery into 4" / 10 cm long sticks Wash capsicum, halve, deseed and cut into 4" / 10 cm long sticks

The stuffing. Pack three sticks of each of the vegetables in the deboned drumsticks and keep aside

COOKING

Heat butter and oil in a frying pan, add the stuffed drumsticks and fry over medium heat until evenly golden Then add wine, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally until chicken is tender (approximately 12-15 minutes) Remove the drumsticks and keep warm

Stir-in cream to the simmering sauce, add brandy, stir, add mustard, stir until fully incorporated, bring to a boil, add pepper and salt, stir, reduce to low heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 3 minutes Remove and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE

Make a bed of equal quantities of sauce on each of 4 individual plates, place 4 drumsticks on the sauce, garnish with parsley and serve with additional vegetables of your choice

*Wasabe is a green coloured Japanese mustard

NOTE: All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross ■

COVER STORY

LIFE AT 80

BY R.K. NARAYAN

IT IS IMMATERIAL WHAT THE 'PLUS' SIGNIFIES OR HOW FAR IT GOES ONE CHANGES RADICALly at 80 — until you reach the 364th day past 79 you are Mr So-and-So, but on the 365th day you enter a new *janma* Old age sets in with the precision of a planet in orbit and the insidious moving belt takes you down a gentle slope, unnoticed, until you see others at home proceeding towards the telephone while you are blissfully unaware of the ringing

Let a fellow octogenarian correct me if I generalise that the left ear drum is the first to be to be switched off You don't notice it until you find that others around mumble a great deal and utter unclear sentences Faculties are switched off one by one, beginning at the top



Abhi e Mitra

Absent-mindedness is the first symptom Your hands act independently, just misplacing and hiding papers, documents and keys so that your waking hours are spent searching for something or other A Caliban seems to be at your elbow plaguing you, enjoying the torments he inflicts

Next you forget names and faces Familiar face but who is he? Or the name is all right, we were classmates of course, but I can't remember what he looks like We even had photographs, but they are lost General forgetfulness starts thus, a blessing Forgetfulness is a boon to be cherished, remembrance could be a torture sometimes.

Travelling downward from the top, senili-

ty starts The apparatus called the human body begins to demand constant attention, while hermits advise "Learn to forget your body Ignore it and you will attain divine peace" Impossible at this stage

Every moment one corner of the system or another clamours for attention, major or minor — maybe a scratch or an ache or something serious Whatever it may be, it rings an alarm bell

Ultimately a dozen different specialists have to monitor your system from time to time to reassure you that you will continue to be alive, with dos and don'ts Your medical schedule becomes overwhelming

When I think of Gibbon, I admire his genious in naming his Roman history, *Decline and Fall*, for they are a natural sequence It applies to Eighty Plus with decline one has to dread a fall too, which seems built-in My doctor always cautions, "Don't fall" I respect his advice, no doubt, but gravity is ruthless

Tumbling down is inevitable in old age I have suffered two falls in three years On both occasions I realised how totally helpless one feels — when you start falling, no power on earth can arrest your fall

The pull of gravity is inexorable, if it could also tunnel through the core of the earth, it would perhaps not rest till you found yourself at the Antipodes Luckily I was not broken or maimed, I got off with shock and bruises

Now I give due respect to Nature's authority by mending my conduct never rise abruptly from my seat or the bed, never venture to walk without a four-pronged "walker" in hand and also a human support to clutch — a precaution for survival

Past 80, one becomes dependent on so many helping hands Travel becomes impossible, unthinkable Every little movement assumes the dimensions of a manoeuvre — to be deeply thought out and managed

But old age is not all a suffering There are certain benefits too For one thing, you find everyone considerate in a hundred ways Age brings on certain unasked privileges People avoid hurting your feelings and are ever cautious and considerate and treat you as if old age were an achievement

Your own interests change First and foremost, women look worshipful rather than sensual Next you realise the unimportance of possessions, acquisitions, and enjoy the pleasure of dispossessing yourself of everything and watching others enjoy life

Fewer irritations in life are felt because of your defective hearing You don't fret any more at the idiocies presented on TV You can always operate the God-given shutters, one's eyelids, which — properly used — can shut off any spectacle

So, also, if you don't wish to hear, the simplest method is to plug your ears with the little fingers in hand, which seem to be made to measure

Music when soft voices die,
Vibrates in the memory - -

So said Shelley It may not always be "music" — if you go on to consider another aspect of memory

When to the sessions of sweet
silent thought
I summon up remembrance of
things past,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I
sought,
And with old woes new wail my
dear times' waste

This has to be avoided, unless you are able to revive in its full intensity a lost experience or a lost face, which



You forget names and faces. Familiar face but who is he? Or the name is all right, we were classmates of course, but I can't remember what he looks like.... General forgetfulness starts thus, a blessing. Forgetfulness is a boon to be cherished; remembrance could be a torture sometimes

Thus you have natural facilities to see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil, if you resist the temptation to discuss the newspaper headlines with others

At Eighty Plus you learn to attain peace of mind by these measures It takes time and practice to understand your potentialities and exert your inner strength You must reach a minimum of 80 years to mellow and realise your potentialities

Memory is one factor that must be curbed rigorously Memory and hope are two elements that are inborn Hope is potent in earlier life, its area diminishes unnoticed in later life, and more mental space is usurped by memory, which is pleasant and sustaining up to a stage I say up to a stage, which is to be determined by the nature of one's experience

Shakespeare seems to achieve as he concludes his sonnet

But if the while I think on thee,
dear friend
All losses are restor'd and
sorrows end

But it is not given to all to enjoy this revival For most of us, recollection is painful — a past moment or a face brings on an overwhelming mood of sadness

To forget the past and live in the present, relishing the quality of every moment as it comes and letting it also pass without regret, realising the inevitability of the Eternal Flux, is the practical way to exist in peace

(The Guardian)

When I think of Gibbon, I admire his genious in naming his Roman history, *Decline and Fall*, for they are a natural sequence. It applies to Eighty Plus: with decline one has to dread a fall too, which seems built-in

SUMMER OF THE PATRIARCHS

Old age is not a prayer for merciful death Neither is there any looking back There's still much to be achieved ***Arup Ghosh*** *meets some octogenarians for whom life remains as busy as ever*

They don't believe in yesterday Having crossed 80 and with their shadows stretching to blur life and memory, they live from day to day setting things straight and hoping that everything will be alright when it is time to go But it isn't that their lives are a prayer for merciful death There are some octogenarians who don't just keep themselves occupied but still hold important positions and do important work

There are things to be done and done fast Time is, with all its fickleness, running out And death casts a furtive glance at them before passing on to claim someone else as its own This time they have given it the slip — but only just

It could well have been their winter of contentment — resting on laurels and reflecting on achievements — but they prefer to swim the tide Even against it at times



Sagarmoy Ghosh (82) Never looking back



Arnt Data

Jyoti Basu (80) All set to industrialise Bengal

The West Bengal chief minister, **Jyoti Basu (80)**, is probably the most obvious example Still crazy about work after all these years When one would expect him to write his memoirs and indulge his grandchildren, he goes about changing the political and economic climate of the state Things never get too hot for him, not even in the desultory climate of West Bengal

The chief minister apart, there are others who carry on as if there is no tomorrow At their age they may be right **Bhabatosh Dutta (84)**, economist and scholar, has lost his eyesight But that does not stop him from dictating articles to a person who then passes it on to *Business Standard* Nor does it prevent him from listening to newspapers being read out to him and keeping in touch with the world

Govinda Vinayak Karlekar (83) and **Kalyani Karlekar (84)** are still treasurer and president, respectively, of Calcutta Social Project Kalyani Karlekar is worried about the future of the project in their absence but she is trying to set guidelines that will steer the organisation when they won't be around

L.C. Sahgal (84) retired from the LIC to become a real estate consultant At the age of 75 he gave all that up to 'lead a retired life' But that was not to be. He is now actively involved in the revival of Sanskrit, besides propagating yoga and nature cure

Sagarmoy Ghosh (82), editor of *Desh,* is looking forward to compiling a history of his magazine through the hundreds of letters he has received from various authors It is just that he cannot get down to doing it because of the demands of regular office work

Novelist **Ashapurna Devi (86)** is bedridden and deaf but is still reading avidly and writing furiously The only thing she looks forward to is death but till fate grants her that favour, she cannot resist picking up the pen every morning, even if it is just to write letters



Deepa Kalyan Chowdhury

B.P. Ghosh (82): Believing in strict regimen



Arka Mitra

Ashapurna Devi (86). 'I cannot talk. My pen does it for me. Take away my pen and I will fall silent'

So they battle on With their bodies giving up slowly and their memory not being what it was, it can't be easy Not that they are seeking concessions Nor asking to be noticed They know they are lucky to be living longer than most people and are making the best of it

He took a long time to come to the phone "I cannot see I have to feel my way to the telephone That's what took me so long," explains Bhabatosh Datta "This is the curse of a long life Your body takes revenge I cannot see, Hiren Mukherjee cannot hear But Triguna Sen, I am told, is still quite active"

When we reach his house the next day, a stern maid tells us to take off our shoes and keep the conversation short An emaciated man lies in bed wearing a wornout dressing gown and wrapped in an ordinary shawl Grim, bony fingers cover his eyes The little light that enters them hurts

Retinal degeneration and emphysema, shortness of breath, apart, Datta had a gastric ulcer treated a couple of years ago Though he has no other complaint, he misses his wife and his eyesight He lost both nearly five years ago He has no children

"I also miss my books The person who reads out the newspapers to me is not as fast as I would have liked him to be There is so much I have to catch up with Do you know anything about why Seshan is trying to defer the polls? I think it will help Rao"

He rattles off dates and details with consummate ease Age has not withered the mind but the body shows signs of decay Most of his friends have predeceased him and those still around are either paralysed or have lost their

memory. Datta hears the TV news regularly and also tunes in to the radio. Life, for Datta, is feeling his way around his room

There is little Datta looks forward to personally But he hopes good will befall the country What bothers him is the 'unimaginable corruption' that has overtaken the country "Only the rich will prosper There will be 10 million people joining the ranks of job seekers every year "

"Many of the things that I have written about have come true but I still hope my fears are unfounded " He still writes Not the way he would have liked but he dictates it to a person who puts it down on paper He finds the method cumbersome and the result is a slowing down of the process

Datta's predicament is quite understandable But what is amazing is his unrelenting desire to learn, understand and communicate Till all the doors are shut permanently

Aloke Mitra



Kalyani (84) and Govinda Vinayak Karlekar (83) Force behind the Calcutta Social Project

Unlike Datta, L C Sahgal is still mobile and active at the age of 84 Early every morning, you will find him at the Maidan engaged in yogic exercises and prayers Then it is back to home and work Food is light and almost sugar free And work is handling the postal education system of the Bharatiya Sanskrit Vidyaniketan, a part of his latest obsession to promote the language

Life at his age means the slowing down of all physical processes, having to live away from sons and daughters, in the care of servants "My sons live a very hectic life I cannot cope " His wife suffered for nine tormenting years from Parkinson's disease "She was like a log of wood all those nine years Just lying there on the bed, not being able to move " Even that was almost 15 years ago

It was quite traumatic for Sahgal But he had by then sought and found solace in spiritualism First he met Dinshaw K Mehta (Dadaji) and later Baba Muktanand of Ganeshpuri Before he met them he had high blood pressure and cholesterol level and spondylitis — "everything that leads to an early death" But the meetings changed him

Today he believes in simple living and eating In exercising regularly And in building an inner strength and resilience to shocks "I am today neither too happy nor too sad Work, prayer and music are my companions "

A vegetarian by choice, he contends that a life without excesses is the secret of long living Words pour out as he tries to define happiness and harmony He brooks no interruptions as if in a hurry He searches his memory for names and places that he has lived and worked in, some of which are lost to him — streets and bylanes of Lahore, Bombay, Dubai, Kuala Lampur

But he is not at a loss for words "Harmony is happiness Harmony is bliss If anything creates a discord correct it If you cannot correct it, then avoid it If that fails, then try to develop a system by which you can get around it " He takes my name often As if to separate it from the memories that crowd his mind

When I leave him, he is contented Having been able to tell me what I wanted to know — the source of his sustenance We shake hands before separating He blesses me Framed against the door, he looks neither happy nor sad, just lonely

Aloke Mitra



Bhabatosh Dutta (84) 'There's so much I have to catch up with'

Prof. B.P. Ghosh (82) can hardly afford to be alone Surrounded by his wife, sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and students he has more than a handful to live with

A strict regimen is what he believes in On Fridays he goes to the University College of Medicine to teach M D students biochemistry The rest of the days are spent preparing for that

He gets up at 4 in the morning to pre-

pare lecture notes "Most teachers don't study or update their notes that is why the students are so disinterested " At 5 30, he goes upstairs for a short stint with dumb-bells and to water his plants

Breakfast is sharp at 6 Then there are free classes at home for anybody who wishes to learn — M Sc students, would-be doctors and anyone else who is interested Lunch is at 11 Then a siesta till 2 30 pm and it's back to physical exercises

Classes are resumed thereafter and continue till 5 30 pm Dinner is at 6 Then he goes to bed At 9 pm, he wakes up for another round of making notes for his lecture The day ends exactly at midnight

The only person who objects to such a routine is his wife, who would prefer to go to sleep when the professor starts his second session with books

Prof Ghosh taught in the US, Ghana and Nigeria before his retirement And he preferred the lifestyle there Which was, though full of responsibilities, not without its 'colonial' charm, specially in Africa Spacious houses, good food and good living "I have tried to maintain the same here but it's not quite possible "

But what is possible is a diet without rice and a life sans alcohol and cigarettes "No rich food and no butter, though I cannot resist sweets "



L C Sahgal (84) Life is exercise and prayers

Pain in the joints, bronchial allergy and constipation are constant companions of life after 80, but "I keep away from items that cause trouble because the only thing I live for and look forward to is teaching Call it my passion "

When it comes to passion, Sagarmoy Ghosh calls *Desh* magazine that Huddled in his chair and burrowing into a book, he says age has snatched many joys But one of the few pleasures left in his life is playing with his grand-daughters in the evenings But there is so much he has had to give u "There was a time when every evening I would either watch a play or jo a musical soiree or even go to a football match But that is a thing of the past "

IF YOU WANT TO LIVE LONG

There is no better way to confound confusion than ask octogenarians the secret of their long life. Some would say eat-only vegetarian food. Others have eaten flesh all their lives.

Some used to smoke. For others it's the shortest way to the crematorium. Some led a disciplined life. Others were used to late nights The only common agenda that emerges is that there is no common agenda.

Dr Soupayan Dutta, general physician and cardiologist, agrees. "There is no hard and fast rule. Three factors determine the longty of a person. His/her genetic disposition, associated illness and lifestyle."

There are some families in which every member, or at least, a majority, live to be 70. But most are not that lucky. So they have to lead a 'measured' life in order to live long

Even among old people, according to Dr Dutta, there are three types. Some who always crib that they cannot enjoy life as much as others can. Some are stoic about the fact and accept their fate and the third type just goes about doing what they have done all along. The last mentioned, obviously, are the most productive.

Dr Dutta suggests that the best thing to do is to avoid the factors that create disease or disability. Here are some of them:

- Non-vegetarian food. There is evidence that non-vegetarian food can affect the heart and the brain, says Dr Dutta, it is not the [illegible] across the world is vegetarianism
- Smoking: Acknowledged by all doctors to be one of the greatest contributing factors to a host of health problems.
- Alcohol: An otherwise disciplined life can be marred by its consumption. According to most doctors, this is the biggest problem along with smoking.
- Anxiety and overambition: Though it sounds a bit didactic, Dr Dutta contends that these two reasons contribute greatly to cardiac problems, among others.
- Pollution: An inseparable part of city life, doctors advise retired people to live as far away from congestion as possible. For those who are too tied up with work, weekend trips are advised Without alcohol, of course

As in the West, psychiatric deaths and mechanical accidents will go up in our society. There still is no cure for loneliness. And as machines take over all advancing societies, related accidents are also bound to increase. Doctors have not found any cure for that, either

Dr Dutta issues a warning to everyone. If you want to live long start controlling diet and exercising regularly. At 50, it might be too late.

He also warns against the use of placebos. "I have found people using Ginseng and other such 'drugs' that are supposed to 'revive' people. No authentic textbook or journal mentions such 'drugs' or discusses them. There is no proof either that such 'drugs' prolong life.

"Following the marketing of such 'drugs', some Indian manufacturers have started selling *ayurvedic* versions. They cite the *Vedas* or Charak as the origin of such 'medicines'. Again there is no [illegible]

Though a long life might not entirely be in the hands of a person, he has to, at least, make an attempt to remain healthy. There is, as the doctor says, no easy way out Or should it be, there is no easy way in

Also gone are the days of his active participation in the production work of *Desh*. But he still vets manuscripts and tackles problems as and when they arise.

He loved long walks. "When I stayed in S.R. Das Road, my wife and I would go to the Lakes for a walk. Ever since I moved to Salt Lake I had to put a stop to that. There are no footpaths in Salt Lake and all those who are learning to drive find it a convenient place. A couple of days back, two aged men were knocked down by a greenhorn. And the parks here are unattended jungles."

So they battle on. With their bodies giving up slowly and their memory not being what it was, it can't be easy. Not that they are seeking concessions. Nor asking to be noticed. They know they are lucky to be living longer than most people and are making the best of it

Though at the age of 82 he surely has a crowd of memories to lose himself in, Ghosh prefers to look ahead.



Kushal Roy

EARLY TO BED, LONG WALKS

If you told Dr S.C. Mitra, all of 89 and kicking, "Heal thyself, physician," he is likely to answer, "I have." Till two years ago he was more active than most people half his age—curing people and looking after his diagnostic clinic.

Today, with a pacemaker, he is slightly less mobile, but he does use the 'mechanical' lift his son has installed at home to get to the ground floor of his house and is then lifted into a car and taken to the clinic.

But only occasionally. But there are still people who cannot do without his medical advice that he gives readily over the phone. He would like to be more active but one of his sons has put his foot down. After that cardiac arrest two Durga Pujas ago, his son has to be careful about what Dr Mitra does.

Fifty years ago, he quit smoking. He was also a regular morning walker. Diet means moderate food with moderate spices. Too much of non-vegetarian food is not good, says the veteran doctor. And above all, "keep a check on your temper."

His wife is 80 and doing well. But they are not the only members of the family who have lived long. Dr Mitra's father lived to be 92 and his

than look back It might be because his memory fails him occasionally. It might be because his age makes him stand apart from the crowd It might be because the past is now just a string of photographs you cannot talk to.

She points to the photograph framed on the wall and asks, "Do you recognise him?" I do How can I forget the most dynamic teacher in our department? Just 40, one day he didn't get up from sleep For Kalyani Karlekar it has been 12 distant years since her son, Ranajoy, died

There are more recent deaths that hurt — and the pain lingers Satyajit Ray, her cousin, Nalini Das, her sister She scans her memory for names, but loses herself in a reverie. "It's so cold," she complains

Tidy is the word that comes to mind Govinda Vinayak Karlekar and Kalyani Karlekar have none of the dishevelled look about them that one associates with old people They are not exactly natty, but comfortably dressed and exude a lot of warmth — just like other grandparents who always have a hidden booty of cookies and fairy tales to spare

Surely, so do the Karlekars but they have more at hand than just growing grandchildren Calcutta Social Project (CSP), Kalyani Karlekar's brainchild, tries to help street and slum children from "womb to work", apart from engaging in a host of other related activities

Govinda Karlekar was the president of the railways union and later the chief labour adviser and industrial relations officer of Calcutta Port Trust After his retirement, he joined CSP to look after its legal and tax aspects Kalyani Karlekar did almost the same — she launched the project after retiring as a teacher

So there was no opportunity to lead a superannuated life Another life was waiting to begin at 70 And by all indications, a more hectic life Though the husband needs to take rest after every meal, the result of two cardiac and one cerebral attack, the wife usually has a long day — paperwork in the morning, reading in the afternoon and meetings in the evening

"I am quite a friendly person People keep dropping in to seek help and advice At this age, it is quite strenuous," says Kalyani Karlekar But she doesn't seem to mind

Life after 80 for them is no different perhaps than life at 60 except that they cannot put in as much as they would like to The body complains But their diet has remained almost unchanged, except that Govinda Karlekar avoids red meat and misses out on the eggs at breakfast His wife had to make sacrifices, too She cannot accompany him on his evening walks due to arthritic pain

But that does not prevent her from translating books, reviewing them and writing a history of the CSP All done with a great sense of humour On her 75th birthday, she penned a few lines which five years later one of her grand-daughters changed to *My plans are annual/ My acts more mental than manual/ How otherwise could it be/ At four-fifths of a century?*

If Ashapurna Devi were able to read English, she would have nodded her head in agreement She fell ill about four months ago and has not recovered since She cannot hear and her son has to lip the words so she can read them All her actions are confined to her bed She reads, writes, eats and chats from that eight ft by eight ft square of living space

Her husband died 17 years ago when she was an active housewife and authoress — cooking, looking after the family, attending literary meetings and writing relentlessly Today, she has no wish except to see her family happy and wait patiently for silence to befall Though her bones have gone brittle, her memory is startlingly fresh

She can rattle off poems that she picked up in her childhood Poems she heard her brothers recite at home Because she never went to school But who could stop an inquisitive person and a voracious reader? Egged on by an encouraging mother and later a supportive husband, she went on to write volumes And received recognition in equal measure

"I cannot talk My pen does it for me Take away my pen and I will fall silent " If she were to write about her life today, she would probably mention only those aspects that make her feel good "There has been so much pain in my life But they seem so distant now I have spent all my anger I cannot be unkind to people even if I want to be I have no sorrow "

Except that she never got to learn English and missed out on reading those hundreds of books she could have

No regrets, she said No sorrow Nothing to look forward to No yesterday, no tomorrow Just being there It seemed cruel to ask what all these people would have done if they got another chance to live their lives Would they have lived it differently?

What difference does it make now After all this years of living and working and hoping And covering miles and milestones Of waiting for years to let the pain subside Of watching time and people slip away Of gathering joy like seasonal blooms Of letting life open up like an umbrella during a surprise shower

They have lived and lived well Now some of them are hurriedly getting things in place before downing shutters and the others are awaiting, like eager schoolchildren, their turn to

AND NO SMOKING



Pradip Malik

EXTRACT

A THOUSAND FINGERS

BY ROMESH GUNESEKERA

Out beyond the reef, shoals of fish turned in a dazzle Mister Salgado held Nili's hand while the sea-foam swirling below rubbed out their footprints as they walked along the sand For once there was nobody else around — no urchins, no drifters — the beach was our own except at first for Wijetunga, Mister Salgado's assistant

Wijetunga helped me unpack the foodstuffs in the kitchen He had grown a thick beard His hair was longer and he had developed a low parting on one side from which the hair was slicked over across to the other He was more prepared to speak to me this time The little boy who used to help him was not around When I asked about the *kolla*, Wijetunga said he had sent him to school "A child must have education Otherwise what will he become, here? In this country?" As he spoke his breathing became easier, as if something had cleared his nose and throat

Later Mister Salgado came and asked him about his work Wijetunga spoke with his head down He said he had a way to go away that afternoon for a few days He had sent a request about it to Colombo He had not known we were coming "OK, OK," Mister Salgado waved his hand about "That's fine I can check the reports next week You come to the office in Colombo We can talk then, that will be better" Mister Salgado seemed relieved

Afterwards Wijetunga asked me, "Why doesn't he come this side so much now? Not even a message for weeks And then suddenly this trip Why?"

I mentioned Miss Nili

"But who is she?"

"Nili-*nona*," I said "She runs a hotel for tourists in Colombo"

"Tourists?" he shook his head in dismay "Listen, these people all think tourists will be our salvation All they see is pockets full of foreign money Coming by the plane-load Don't they realise what will happen? They will ruin us They will turn us all into servants Sell our children" He gripped my shoulder hard "You know, brother, our country really needs to be cleansed, *radically* There is no alternative *We have to destroy in order to create* Understand? Like the sea Whatever it destroys, it uses to grow something better" He let go of me and stared at the ocean turning itself inside out, a deep blue gathering to swallow the sun "Have you heard the Five Lessons?" he asked me softly He didn't mean the scriptures — the Precepts He meant the simplified lessons that explained the crisis of capitalism, the history of social movements and the future shape of a Lankan revolution "You know what happened in Cuba?"

I said, "But I am only a cook"

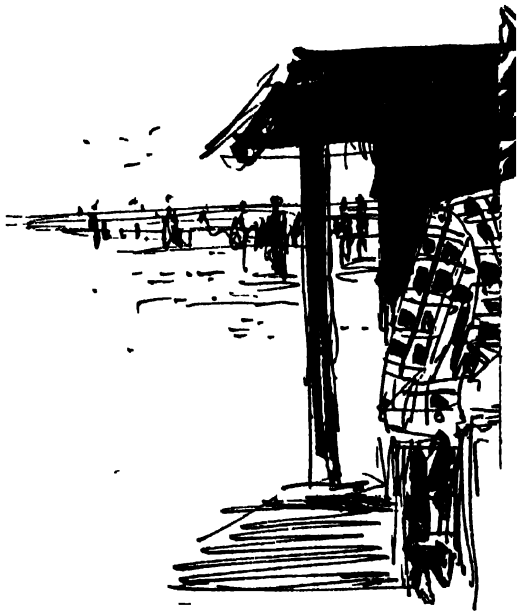
"We will have to talk more, brother, next time" His beard opened, allowing a small injured smile out "You say nothing to him, all right? Not yet For now, brother, you cook But one day" he closed his eyes for a moment, "we will be able to live for ourselves" I wondered if he had ever spoken like this to anyone before I took a deep breath, but the air had turned sour, blowing in over the copra pit at the edge of the compound

That night by the ocean I made a *pol-kiri-badun* curry, a steamed *pittu* and my most special dish of brinjals, but Mister Salgado and Nili hardly noticed what I had done The shiny purple skins were decorated with the green tomatoes and our sweet Embilipitya grass, but I suppose a compliment would have been difficult to draw out there on our first night, they were so enamoured of each other

After eating together they went out on the night beach I imagined them with the moon in their hands, fingers enmeshed, picking their way over green turtle eggs, their ears filled with the roar of the surf, rubbed by the wind and salt and swelling up, their tongues wordlessly pricking into each other and enlivening their bodies, the ocean rushing up the sloping beach, snatching at their ankles with a thousand fingers and clawing the sand from under their feet

Mister Salgado would be able to explain the exact ebb and flow of the whole cluster of galaxies at a time like this how the light of the moon moved the tide, and heaven was reflected in the shape of our heads, and each exquisite sensation was lodged forever in the contours of a hypothetical mind And how it all moved as the earth moves, the earth deep inside ourselves the only *terra firma* in our tentative lives

In my boxroom a mosquito discovered my ear and dug in Each time I smacked it a smug drone would rise triumphantly out of my hurting head I felt it pierce my skin, according to Mister Salgado, if you can feel the sting it is not the resurgent malaria that she is injecting in return for her suck, but I was not so sure Then I heard Nili and Mister Salgado returning to the bungalow, entering their room A sandal — a leather *screppu* — dropped on the concrete and was kicked slithering across the floor The whole house seemed to creak and flap as the wind rose, the shutters shook The confusion of sounds was too much I couldn't bear to stay inside any longer and I went out to immerse myself in the simpler roar of the ocean and let it, like the waves, curl in my



Extracted from Rest by Romesh Gunesekera, Penguin India; 1994; Rs 125

ears and overwhelm me

In the morning, at first light, the sea lay like a Madras pancake *Thosai* flat Tranquil As the other two were unlikely to get up for ages, I decided to walk the length of the beach Further down the bay the fishing boats were coming in thin, dark vessels with matchstick figures heading for home

The wet sand hugged my bare foot at every step, sucking at the sole, the surf burbled under the surface and small crabs raced into their sand holes After about a quarter of a mile I came to where the boats were drawn up There was a line of big black outriggers on the dry sand Another boat was coming in Three men were hauling it up on to the beach one pushing from the sea, the other two with their backs to each of the arched outrigger arms, digging their heels in the sand and using each surge of the sea

' Ahey, ohoy, apa thenna,
ahey, ahoy thel dhala '

With each rhyme they heaved, and the boat would slide an arm's length By the time I reached them, the boat was over the hump of the white frothy beach on to dry sand One man got up into the narrow top of the boat and started chucking the catch out He threw a large blue-striped fish at my feet

"What is it?" I had never seen such a brilliantly coloured one before

"Fish!" the man laughed He was straddling the boat with his sarong twisted into a loincloth

I asked him where he got it

He lifted his arm and pointed to the sea, "Out there We go to the mouth of the sea " The edge of Mister Salgado's blue abyss

"Was it good?"

"Last night it was not too good over there We only got a couple of these and some stupid stray mackerel "

The other two men came closer One took his dirty green hat off and scratched his head "Sometimes, if we are in luck, we might catch a shark or something bigger But you really need a Johnson motor to go far enough for that, beyond the reef, and be sure of getting back in time "

"Sometimes we go all night and there's nothing Not like in the old days when they used to fly into our hands "

I was surprised "Nothing?"

"These days the fish are not plentiful "

"Why?"

"What do you expect with this government?" they hooted, laughing

The blue-striped creature wriggled and flopped over, coating both its sides in seasoned sand I wondered how long it would take to die Before cooking it I would have to wash it and gut it, scrape off the scales but keep the colour There were blurry yellow stripes as well as blue The mouth was a hard beak of triangular pincers

"How much?" I asked nodding at it I thought Nili would be impressed

I think they thought I was a real city *mahathaya* because when I got my money out, one of the men said he would clean the fish for me I didn't even have a purse, just a couple of notes in my shirt pocket I liked the idea of them thinking of me like that, it was worth the extra money They threw the guts back into the sea as if to feed the waves

I retraced my vanished steps thinking all the time of how I should cook the fish I had no idea what it would taste like Maybe the colour was not a camouflage for protecting its flesh but an enticement to distract from its awful taste My best bet, I reckoned, was to steam it, and put plenty of lime in the sauce Grilling would destroy the magic of its colours and the point of it all

When I got back I found Nili sitting by a tree, playing with her hair, lifting it up and letting it drop on her curved back She smiled dreamily at me "What a wonderful place, no?"

After breakfast, I sat and stared at the sea A beach house requires very little day-to-day housework The sand gets everywhere whatever you do It was a holiday, in a way, for me also

Later she came to watch me in the kitchen She peered over my shoulder at the fried rice "Hmm, that smells lovely '

"*Temperadu*", I explained Then I showed the fish all ready for the steam boat "

"What amazing colours!"

I couldn't stop myself from smiling

"You got this on the beach?"

"From the fishermen," I explained

She called out to Mister Salgado, "Come and look at what Triton has got "

He came up "What?"

"Look at this blue fish "

"Parrot fish," he said "A bit of an acquired taste Coral crunchers If only you'd come snorkelling, I'd show you " I felt all jittery and weak "Very pretty though I'm sure Triton will make it tasty "

I was on tenterhooks for the next hour until they had finished lunch I had to conjure up some chilli *sambol* and sweeten the lime sauce invoking all the godlings of fish-cooking in all the poky kitchens of Southern China to produce a favourable result Fortunately it worked out Whatever taste the flesh might have had, the Chinese sauce disguised it Nili was still smiling at the end of the meal, and Mister Salgado was happy cooling off with a beer He fell asleep in an armchair and Nili chatted to me for a while

She said the sea looked too rough for reef-combing, but that she would like to see the fish catch the next morning I said I would take her We didn't have to go as early as I had done because the fishermen had told me



All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0710	3 6	IC-742	0940	3, 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5, 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3, 5, 7
AHMEDABAD					
M9-304/109	0855	1, 3 5	M9-110/301	1900	1, 3, 5
AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	daily	PF-706	1100	daily
BAGDOGRA					
PF-707	1130	2, 4, 6	PF-708	1510	2 4 6
IC-721	1300	1 3, 5	IC-722	1540	1 3, 5
BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1525	1 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
BOMBAY					
AI-431	0100	2			
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
9W-202	0920	daily	9W-201	0840	daily
AI-309	1930	6	AI-306	1730	5
IC-273	1945	daily	IC-274	1850	daily
9W 212	1955	daily	9W-211	1920	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2-103	1935	daily
COOCH BEHAR					
PF 707	1130	2 4 6	PF 708	1510	2 4 6
DELHI					
			IC-262	0815	2 4 7
IC-263	0700	daily	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	4S-806	1115	1 2 3 4 5 6
4S-805	1745	1 2 3 4 5 6	AI-682	1145	1
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-401	1155	daily
IC-402	1715	daily	M9-301	1900	daily
IC-261	1900	2 4 7	S2 005	1900	1 2 3 4 5 6
M9-302	1930	daily	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
S2 006	1940	1 2, 3 4 5 6	IC-264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
IC 703	0715	3, 5	IC-704	1345	3 5
D2 181	1135	1, 3 5 7	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
4S-815	1145	1, 2 3, 4, 5 6	IC-702	1630	2 4 6 7
IC-701	1240	2, 4, 6, 7	4S-816	1705	1 2 3 4 5 6
DIMAPUR					
IC-257	1150	4 7	IC-258	1650	4 7

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL-876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7
BANGKOK					
IC-731	0855	2 4 5, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB 105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 5 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
GUWAHATI					
IC-703	0715	3, 5	IC-704	1345	3 5
IC-707	0715	1, 4, 6	IC-708	1345	1, 4, 6
IC-711	0715	2 7	IC-712	1400	2, 7
D2-181	1135	1, 3, 5 7	D2-181	1620	1 3, 5, 7
D2-183	1135	2, 4, 6	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
4S-812	1145	1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6	4S-811	1705	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-257	1150	4, 7	IC-230	1620	daily
IC-211	1240	4, 6	IC-258	1650	4 7
IC-229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4 6
HYDERABAD					
IC-777	1500	2, 4 7	IC-778	2005	2, 4 7
IC-769	1525	1, 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1 3, 5
IMPHAL					
IC-707	0715	1, 4, 6	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-255	0830	3, 5	IC-708	1345	1 4 6
IC-253	1100	2, 6	IC-254	1550	2 6
JORHAT					
IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
LUCKNOW					
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2-171	1045	daily
D2-172	1740	daily	IC-766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
PATNA					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
IC-812	1515	1 3, 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC-285	0640	3 5 7	IC-286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF-701	1130	1 3 5, 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3, 5 7
SILCHAR					
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC-260	1110	1, 7
IC-259	0830	1 7	IC-256	1320	3, 5
IC-253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC-212	1740	4 6
TEZPUR					
IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2 4, 7
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1, 3 5

Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RO-076	2040	5, 7	RO-075	1035	5, 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1 2, 3, 6 7
IC-723	1300	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	IC-724	1620	1, 2, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5
KATHMANDU					
IC-747	1115	1, 3 6	IC-748	1455	1, 3, 6
RA-214	1400	4, 7	RA-213	1315	4, 7

Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
LONDON					
BA-142	2050	3, 7	BA-143	1525	3, 7
MOSCOW					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
PARO					
KB-106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2, 6
KB-106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ-415	2200	2 5	SQ-416	2040	2, 5
SOFIA					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20-35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	19 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5-50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6-50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13-40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11-45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Saraı Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	3104
5185	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues , Thus & Sat	4-25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19-20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11-20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13-45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22-05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21-40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15-00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	–
--	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	--
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	--
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22-35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
—	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545 54 for in coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203496-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

AN OASIS OF HOPE

The Jaunpur range in Garhwal is dry, brown and rocky Water is hard to find and green fields are to be seen only far down in the valley, near the Aglar or some smaller stream Elsewhere, only monsoon crops are grown

I have walked five miles without finding a spring or even a shady spot along the sun-blistered path I am beginning to wonder if the only living creatures in the area are the big lizards who slither about on the hot surface of the rocks and stare at me with unblinking eyes

Just as I am asking myself if it is better to be a lizard than a thirsty trekker, I round the bend and discover a small mountain oasis, a crooked little shack tucked away in a cleft in the hillside Growing beside the shack is a single pine tree, humming softly in the faint breeze that drifts across the mountains

When one tree suddenly appears in this way, lonely and dignified in the middle of a vast tree-less silence, it can be more beautiful than a forest

There is no glamour about the shack — a loose stone structure with a tin roof held down by stones But it is a teashop, one of those little pockets of pioneering mankind that spring up in the mountain wildernesses to serve the weary traveller

●●●

In remote mountain areas, time has a different meaning, you may count the days but not the hours. And yesterday, today and tomorrow merge into one long day. When there is nowhere to go you have no need of a clock. You eat when you are hungry and sleep when you are tired

●●●

Go where you will in Garhwal, you will always find a teashop to sustain you just when you feel you have reached the end of your tether

A couple of mules are tied to the pine tree and the mule-drivers, handsome men in tattered clothes, sit on a bench in the shade, drinking tea from brass tumblers The shopkeeper, a man of indeterminate age — the cold dry winds from the snows have crinkled his face like a walnut but his teeth are sound and his eyes are clear — greets me as a long-lost friend, although we are meeting for the first time

As a concession to my shirt and trousers he produces a chair for me It is a period chair, possibly ever a Sheraton, but the stuffing has come out of the seat It must have escaped from the nearby hill station, Mussoorie, where the sahibs forgathered in years gone by

The shopkeeper apologises for its condition, "The rats have been nesting in it " And then to reassure me, "But they have gone now "

I would just as soon be on the bench with the mule-drivers but do not wish to offend the shopkeeper, who has already given me his name, Megh Chand, and taken mine So I take his chair into the shade and gently lower myself into it

"Do you live here alone?" I ask

"Sometimes I am alone," he says "My family is down in the village, looking after the fields It is quite far, six miles, so I go home once a week and then my son comes up to look after the shop "

"How long have you had the shop?"

"Oh 10, 15 years, I do not remember exactly "

Why bother to count the years? In remote mountain areas, time has a different meaning, you may count the days but not the hours And yesterday, today and tomorrow merge into one long day When there is nowhere to go you have no need of a clock You eat when you are hungry and sleep when you are tired

But the mule-drivers have somewhere to go and something to deliver, pumpkins and potatoes They are busy men of the world, and presently they lead their pack animals away down the dusty path



"Tea or *lassi*?" Megh Chand gives me a choice and I take the *lassi* which is sharp and refreshing The wind soughs gently in the upper branches of the pine tree and I relax in my Sheraton chair like some 18th century nabob who has brought his own chair into the wilderness

Megh Chand tells me that he has been starved of good conversation "Next year," he says, sitting down on the steps of his shop, "the government will be widening the road and then the busses will be able to to stop here For many years I have depended on the mule-drivers, but they do not have much money to spend Once the busses come, I will have many customers Then perhaps I can afford to go to Delhi to have my operation "

"What operation?"

"Oh, a *rasoi*—a growth—in my stomach Sometimes the pain is very bad I went to the hospital in Mussoorie but they told me I would have to go to Delhi for the operation

"Whenever anyone is seriously ill, they say, 'Go to Delhi!' Does the whole world go to Delhi to get treated? My uncle was told to go to Delhi for an operation He went from one hospital to another till his money was finished, and then he came back to the village, and died within a week

"So maybe I won't go back for the operation The money is needed here Once the the buses come, I will have to keep sweets and biscuits and other things, and also a boy to help me cook a few meals All I can offer you today is a bun It was made in Delhi, I was told "

"I'd rather have your *lassi* than a Delhi bun," I protest, for the bun looks as old as the Sheraton chair "But where do you get water?" I ask

"Come I will show you," he says, and takes me round to the back of the shack and through an unexpected gap in the hillside It gives me a breathtaking glimpse of snow-clad mountains striding into the sky

It is cool and shady on the northern face of the hill, and here, issuing from rock, is a trickle of water Yellow primulas grow in clusters along the edges of a damp, dripping rock-face The water collects in a small stone trough

"There is no other *chesma* (spring) along this road," he says "And busses can't go down into the ravine unless they fall into it So they will have to stop here!" He is triumphant

We return to the shop front, where a milkman has just arrived with a container of milk He, too, sits down for a rest, refreshment and conversation Next year, if the road is ready (and it is a big 'if' because with hill roads you can never be sure) and if he can afford the fare (an even bigger 'if') the milkman will be able to use the bus

But there are some who will walk anyway, because they have always been walking Or ride mules because they have been doing it all their lives

Still, when the road comes, time will take on new dimensions for Megh Chand Even in remote areas, buses must keep to some sort of schedule and Megh Chand will have to be sure his pot is on the boil and be on the lookout for arrivals and departures

He will be better off than he is today, but he is aware that prosperity has its pitfalls. He remembers a cousin who opened a small grocery shop on a new bus-route near Devprayag One day some young hooligans got off the bus, looted his shop and left him battered and bruised It was the sort of thing that never happened before

It is time for me to be on my way I leave Megh Chand and his Sheraton chair with regret

"I hope the road will soon be ready," I say in parting "I hope you will make lots of money I hope you will be able to go to Delhi for your operation And I hope I can come this way again "

Hillman or plainsman, we have only our hopes to keep us going

(*Sanctuary Features*)



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INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says, hard work and commensurate rewards, as the new moon helps you to work hard, play hard Important decisions regarding job, business, and profession will have to be taken January 27-28 offer opportunities Use it wisely and well

Taurus

April 21– May 20



You will have to pull yourself up by the bootstraps so to say The outstanding directions of the week include contacts, communication, buying, selling property, journey and publicity In other words, you have a full plate to chomp Go right ahead

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Sun trine moon placing means victory, money, good cheer, excellent company, and a whale of a deal coming through for you Your enemies will vamoosh like a bat out of a cave Problems connected with legacy, insurance, loans and the money of a spouse will have predominance Be brave

Cancer

June 21 –July 20



You too will pop in and out of financial transactions and family get-togethers Those in industry, business and real estate are assured of loans and funds Also, the spotlight is on partnerships, be it marriage, business alliance and collaborations Trips are on the cards

Leo

July 21—August 21



Do try something elaborate Probably it will not backfire Children, sports and romance give great delight Financial issues will have to be resolved While lady luck will ride with you, it would be absolutely senseless and stupid to be blunt and inflexible

Virgo

August 22—September 22



You too will believe in getting up and standing up for your rights The new moon does signify birth or conception, renovation, decoration, house moving and travel Finances will be much to the fore of things You will take the bite out of laziness and go in for a flurry of activities

Libra

September 23—October 22



Venus, your planetary chief, is in fine placing with Mercury, making for journeys, campaigns, a new venture and an affair of the heart January 27 and 28 are definitely for meeting people, making travel plans, correspondence and contacts The home also figures very significantly for Librans

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Ganesha says plenty of action, both on the work front and the home slot Those in large corporations and governmental organisations do best Mars could be responsible for health hazards to you and your loved ones Travel is possible on account of the new moon impact

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Mercury-Pluto excellent placing will help you to garner news, write effectively, communicate directly and effectively, and sign important deeds and documents Trips and ties are well signified Old flames and sweethearts may come alive, upsetting the apple cart

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



The moon in your sign, according to Western astrology, helps you to take the initiative, decide important meetings, conferences, policies, follow-throughs Go in for the kill, buy, sell and invest Also, you will try to restore and heal hearts as well as minds, and win the gratitude of others

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Love and hate, bouquets and brickbats, in almost equal measure, should make the week quite unusual and exciting Despite expenses, you will hold on to what is yours by right Many Aquarians could be in a for a change of job, profession and even business

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Moon-Neptune fine placing gives extra mileage to teachers, lawyers, middlemen, editors, artists, politicians, travel agents and industrialists You will certainly try to fan out to people and places now The snag is that your own health needs safeguarding

BIRTHDAYS

January 29: Moon-Neptune conjunction makes you imaginative, intuitive and introspective, says Ganesha. This, in turn, gives you the necessary insight.

January 30: The new moon is excellently juxtaposed with Jupiter, resulting in name, fame, money and honey. You will come out of the dumps and regain your position.

January 31: Moon conjunction Mercury makes way for news, messages, reporting, teaching, writing, computer programming, training or researching.

February 1: Venus trine Pluto means the end result will be good. There will be mental tensions and even agonies, but rest assured, it will all pass and joy will prevail.

February 2: Moon-Saturn conjunction makes you more cultivate courage and even bravado now. Family life could have a sub-save. Many of you will proceed with caution.

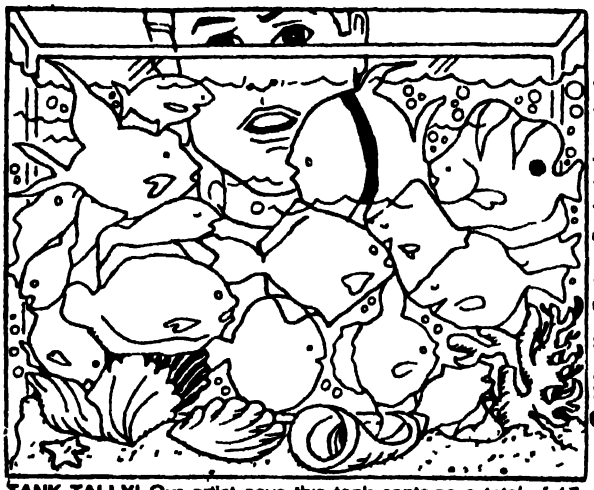
February 3: Sun-Mercury conjunction will definitely lead to a wish-fulfillment. Many Aquarians will move fast.

February 4: Moon trine sun-Jupiter results in expansion and progress at different levels. Expect a promotion if in service, and profit if in business.

***Owing to disruption in supply, Maneka Gandhi's column could not be carried this week*— Editor**

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



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TANK TALLY! Our artist says this tank contains a total of 17 assorted tropical fish How many do you observe?

TRIFLE RANGE! How trifles may alter history, in the words of writer teacher Vladmir Nabokov "A toothache will cost a battle, a ___ cancel an insurrection " Fill blank Hint Add a weather word

The missing word is drizzle

TIMBER	FLOWER
2BAL..	2DRE...
3...SON	3...OUS
4ENA..	4SLE...
5...GIR	5...UTY
6FUN..	6PUR...

NAME INSERTS TO PONDER

YOU are asked to fill in 12 three-letter names of boys and girls to complete the two columns of six-letter words above Place boys' names in the blanks on left, girls' names on the right

Names to be inserted are listed below (scrambled, of course) Two of the twelve are already shown

BOYS	GIRLS
Dan	Amy
Les	Sue
Gus	Flo
Tim	Bea
Mel	Joy
Sam	Eve

How quickly can you fit all 12 names in?

Time limit 2 minutes

Boys 1 Tim 2 Sam 3-Les 4-Mel 5-Dan 6-Gus Girls 1 Flo 2 Amy 3-Joy 4-Eve 5-Bea 6-Sue

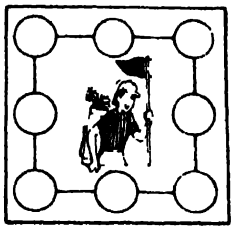
MATCH PLAY! Golfers may be so-so at addition, but the player below is said to have solved this poser in two minutes' time Let's see how long it takes you Object is to place digits 1-8 in the diagram below so that circles on each of the square's four sides total 14

Each of the numbers 1-8 is to be used just once

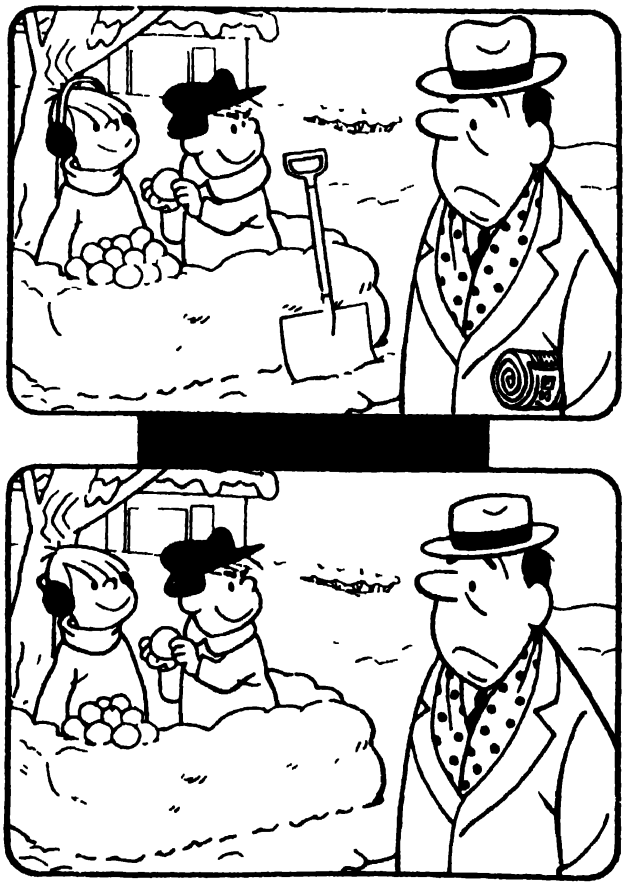
Clue Numbers 3, 4, 5 and 8 appear in the corners

No fair peeking below

Top left corner — 3 then clockwise 6 5 1 8 2 4 7 will do it



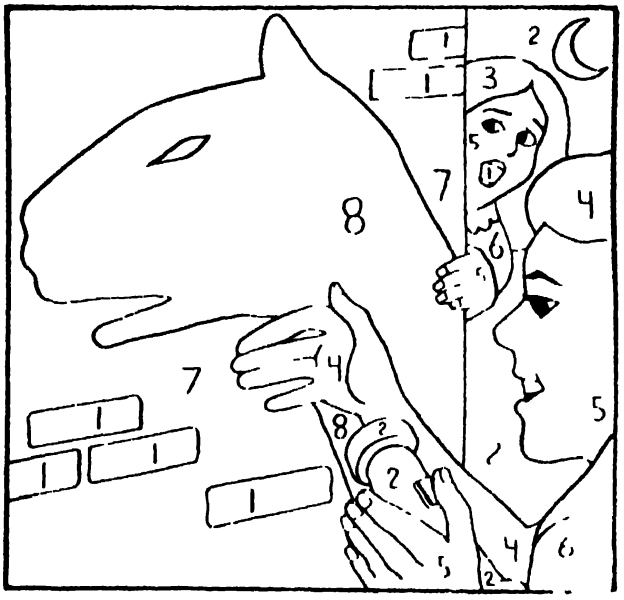
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Earmuffs are different 2 Snowballs are missing 3 Collar is smaller 4 Shovel is missing 5 Hat is different 6 Paper is missing

FUNSPOT



HANDS ON! Let's have a show of hands — on the wall, that is Add these colors neatly 1—Red 2- Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Black

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

WATERBED

- - - - - - - -

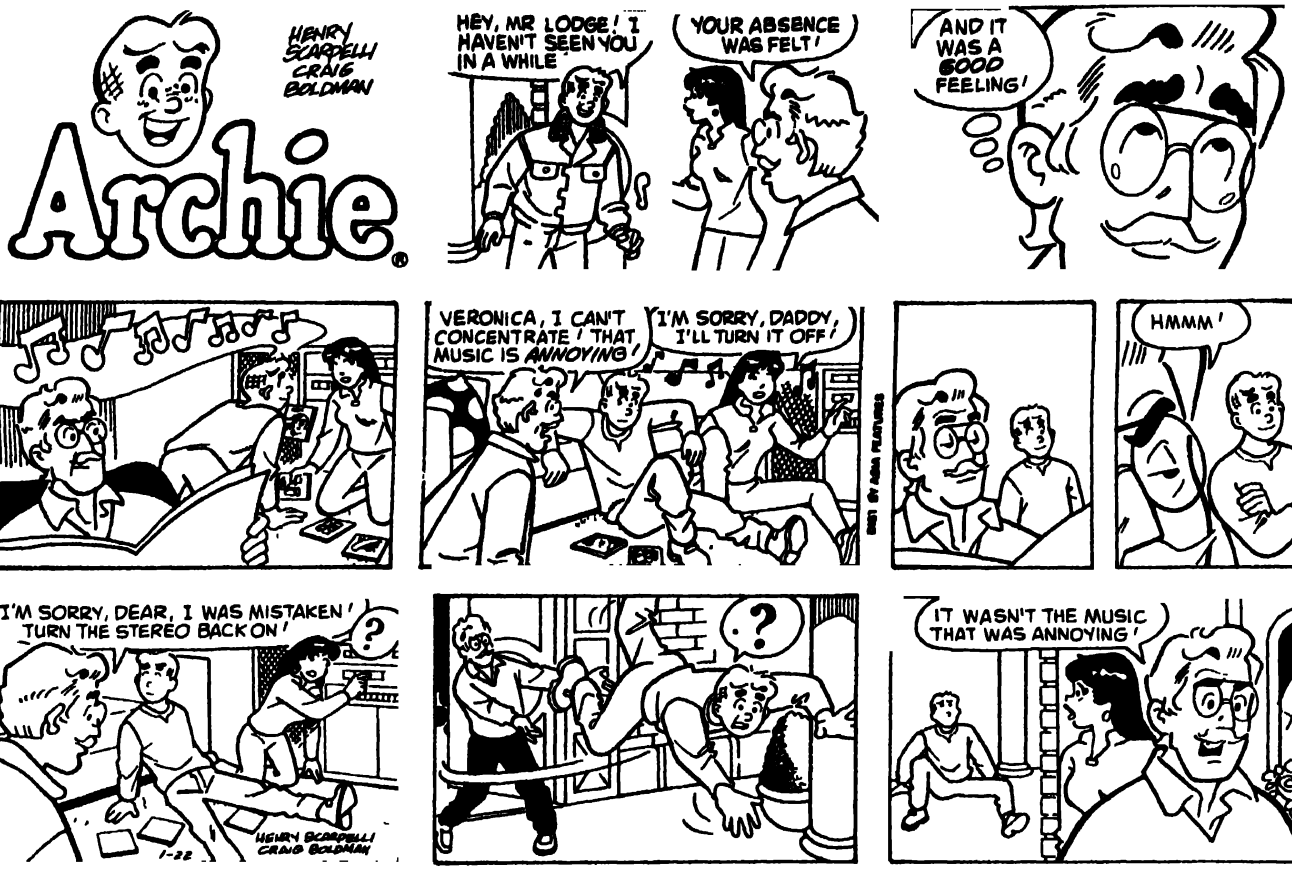
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 30 points

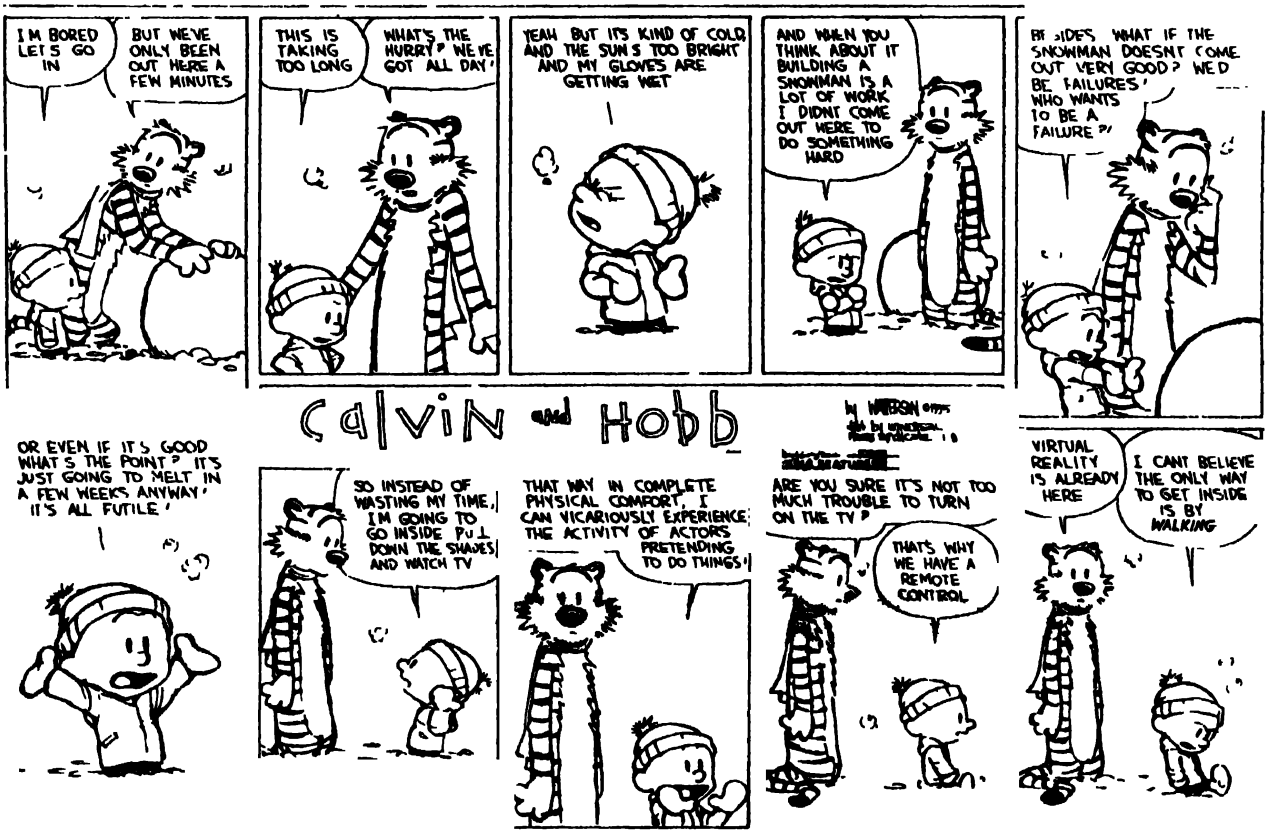
Possible twosome Drew, beat

COMICS

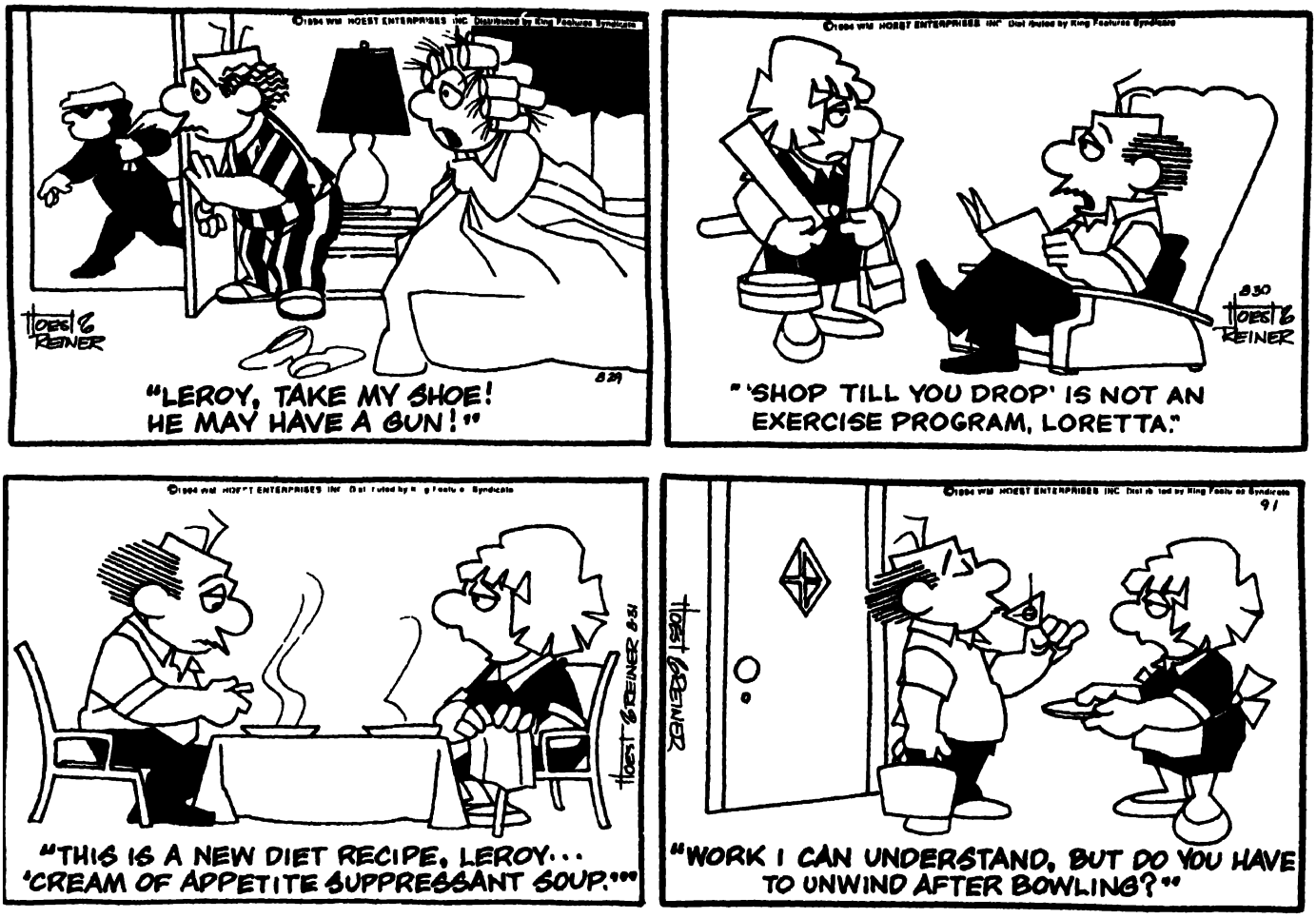
ARCHIE



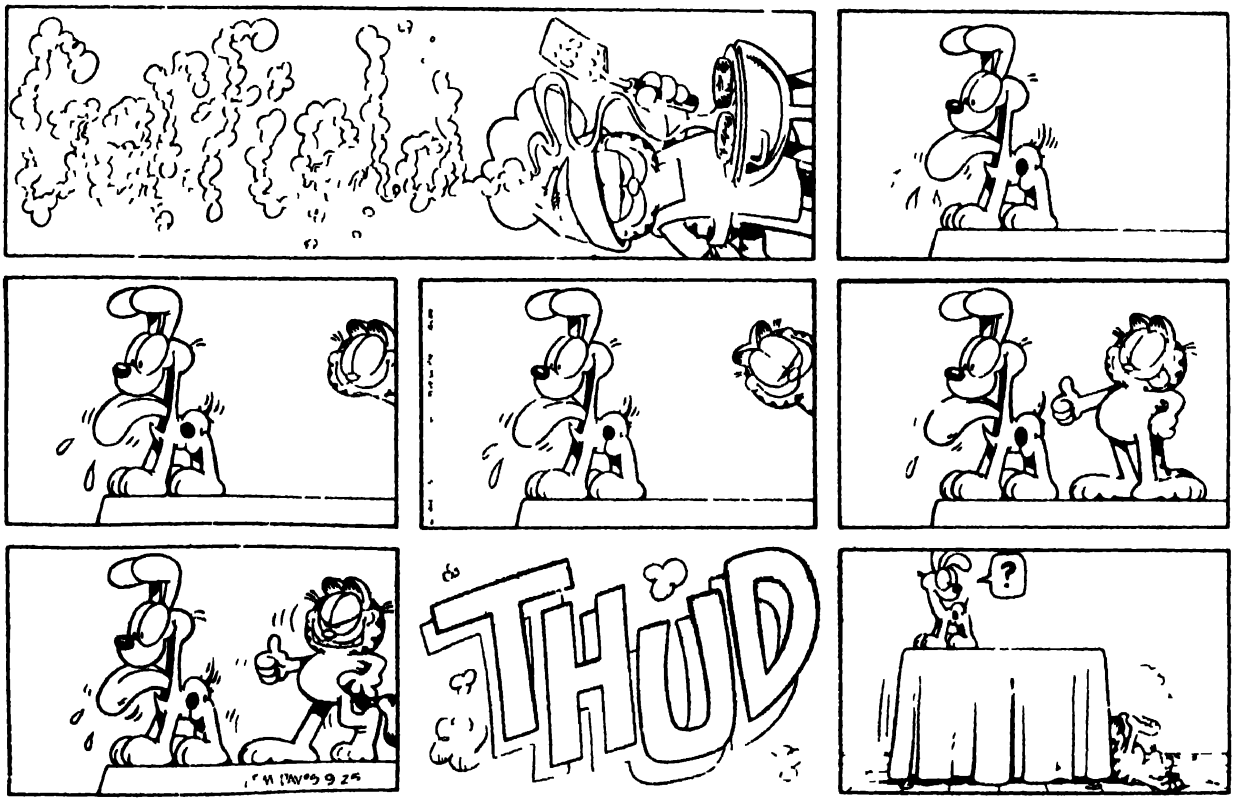
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



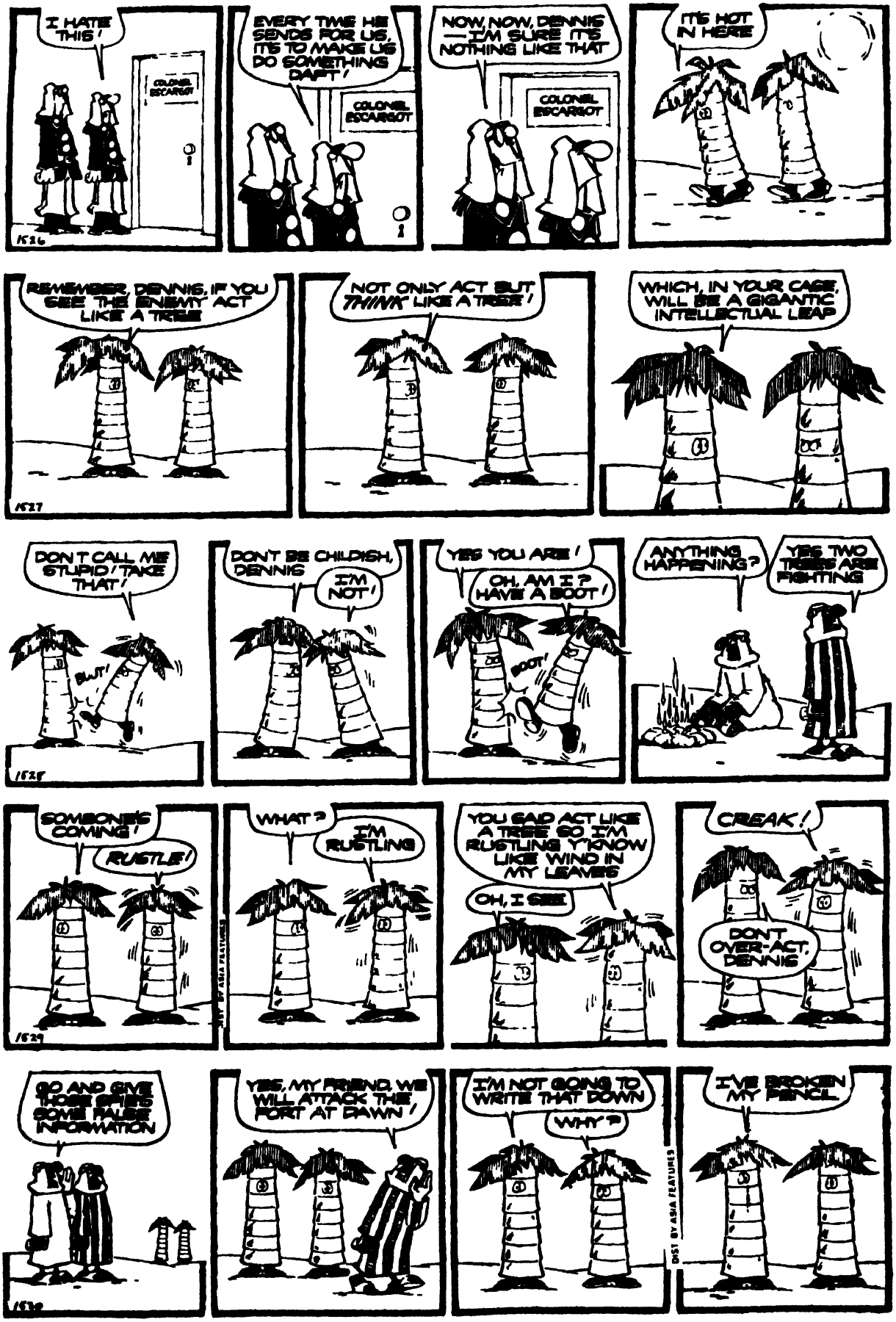
THE LOCKHORNS



GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



CLUBS in CALCUTTA

The club as a place for socialising is not an Indian phenomenon. It was introduced by the British who first came to India to trade and stayed back to rule To understand the reason for this it will be usedful to refer to the following from H R Panckridge's "A Short History of the Bengal Club, 1827-1927"

"It is the practice of European peoples to reproduce as far as possible in their settlements and colonies in other continents the characteristic social features of their national lives

Thus it is that that the footsteps of France are marked by the cafe, those of Germany by the beergarden

In the tropical possessions of the British Crown the idea of the club makes a special appeal to the large number of men, who are compelled by circumstances to be separated from their wives and families for longer



Royal Calcutta Turf Club

and shorter periods To these clubs afford some consolation for the pains of exile and loneliness, while at the same time they offer a welcme solution of a difficult problem to the many bachelors with a disfaste for housekeeping "

Panckridge's words aptly sum up the rationale behind setting up of clubs by the British With their departure the mantle has fallen on their Indian successors to maintain the continuity of this institution So club life continues, well set to enter the 21st century—a long way since its inception in the early 19th

The Bengal Club, founded in 1827, is certainly the oldest club of Calcutta and seems to be the earliest in India as well His Excellency Lord Combermere agreed to become its Patron and Lt Col The Hon J Finch, C B , who was Military Secretary of Lord Combermere, became the first President The rules of the club originally stipulated that there could be 500 members with 100 drawn from the Bench, Bar or Clergy and the rest from the services It followed that businessmen would be excluded but that could hardly have been the intention In the original lists of members many names from now forgotten mercantile houses can be traced

Initially the Bengal Club was located at the four-storied Gordon's Buildings at Esplanade East We understand that at the celebration dinner on the acquisition of the premises the venison was excellent and the meal "did much credit to the culinary talents of Mr Payue, the Stward"

It is interesting to note that on Lord Combermere's departure from India, Lord William Bentinck, the Governor-General of India, became the second Patron of the club

In time the club removed itself from Gordon's Buildings to Tank Square which of course is the modern Dalhousie Square or, even more recently, B B D Bag It was in 1845 that the Bengal Club came to its present site The building was that which was occupied by Macaulay when he was in India as Law Member of the Supreme Council from 1834 to 1838 The property belonged to Babu Kali Prasanna Singha of Jorasanko from whom a lease of 30 years, on most satisfactory terms, was arranged

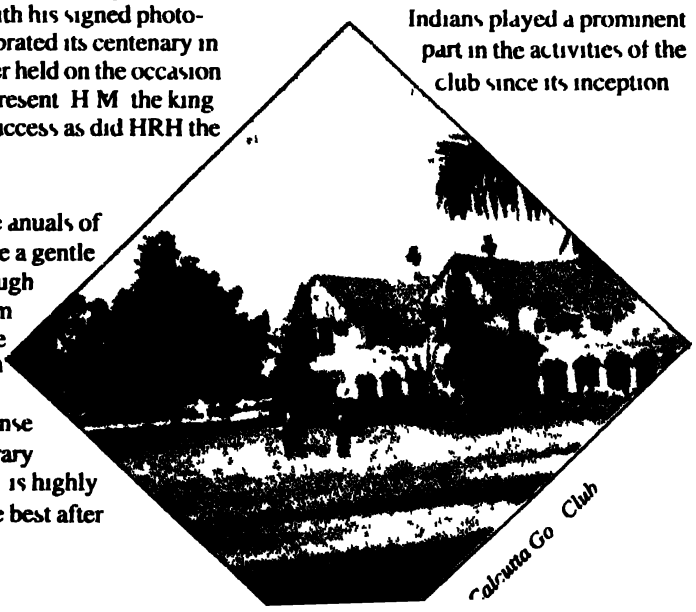
The old club house was dismantled in 1908 and another was constructed in the same place in 1911 Finally, in 1970, the Chowringhee front was pulled down and what remains is the Russell Street portion On 30th December, 1921, the Bengal Club entertained His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at luncheon and HRH graciously presented the club with his signed photograph The club celebrated its centenary in 1927 and at the dinner held on the occasion 138 members were present H M the king wished the club all success as did HRH the Prince of Wales

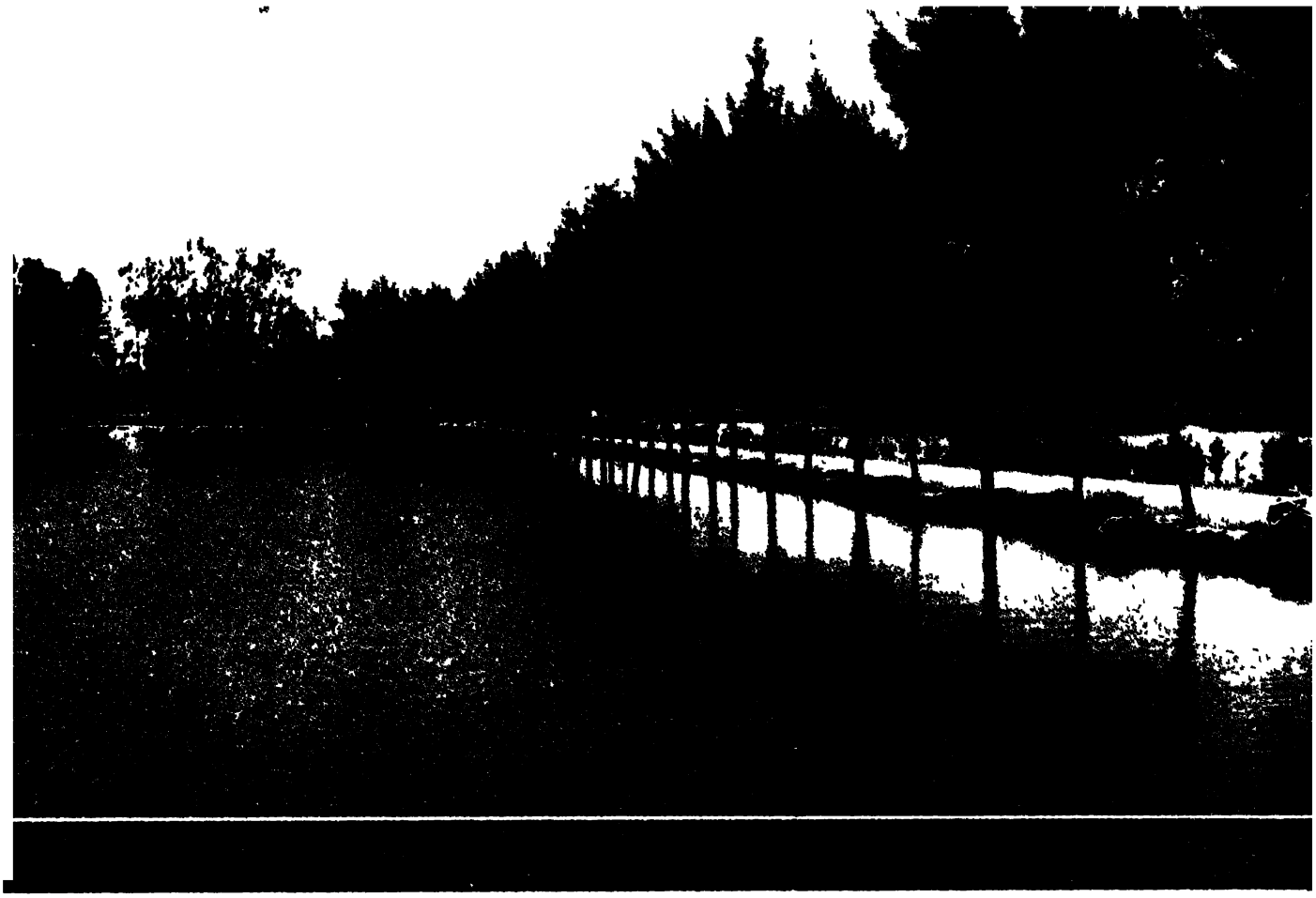
To go through the anuals of Bengal Club is to take a gentle ride backwards through time Men at the helm of Indian affairs were all members Even in this egalitarian era the club retains its sense of integrity The library of the club even now is highly regarded as being the best after the National Library

At the risk of not being chronological we now jump 80 years and come to 1907 in the twentieth century In that years was formally opened the Calcutta Club with 45 members present at the inauguration It was located at No 17, Elysium Row The first patron was Lord Minto and the Maharaja of Cooch Behar was the President Within a year of being at Elysium Row, the club moved, this time to Russell Street The committee was, however, on the lookout for a permanent site and a plot of land measuring approximately $8\frac{1}{4}$ bighas was selected The frontage was on Lower Circular Road and on Chowringhee Road as well This is the Calcutta Club as we all know now and it was formally opened by the Governor of Bengal, Sir Thomas David Gibson Carmichael in 1915

It is imperative to understand the background of the Calcutta Club The clubs of the time were formed for the social purposes of the British and these were exclusive for a fair member of Britishers also It was only towards the end of the nineteenth century that some of the standoffishness was shed but the taboo on the fraternising of communities remained Increasingly enlightened people felt the need for a place where people could meet socially without the barriers of community, race or religion It was in 1905 that a group of Britishers and Indians got together to found a club where all could meet on an equal footing From the germ of their idea Calcutta Club was born

Indians played a prominent part in the activities of the club since its inception





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Among others, Gaganendranath and Abanindranath Tagore were members B N Rau, an architect of the Indian Constitution, lived in the club for a time Noel Barwell, the last of the British barristers of Calcutta, was also a resident

Very early in its existence, Calcutta Club became involved in sporting activities As early as 1915, Prafulla Nath Tagore paid for the cost of a tennis court In 1920 the Maharaja of Cooch Behar presented a Squash Tennis Challenge Cup and in 1928 a cup for the annual billiard tournament was presented by Sir Brojendra Nath Mitter There have been many other trophies donated by other luminaries A swimming pool was opened in the year of the club's golden jubilee



Lake Land Club

As stated before, the club was founded as much for Europeans as for Indians The atmosphere was much more congenial than elswhere Towards the end of the 1970s, Rabindrasangeet and Bengali drama firmly entered the premises It has become customary to stage of Bengali play on the eve a the Bengali new year followed by a delicious Bengali dinner

Moving over to sports we now come to Tollygunge Club which was founded in 1895 to "promote all manner of sports" It has an area of 100 acres of lush grounds and the club house itself is over 200 years old having been built by Richard Johnson around 1780-81, Johnson's property came into the possession of Prince Golam Mohammed, son of Tipu Sultan and the Tollygunge club acquired the property from his descendents This year the club will be observing its centenary week from February 10-18 and the centenary celebrations are to be inaugurated by the Chief Minister 24 past presidents are expected to be the present at the celebrations

Tollygunge Club is the only one of its kind in India and according to Mr Robert H Wright, OBE, who is the managing member, the club tries to be the best in the country if not in Asia Only recently it earned plaudits from the visiting Prime Minister of Singapore

To be the premier sporting club it maintains seven tennis courts, three of squash, three swimming pools, 30 ponies apart from a golf course and billiards and bridge rooms The extensive grounds have a large collection of trees and plants some brought from places as far away as Australia and South America

Mr Wright mentioned that the Tolly gunge Club was one club which never had a race barrier However, non-Britishers did not have the vote but could enjoy all the facilities This says a lot, for it is a domain which went liberal well after independence Today the club has 1200 members out of which less than 200 are expatriates Six to 7% of the members are ladies Though this club as others has become less formal the emphasis still is on strict screening when it comes to admitting new members Also, any kind of misconduct on the part of members brings swift retribution At present the waiting list numbers around 1000

Practically across the road from the Tollygunge Club is another venerated institution, the Royal Calcutta Golf Club Originally known as Calcutta Golf Club, it was designated "Royal" in 1911 when King George V and Queen Mary visited India The RCGC is over 150 years old and is the oldest golf course outside the British Isles At one time the club boasted of a 36 hole golf course but pressures on land have taken their toll and the present course is one of 18 holes It has been revised several times, the most recently in the mid-1970s It is ranked among the top courses in the world The fairways are liberally bordered with trees and there are 23 water hazards or "tanks" as these are known and these seem to exist solely to torment the golfers The tanks are used for purposes othen than golf One can come across an accasional goat drinking water or a couple of children having a bath All these of course add to the pleasure of playing the game The Royal Calcutta Golf Club hosted the Classic Indian Open in 1994

One club which seemed positively lively when compared to the clubs of the time is Saturday Club which was founded in 1875 and moved to its present premises in 1900 The premises had been owned by the trustees of the Late Rajendra Mullick Bahadur of Marble Palace Being at the heart of the city, it has proved to be a boon for generations of members

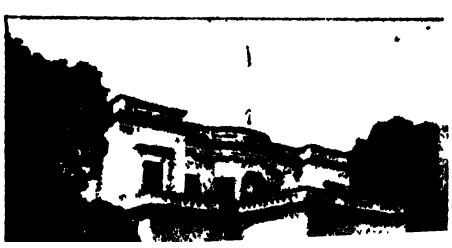
The Saturday Club today is a family club every day of the week It offers badminton, squash, tennis and table tennis facilities to its members On the first floor of the club house there is the library where there is an exclusive section for children There is also the popular banqueting hall, the Phoenix, which can host a sizeable conference

Among the premier sports clubs of Calcutta is surely the Royal Calcutta Turf Club which was formed as the Calcutta Turf Club in 1847 and became Royal in 1912 The Calcutta Derby Sweep was introduced in 1867 and ultimately its staggering amount helped to tide over any financial difficulty of the club This club was perhaps the only club to have an office in London The fact that racing is as popular today as it was over a hundred years ago and that it has grown vastly in scope is in no small way due to the activities of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club

The names of two other sporting clubs spring readily to the mind—those of the Calcutta Cricket Club and the Calcutta Football Club The two together is now known as the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club The history of cricket in Calcutta goes back to the end of the 18th century There are extant records of a cricket match in the 1790s After the old Calcutta Cricket Club merged with the Ballygunge Cricket Club it moved to the Ballygunge grounds of the latter Football became popular later than cricket Football was played both by the civilians and the military and gradually the military teams came to dominate till 1911 when Mohun Bagan won the IFA shild The cricket and the football clubs merged in 1965 The football club used to play rugby also This tradition is kept alive today The Calcutta Cricket and Football Club hosts popular cricket matches and limited side football is also played

From what has been said it becomes clear that all the established clubs have one thing in common—tradition Tradition is the mainstay of any club worth its name However, it is important to remember that when these clubs started in India there was no tradition or precedent So if a club is to sta ' today it will have to build up the tradition

This is precisely what the most recently established club in Calcutta, the Lake Land Country Club is doing It is in Howrah on the Kona Expressway It



was formally inaugurated on 25th December 1994 The club is the nucleus of a 40 acre green estate which includes 15 acres of water body The whole project has been undertaken by Panchawati Holiday Resorts Ltd The club already has 250 members and these members will be able to get a feeling of serenity difficult to come by This club will also have a golf course

Our former rulers have gone forever but their spirit lingers on in many institutions founded by them In the hoary old clubs one really feels the presence of this spirit in time-worn corridors The responsibility of running the clubs smoothly has passed on from the merchant princes and the box wallahs to leading lights of the corporate world, the Bench, Bar and the medical profession Old timers may carp but the fact remains that an obnoxious barrier, that of racism, has been removed Otherwise of course, clubs remain as insular as ever and they are meant to be so—places where like minded people can congregate for social intercourse It remains to be seen whether new legends will be added to the existing ones But it can be said with some degree of certainty that club culture in Calcutta is flourishing and will continue to flourish

Acknowledgements

1) A Short History of the Bengal Club, 1827-1927 by H R Panckridge—Courtesy Bengal Club
2) The Calcutta Club
3) Calcutta 200 Years—Courtesy Tollygunge Club
4) The Saturday Club
5) Mr Robert H Wright, OBE, managing member, Tollygunge Club
6) Royal Calcutta Turf Club
7) The Royal Calcutta Golf Club

CLUBS AND BRANDS

Clubs are normal places for promoting brand images that blend with their culture If it is inter-club sports, you will run into ITC sponsorship under the famous brand name Wills there is the Wills inter-club sports meet at Saturday Club every year, ending with the Wills Carnival bash Wills again is the sponsor of the new year's eve bashes at Tollygunge Club, CC&FC and Saturday Club It is a permanent part of the atmosphere in the last two with the Wills Bar at CC&FC and Wills Pavilion at Saturday Club

Apart from the usual subsidised offer of a new drink or cigarette at club nights and other functions, certain brand names have already become closely associated with certain sporting activities and tournaments that essentially belong to the club milieu

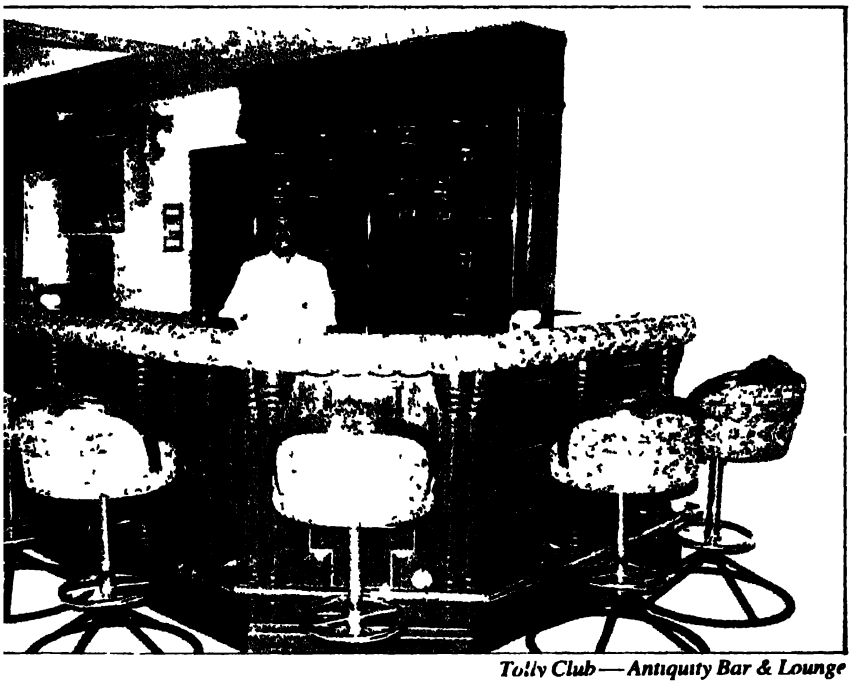
Golf is one of these And here corporate sponsorship is very much established ITC and Shaw Wallace are the main sponsers

ITC sponsorship, in the name of its premium cigarette Classic, is already a part of the golf scene The Classic Cup tournament at Tollygunge Club is extremely popular among amateur golfers in the last event (December 19-26, 1994) there were 724 participants The Classic Indian Open, held in rotation at Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay, is the largest Asian professional golf tournament with a prize money of $250,000 The last one was held at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club Club between March 3 and 6 last year

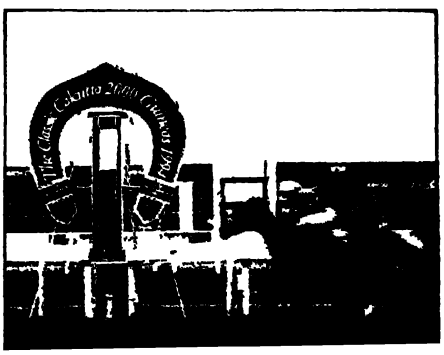
Then there is the Classic Eastern India Open Golf Tournament, a big professional meet with Pro-Am events in which amateurs can test their skills with professionals These have both popularised golf and woven the Classic brand name into the game and the lifestyles of the people who play

Classic is also very much into the hours that immediately follow a game of golf there is the Classic Pavilion at the Tollygunge Club and the Classic Shamiana at RCGC where golfers relax after the game These have a bar, a food counter and more importantly, a golf corner where you can have a look at golf magazines and golf literature The lavish entertainment and dinner that takes place at the Classic Night where the prizes are distributed by the ITC chairman, has also become a very prestigious club event where all worth social esteem have to be seen

Shaw Wallace, one of the 19 founder-members of the Merchants Cup Tournament way back in 1906, is the sponsor of the already well-known Antiquity Invitation Cup tournament for amateurs Named after the the company's super-premium 'Antiquity', the tournament is held in major clubs in major cities Three tournaments have already been held at RCGC and one each in Delhi and Bombay The grand entertainment — musical and gourmet — at the club nights that come at the end of each tournament, have also contributed to its popularity, as pointed out by Mr Nirvic Guha, Marketing Manager



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Mr Ashok S Malik, the joint managing director of Shaw Wallace, says as normal golf sponsorship is for professional events, his company chose the amateur circuit to promote the game "Club culture," he says, "is easier in Calcutta because life is easier" The golf courses here, he says, are only a few minutes away from your residence or place of work while they are usually far away in the capital and Bombay While it is difficult to get into the golf clubs of Delhi and Bombay, its easier in the case the Tollygunge Club and Royal Calcutta Golf Club The RCGC for example, he says is not very snooty and people from a reasonable background with an inte-



Classic Cup at Tolly Club

rest in golf are normally taken in without much fuss

Mr Malik, himself a five-time national champion, is all for wider promotion and popularisation of golf which he says is the "the fastest-growing sport in the world" Among the interesting statistics he casually cites to support this is the fact that over 200 countries play golf and in a country like Japan where there is acute land shortage, about two to three hundred golf courses are still being built

Apart from sponsoring major sporting events like the recent Director's Special test cricket series between India and West Indies and the well-known Royal Challenge racing events, Shaw Wallace has also sponsored a polo tournament in Delhi Some football tournaments have come in for Director's Special sponsorship as well Director's Special, of course is the name of the company's medium segment brand, while Royal Challenge is the premium segment leader — a position held by Peter Scot once upon a time In this area, as Mr Malik said, the main criterion is the mileage the company brand gets — among the spectators and TV viewers

Calcutta is still considered the best place to launch your brand — whether it is through a racing or golf cup named after it or through 'club nights' where it is introduced to the members Rajiv Mehra, director of Mohan Meakin and the newly formed Macdonald Mohan Distillers, says "we still believe what Calcutta thinks today India thinks tomorrow" So when Meakin formed the new company to bottle and market scotch — Macdonald & Muir's Highland Queen — it instituted the Highland Queen Trophy and the Macdonald Trophy The races for these took place at the Royal Calcutta Turf Club on December 10 last These two trophies featured on the day along with the Mohan Trophy The trophy and the brand were introduced on December 9 at the Highland Queen Night at RCTC which was graced by the cream of society and celebrities from the film world

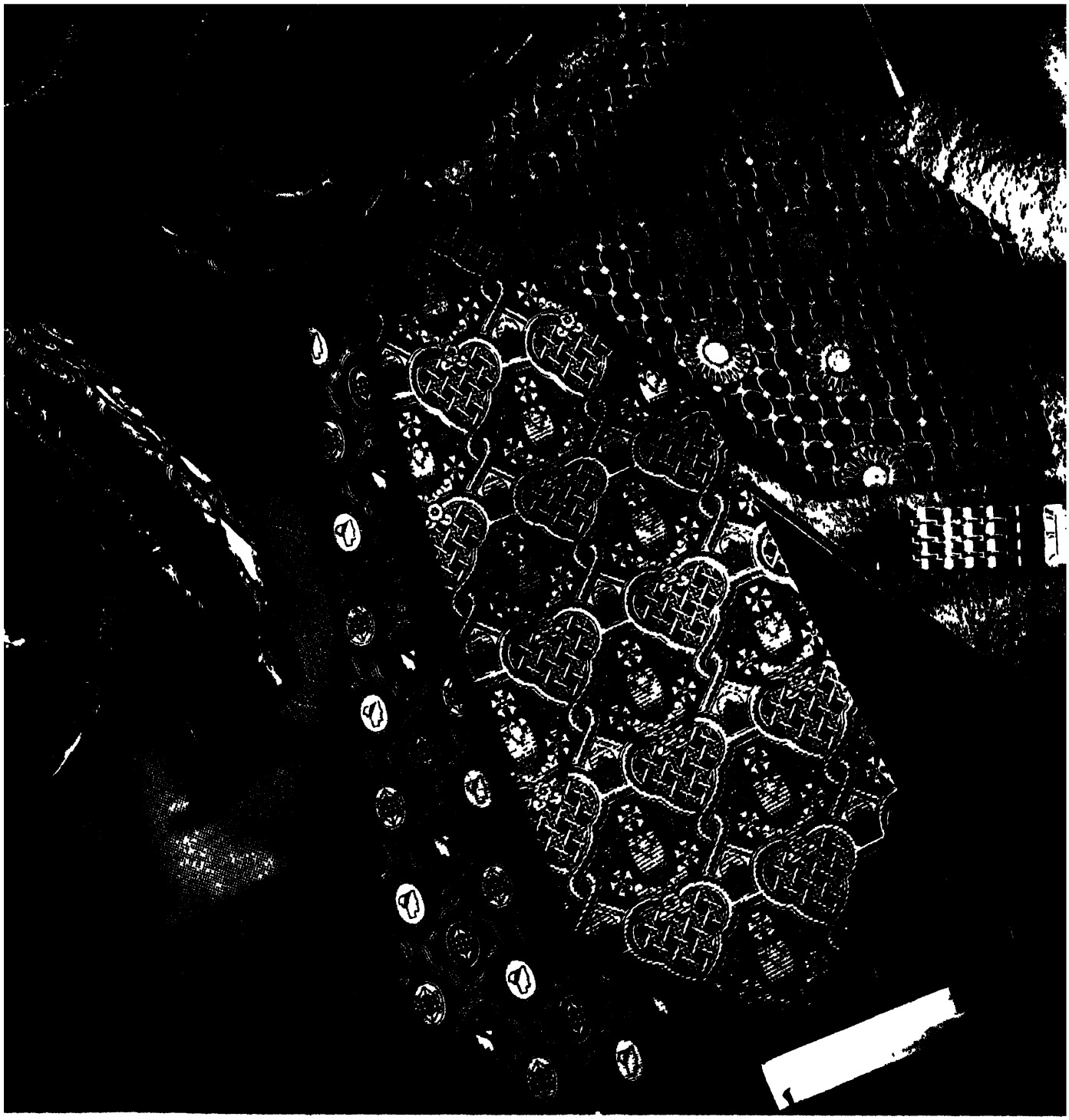
The effect was later spread to the members of major clubs — RCTC, CC&FC, Royal Calcutta Swimming Club, Tollygunge Club, Royal Calcutta Golf Club, Bengal Club and Saturday Club among them — through what was called the 'happy hours' On these evenings you could get a free peg of Highland Queen against every one you ordered

In fact equestrian sport, particularly racing, has always been an area receiving corporate sponsorship, epecially by liquor and cigarette manufacturers The most prestigious racing event, the triple cup (Derby, St Ledger and 2000 guineas) has drawn ITC's Classic sponsorship The Classic Calcutta Derby took place on January 8 last The other Classic racing events, held in a five-yearly rotation at the five major centres, are the Classic Invitation Cup, Classic Sprinters Cup and Classic Stayers Cup They took place in Calcutta in March last year

The annual horse show at Tollygunge Club is also a Classic event and Classic was the regular sponsor of the polo season at RCTC till last year This year it has maintained its presence by sponsoring the IPA (Indian Polo Association) Cup — NG



Highland Queen Night at RCTC



BENTLEY

WHEN DRESSING BECOMES AN ART

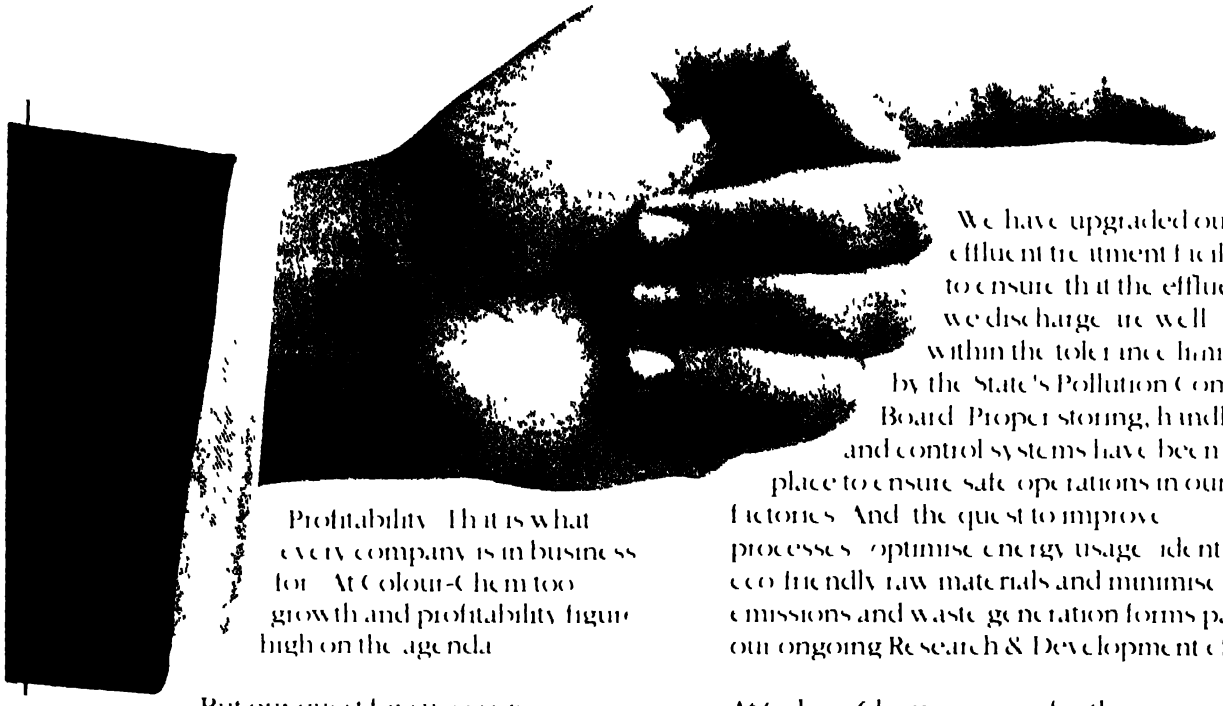
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The Telegraph

5 FEBRUARY 1995

POST MORTEM

Bustling Bangalore

■ Bangalore enjoys an enviable geographical location which has, in many ways, made it the 'fastest growing' metropolis in India ('Urban Holiday', January 8)

Besides being a picturesque and green city, Bangalore is the mecca of the electronic industry The Indian Institute of Science provides the city with all the scientific and technical manpower it needs Foreign investments are pouring in due to an honest work culture

To make the city more modern and swank, the Karnataka government plans to set up the air-conditioned Light Rail Transit (LRT) system at a cost of Rs 4,200 crore

Bangalore will be the first city in India to boast of the environment-friendly LRT system

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

■ The cover story read like an advertisement feature of the Karnataka Tourism Development Corporation The pictures were a great delight though

What amazed me, however, was the omission of the history of this garden city

Debanjan Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ Bangalore will charm any casual visitor As a holiday spot, too, Bangalore has no parallel

However, the city is rapidly getting polluted The government must go out of its way to preserve its greenery and beauty

Subhasis Ray,
Rourkela



M.G. Road, Bangalore: Clean and green

■ The apathy of the Karnataka government is fast causing Bangalore to become a concrete jungle Wetlands are being systematically converted to pave way for industrial complexes by flouting all possible rules

It is a pity Bangaloreans have chosen alcoholism to emulate the West If this trend is not checked, the city will lose its ancient culture

Puja and Rahul Berry,
Calcutta

Name that Sells

■ The Magazine has become a spicy Sunday pullout and the cover story, 'Queen B' (December 25), bears testimony to this

I really wonder if pedigree is the passport to fame and popularity because Ramola Bachchan has nothing to recommend herself I found her nothing more than a busy socialite who can go to any extent to attract attention

Bharat Jalan,
Calcutta

INSIDE



PAGE 4

DISILLUSIONED WITH corrupt politicians and a parliamentary system that has led to acute political instability, urban middle-class Pakistanis are looking for a new hero in Imran Khan whose West-bashing and pro-Islamic utterances have rattled both friends and foes Also, an exclusive interview with King Khan

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A look at this year's Femina Miss India contest

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28 RASOI

Cover Imran Khan by Utpa Sorkar

COVER STORY

King Khan

Imran Khan appears to have travelled a quick and tumultous journey from cricket idol and pin-up boy to political messiah and Islamic flag-waver

***Najam Sethi** on why Pakistanis love Imran— and what he is saying*

FROM KARACHI TO KHYBER, THE PAKISTANI MASSES PROCLAIM HIM AS THE "NEXT PRIME MINIster of Pakistan" Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif are stunned by his lustre The ruling elites shudder at his denouncements The West has been clean bowled by his Islamic beliefs What, in Allah's name, has Imran Khan done to rattle friends and foes alike?

It all began last August when Imran set out to solicit donations for his cancer hospital Wherever he went, he was mobbed by rousing, spontaneous crowds Children tripped over themselves to hand him their pocket money Young women flung their bangles, bracelets and earrings at him Widows, workers, traders and even beggars lined up excitedly to stuff his hands with cash

"I've never seen anything like it," admits Imran, relishing his popularity "I raised over Rs 60 crore in two months "

Overwhelmed, Imran seems to have succumbed to the galleries He has lashed out at people with money or power who, he says, have refused to support his cause "The capitalists of this country don't feel the pain of the poor," he thunders "These wealthy crocodiles are always hungry for more, that's why I have gone to the poor for my hospital "



He has also lunged at the politicians. "They are corrupt to the core, they have devoured the wealth of this nation, yet they are still thirsting for more Hang me from the Minar-i-Pakistan if you find that I have embezzled any money from the hospital," he booms to the crowds

The crowds roar their approval when he flays the West for immorality and argues that "nudity and obscenity have led to the decline of the West" They are ecstatic when



With the World Cup 1992: 'I made Rs 45 lakh out of the World Cup and gave it all away to the hospital'

he drums in his message that 'Pakistan was founded in the name of Islam But our ruling elites only worship money, the World Bank and the superpowers"

Urged recently to form a political party and lead an Islamic revolution, Imran parried his vociferous hosts "I was offered a ministry by Zia-ul-Haq, Nawaz Sharif and Moeen Qureshi But I did not accept their offers because politics is dirty business I do not believe in parliamentary democracy because no one can speak the truth or do any good in such a system"

Then he exploded a bombshell "I'm in touch with General Hamid Gul He has invited me to join his group"

Association with General Gul (an avowed 'Islamic visionary') has catapulted Imran into screaming, front-page news General Gul is a fiercely controversial man He was head of the Interservices Intelligence agency during the Afghan *jihad* against the Russians when he sought to militarily impose an Islamic fundamentalist government on Kabul

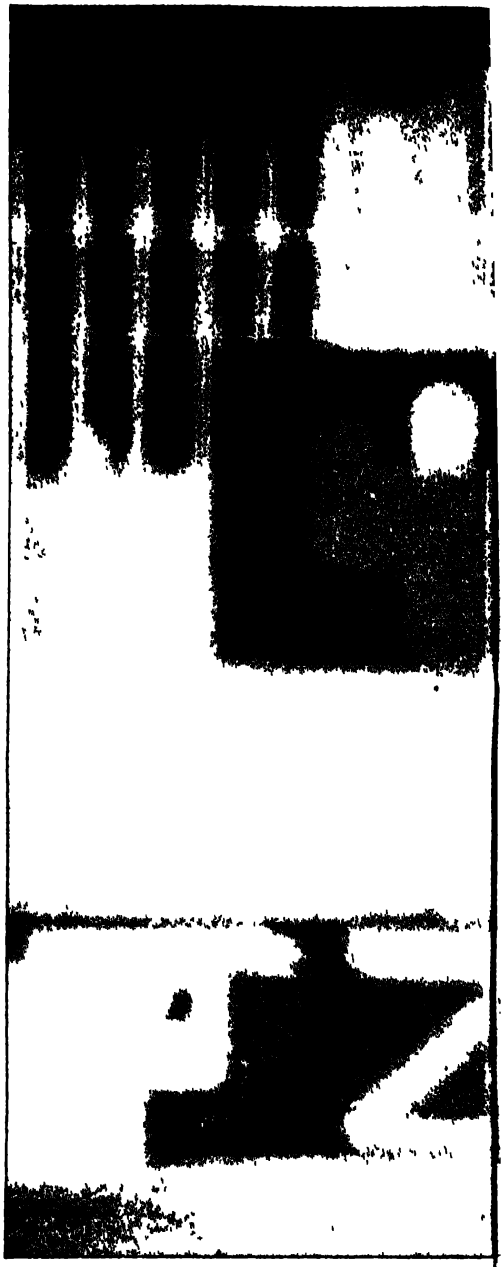
He was drummed out of the army in 1992 for disobeying the army chief's orders Since then, he has openly advocated a war against India to liberate Kashmir and says that Muslim countries from Turkey to central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan are ripe for an Islamic takeover

Playing Unicef's goodwill ambassador



Asia Features

Kamal Jutka



Striking a lethal blow

If Imran's radical utterances have electrified the streets and bazaars of Pakistan, they have also led to shock and disbelief among large, well-to-do sections of his admirers at home and abroad

Everyone wants to know whether or not Imran has suddenly metamorphosed from an urbane, Westernised, sports hero into an Islam touting, anti-West spouting icon

Does he have any political ambitions? What is his relationship with General Hamid Gul? How close is he to the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami which claims that it is supporting his endeavours? More significantly, what are the factors behind his sudden leap into the hearts and minds of ordinary Pakistanis?



Although Imran clearly loves to bask in the spotlight, he has become alert to the pitfalls of populism In an exclusive interview to the Magazine, he has denied many of the explosive statements attributed to him in the Press recently He is also playing his cards close to his chest and keeping his political options open

The more troubling and immediate question relates to the factors behind Imran's meteoric stardom Urban, middle-class people are responding to him because they have begun to despair of corrupt politicians and are rapidly losing faith in a parliamentary system which has led to acute political instability since it was ushered in five years ago



Afflicted by inflation and short of jobs, ordinary folk have become increasingly hostile to the country's



'The capitalists of this country don't feel the pain of the poor,' he [Imran] thunders, 'these wealthy crocodiles are always hungry for more, that's why I have gone to the poor for my hospital'

uncaring politi and economic elites with ostentati s lifestyles and grub by, get-rich ick wheeling-dealings In contra iran comes across as noble s, upright and bold

Th also a strong undercurrent of a vest sentiment flowing across all s and groups in the country P anis felt betrayed when the U ed States, a staunch ally for four ades, cut all economic and milita- aid in 1990 in response to the country's nuclear programme

Lack of Western support for the cause of Muslim Kashmir and down-



'I was offered a ministry by Zia-ul-Haq, Nawaz Sharif and Moeen Qureshi. But I did not accept their offers because politics is dirty business.... I do not believe in parliamentary democracy because no one can speak the truth or do any good in such a system'



Nikhil Bhattacharya

right hostility to Bosnia, in contrast to its massive response in the Middle East in 1991 when its economic interests were threatened, also rankles deeply with Pakistanis

Most people are convinced that the West has launched a fresh crusade against Islam and frowns upon Muslim cultural values The mood is one of despair, anguish and drift

Thus when Imran rails against the immorality of the West and exhorts people to take pride in their faith or attacks the 'boot-licking' attitude of local elites towards the West, his sermons evoke standing ovations across the country

Imran says he is conscious of his new standing among the people He says he will not become a pawn in the hands of fanatical religious groups or demagogues He says he has no political ambitions, apart from wanting to form a pressure group to get a better deal for the health and educational needs of the poor

But there is a steely glint in his eyes when he talks about the prospects of his 'pressure group', when he rants about the hypocrisy, degeneration and immorality of the West, when he blasts Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif for corruption and raves about the failures of the parliamentary system of democracy without offering any viable alternative

Equally suspicious is his reticence to openly criticise General Hamid Gul's aggressive views or to flay the Jamaat-i-Islami for its extremism However, the most troubling dimension to the new Imran Khan is his complete inability to offer any reasoned or well thought-out solutions to the political problems he has been so quick to identify

The man's identity crisis truly reflects that of a nation in turmoil

The author is Editor of the Friday Times, *Lahore*



'A bloody revolution never solved anything'

Imran Khan makes some points cogently only as he can to **Najam Sethi**. Excerpts from the interview

On the masses: All I've got from the upper class is scepticism while the poor have responded with such enthusiasm to the hospital—so tell me, which class should I praise? When I give these statements in favour of the *awam* it's not because I want to get into politics, it is possible to actually be touched by these people

People are responding like this to me because they are reacting against what is going on In the cities I've come across such antagonism against the PPP, people are begging me to join up with Nawaz Sharif I say I won't join him because like the PPP, he's also corrupt

On Hamid Gul: If there are certain aspects to Hamid Gul I admire, it doesn't mean I stand for whatever he says. In my opinion, he should not be talking about international issues at a time when the people in this country are going through hell

I've never said that I regard him as the biggest Mujahid of Pakistan I agree that his background is controversial But in my view, he's played a positive role in Afghanistan Look at the other leaders How can you even think of supporting them, they are traitors to this country I am prepared to say that Hamid Gul is better than the other two (Benazir and Nawaz), at a personal level and in terms of integrity

Compared to Nawaz Sharif and Benazir, I would support him any time because not only are they corrupt, they also don't have the interests of Pakistan at heart People call Gul a fanatic I'm prepared to admit that he borders on fanaticism, but at least he is concerned with the interests of this country The other two are willing to pay any price just to stay in power Of course, this is only in comparison

On politics: I don't believe in getting into a system in which you have to pay exorbitantly to get elected This means that those who get elected necessarily become corrupt because they have to recoup their expenses

Secondly, this party system of parliamentary democracy, this is just nonsense The discipline of the party system means that sometimes you have to compromise, you have to lie in public Therefore, only a certain kind of personality is suited to this system and I cannot be part of it I'm much better outside politics

I don't think there should be a revolution, I think there should be an awareness A bloody revolution never solved anything We must create a gradual awareness that these poor people are our responsibility, it is not a question of us versus them

Until the people at the top are totally above board, you can't do anything First of all, those at the top must have the will, which means they should be determined not to succumb to corruption The current leaders haven't a clue which way they are taking us.



The problem here is that the weak are oppressed, not women in particular, that is all lies. When rich Veena Hayat was raped, the government almost fell, but when a poor woman is raped, no one cares

Someone at the top has to set an example, and then, be determined to set things straight

If you paid bureaucrats a better salary, for example, they would collect taxes Their salaries are unrealistic in the first place, so they become corrupt

I don't want to talk about solutions, or what system would be best for the country because I don't want to get into politics Every government has asked me to join them and I have always refused

There is one simple thing that I have learnt from cricket never enter a match until you are properly prepared for it Opportunism is inherently disastrous If I were to enter politics, I would first equip myself to answer questions about the economy and so on I would have a team of high-powered people who are experts in their own field and would decide matters of policy There are brilliant Pakistanis around Winning an election is no big deal, the real game begins afterwards

This campaign has given me strength Now everyone is approaching me for my next project which is on education We have got some very good people We are thinking in terms of a four-pronged attack technical education, managerial skills, etc This is my plan for the future

Then we want to mobilise the youth in a literacy campaign and that is still to be worked out I want to mobilise them to go to villages and teach there in the holidays this is my plan In this way, we can activate Pakistanis into education at a mass level

Once the programme is there, anyone, whatever their ideology, can help us, we won't stop them As far as Pasban and the Jamaat-i-Islami is concerned, let me say this they can help us but they can't be decision-makers on my behalf

On women: We call our people uncivilised but I tell you that when we went fund-raising, entire streets would be crowded and whenever a woman approached to give money, the crowd would part and respectfully allow the woman to make her way People say women are oppressed in this country Well, when I said that no Western



country accords its women such respect as we do, the people would clap Why? Because they respect women

The problem here is that the weak are oppressed, not women in particular, that is all lies When rich Veena Hayat was raped, the government almost fell, but when a poor woman is raped, no one cares Think about the poor man whose wife is raped, imagine what he goes through The point is that the weak have no rights in this country.

I would like to see women have all the rights given to them by Islam In my view, men and women are equal, but different What Western women's lib is trying to prove is that they're the same They're trying to compete with men This was never meant to be, it was a complementary role and never a competitive role

The biggest damage that women's lib has done is to destroy the family All my friends in the West are divorced Men and women are supposed to have complementary roles, the basis of which is that only women can be mothers A man cannot change nappies It is not possible for a man to manage a house

If a woman wants to pursue a career then she shouldn't have children If you want to have children, then you have to have a woman at home One has to provide and one has to look after the kids and it cannot be the man who looks after the kids!

I disagree with the Western view that if a woman wears a *dupatta* on her head, she is 'subjugated' in some way I think a woman is subjugated when she's shown naked selling toothpaste on a billboard Women in the West are discriminated against much more than they are here Here, they're given a lot more respect Women here have separate queues, they are given preferential treatment

In Islam, if a couple divorces, the man has to leave the house to the woman This is as it should be I don't believe there is compulsion in religion Wearing a *dupatta* and so on, is a woman's personal choice The basis of Islam is modesty, women should dress modestly



In the West, as hemlines have gone up, neurosis in women has also increased They're all on diets and half of them have anorexia In discos, all the fat women sit on the side and get drunk and depressed If reducing clothes means progress, then that should mean that the African tribes are very progressive!

On the West People are distorting what I say I don't blame the West for anything I only blame those of us who are always licking the West's boots The West is naturally going to pursue its own interests But the point is, why do we allow ourselves to be used by them? After giving that statement on Kashmir in India, why was Douglas Hurd let into this country? He has had the worst record as far as the Bosnian issue is concerned

On why I favour the *salwaar kameez* — well, it is my responsibility to give the youth some pride, in whatever way I think We shouldn't be asha-



Men and women are supposed to have complementary roles, the basis of which is that only women can be mothers. A man cannot change nappies. It is not possible for a man to manage a house

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med of our culture All the time I have lived in England, I've noticed that the biggest compliment for Pakistanis is to be told that they look Italian

I want to tell people that as long as they are ashamed of being Pakistanis, others will continue to despair them The people that excel in this country in cricket, for instance, don't have this hang-up They are all Urdu-medium people I have been a part of the cricket scene for the 20 years that we were a team with an inferiority complex to becoming a team with self-esteem

The reason people here wear trousers and shirts is to show that they are a degree better than the common man I am ashamed to see the upper class youth of Karachi, for instance What relevance have they to Pakistan? If you left them in a village they would probably get lost, they can't even speak Urdu

I haven't rejected the West! If I was to wear trousers the next time I go to London, the masses won't reject me, I will only be condemned in drawing room conversations

I have never criticised America or



I disagree with the Western view that if a woman wears a *dupatta* on her head, she is 'subjugated' in some way. I think a woman is subjugated when she's shown naked selling toothpaste on a billboard

any other foreign country I agree that you cannot be an island. But I disagree with the contention that you have to grovel. You should have dignity For the 20 years that I have played cricket abroad, I have watched Pakistan evolve When we first went abroad, Pakistanis would say nothing other than "thank you" and "please" Now they have pride

Having lived in the West and been accepted by it, I have no inferiority complex and I accept people in the West as equals Their media has treated me very well I'm not one of those bitter Pakistanis who has been mistreated by the West Some of my closest friends are from the West

I can see their strengths and their weaknesses And in my mind, the breakdown of the family is their biggest weakness Our strength is our family system While I was in university, I read Germaine Greer's *The Female Eunuch* and thought women's lib was right I now realise that it's impractical And the limits of freedom have gone too far

For instance, I disagree with gays getting married This is against the norms of civil society I never said I was an angel But having been in two cultures I see that as a weakness now

Westerners are very clear in their vision They only worship one god and that's the material god They've never made any bones about it Their hypocrisy was exposed by the Iraq war and now it is clear that self-interest is their only driving force I accept that there is a lot we can learn from them But it should be a student-professor relationship not a slave-master one At the moment what we're doing is aping a foreign culture which I disagree with My problem is here not there

On pride: There is one principle that is tried and tested Until and unless a nation has self-esteem, pride, it cannot progress I say that we should at least try to stand on our own two feet I think there is a lot of potential in this country We are winning at cricket, squash, hockey, because there is a lot of talent in this country

England has lots of facilities, but it's not winning at anything It shows a nation that is declining, that it has lost its vibrancy In the US, the Pakistanis and Chinese are the two best academic groups Why? Because there's a lot of talent here

I say, God save us from *be-ghairati*, I'm ready to die rather than be *be-ghairat* I can't bear this culture of





Iqbal had a progressive Islam, it wasn't a fossilised Islam. And the Islam I visualise gives freedom to the minorities, it is a free Islam, a secure and confident Islam. Not a reactionary Islam

dependency They come over and we beg them and lick their boots

The only way to regain our pride is to take a cut in our standard of living Which means, probably, that we should be paying our taxes

On obscenity: I said [in an earlier interview] that having lived in the West I have seen its strengths and its weaknesses Their strengths are meritocracy, justice, human rights, and so on Their weaknesses, their biggest threat, is the breakdown of the family This is a direct consequence of immorality

Since the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll revolution of the Sixties, I myself have seen the breakdown of the family And then, women's lib, which has degraded the status of the mother, they say, why should we stay at home and look after the children when we can go out and work, too

In other words, motherhood, which is looked up to in our culture, is nothing in the West As a result, their family has broken down When men and women both go out to work, soon there is a divorce How is the home to be run? Degrading the mother's role plus sexual permissiveness have led to the mess that the West is in right now

In Pakistan, the problems are different There is still some fear of God in the masses They gave me money because of the Day of Judgment These are good people, they are not immoral Westerners would never give money in this manner because theirs is a materialistic society

We should look at Western culture clearly and decide what is worth taking from them and what isn't Unfortunately, we are also adopting their immoral side Our youth, the cream of the society, has been taken up by pop culture We have seen the results of this culture, the way in which drugs, for example, have become a part of university life there We can get the best out of that culture, but we don't have to copy everything whole hog



On Islam and faith: The only reason I have managed to survive the hard times that I've been through recently, when no money was coming in for the hospital, is because of my faith In the World Cup, too, I just had faith that we would win It is faith that carries me through

Iqbal had a progressive Islam, it wasn't a fossilised Islam And the Islam I visualise gives freedom to the minorities, it is a free Islam, a secure and confident Islam Not a reactionary Islam What people are doing in the name of Islam is not Islam, it is reactionary They're reacting against colonialism, or against a two-tier system of a Westernised elite and neglected masses

More than anything else, Islam is personal Islam gives me strength in life, direction, and it clarifies matters for me Islam can't be drilled into people Unfortunately, it has gone into the hands of those who are just not capable of convincing anyone

Islam has come to me through my experiences I didn't have any psychological problems, I was one of the most fulfilled people you'll know because I had everything in life It was a sequence of events that made me realise that this has not happened by chance Then I decided to read the Quran It says that when you give in the name of Allah, you will also receive. I made Rs 45 lakh out of the World Cup, and I gave it all away to the hospital. Now the people have given me much, much more ■

Aries

March 21—April 20



Visits and trips are on the cards Health precautions are absolutely essential While the home and office come in for their fair share of attention, the focus is likely to be on buying, selling, socialising, partying or, at least, meeting and holding talks with people

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Right upto the middle of this month, relationships and exchange of ideas hold the key to happiness The next month offers a promise of promotion, success and joy Your children could be a source of great satisfaction You could be earning a lot of money, too, now

Gemini

May 21—June 20



A great deal of bravado can be expected of you as the planets favour you immensely this week Get ready to entertain and socialise You may have to work hard, be it in business or profession, and rest assured the results will be pleasing in the days to come

Cancer

June 21—July 20



A trip is on the cards and it could include a stop-over, too Despite some opposition, it will be a good idea to let yourself go Be natural and candid The last half of the month favours that approach There are strong indications of partying, entertainment, contacts and contracts

Leo

July 21—August 21



Mortgage, buying and selling are the important trends of the week Other highlights are employment, pets, loans, funds and financial transactions There is a chance of a change in the nature and scope of your job You could also take on more responsibilities

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Heavy expenses are fated this week Important ties are strongly indicated You will be highly energetic Good luck, too, will play a significant role in shaping your week The next few days will be very decisive in terms of communication Be progressive

Libra

September 23—October 22



Those in communication, publicity, teaching, information, and news lead the way, and the rest of the world follows A week to try out new ideas and something very different Considerable headway will be made specially around the end of this month

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



This is the time to work off your steam and frustration Money comes to you by way of legacy, joint-finances, lottery, bonuses, and that should be quite satisfactory There will be improvements in your place of work Attachments and separations are foretold

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



The planets change signs and this in turn gives you confidence, making it possible for you to see the world through pink-tinted lenses This is also the time to make trips, ties, contacts and contracts Despite opposition, it would be a good idea to let yourself go

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



You will aim at comforts and luxury Many of you will work harder now, and this will hold you in good stead later Renovation, decoration, housing and, perhaps, a shift seem likely Trips and get-togethers are foretold for you this week Your homefront will also keep you busy

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



You will have to move fast now New ties and relationships are indicated You will have restrictions and greater freedom to execute your projects and ideas Journeys, collaborations and publicity keep you happy and busy throughout the week

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Renovation and decoration of your home and office seem likely Do learn to take health safeguards A journey is foretold in the next fortnight Expect visitors to play a significant role There will be a lot of buying, selling and heavy expenses this week

BIRTHDAYS

February 5: Your communication skills will give you an edge over others. Buying, selling and monetary transactions are likely.

February 6: Ill-health and family problems could take up your time and energy. Loans and funds will be available. Changes on the workfront are certain.

February 7: This could be a promising birthyear for creative people and those in business. Do take care of your health as work load will increase.

February 8: Travel, contacts, contracts, news, views and publicity seem well indicated for you. A romantic attachment for the single and fancyfree.

February 9: Your confidence in yourself and faith in the divine providence should do wonders for you this birthyear. You will move fast and gain acceptance.

February 10: Your effect on the homefront would be most pronounced. There is a risk of a major fallout with those who matter. Guard against deception.

February 11: This is the time to make important decisions. Plan well ahead in advance. Success will then be certain. Trips are on the cards.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-741	0710	3, 5	IC-742	0940	3, 5
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5, 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3 5, 7
AHMEDABAD					
M9 304/109	0855	1 3 5	M9 110/301	1900	1 3 5
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	daily	PF-706	1100	daily
[redacted]					
PF-707	1130	2, 4, 6	PF-708	1510	2, 4, 6
IC-721	1300	1 3 5	IC-722	1540	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
[redacted]					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2, 7
IC-769	1525	1, 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3 5
[redacted]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
9W-202	0920	daily	9W-201	0840	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-306	1840	5
9W-212	1955	daily	IC-274	1850	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	9W-211	1920	daily
AI-309	2035	6	D2-103	1935	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
[redacted]					
PF-707	1130	2, 4, 6	PF-708	1510	2, 4 6
[redacted]					
			IC-262	0815	2, 4, 7
IC-263	0700	daily	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	AI-682	0950	1
IC-812	1515	1, 3, 5	4S-806	1115	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1745	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	M9-301	1900	daily
IC-261	1900	2, 4, 7	S2 005	1900	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
M9-302	1930	daily	IC-811	1930	1, 3, 5
S2 006	1940	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	IC-264	2210	daily
[redacted]					
IC-703	0800	3, 5	IC-704	1430	3 5
D2-181	1135	1, 3, 5 7	D2-181	1620	1, 3, 5 7
D2-183	1135	2, 4 6	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
4S-815	1145	1, 2, 3, 4 5, 6	IC-702	1630	2, 4 6, 7
IC-701	1240	2, 4, 6, 7	4S-816	1705	1, 2 3, 4 5, 6
[redacted]					
IC-257	1150	4, 7	IC-258	1650	4, 7

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4
[redacted]					
KL-876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-703	0800	3 5	IC-704	1430	3, 5
IC-707	0800	1, 4, 7	IC-708	1430	1, 4, 7
IC-711	0800	2, 6	IC-712	1410	2, 6
D2-181	1135	1 3, 5 7	D2-181	1620	1, 3, 5, 7
D2 183	1135	2 4, 6	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
4S-812	1145	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	IC-230	1650	daily
IC-257	1150	4, 7	4S-811	1705	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-211	1240	4, 6	IC-258	1740	4, 7
IC-229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4, 6
HYDERABAD					
IC-777	1600	2 4 7	IC-778	2100	2, 4, 7
IC-769	1525	1 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3, 5
IMPHAL					
IC-707	0800	1 4, 7	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC-708	1430	1, 4, 7
IC-253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
JORHAT					
IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2, 4, 7
LUCKNOW					
IC-812	1515	1, 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3, 5
MADRAS					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1, 3, 5
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2, 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2-172	1740	daily	IC-766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3 5
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2, 4 7
IC-812	1515	1 3, 5	IC 811	1930	1 3, 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC-285	0640	3 5 7	IC-286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2, 4, 7
SHILLONG					
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3, 5 7
SILCHAR					
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC-260	1110	1, 7
IC-259	0830	1 7	IC-256	1320	3, 5
IC-253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC-212	1740	4 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2, 4 7
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5

INTERNATIONAL

BANGKOK					
IC-731	0855	2 4, 6, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1 3 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2 4, 6, 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
RO-076	2040	5, 7	RO-075	1035	5, 7
[redacted]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[redacted]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1, 2, 3, 5 6	IC-724	1520	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5
[redacted]					
IC-747	1115	1, 3 5	IC-748	1455	1, 3, 5
RA-214	1400	4, 7	RA-213	1315	4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
BA-142	2050	3, 7	BA-143	1525	3, 7
[redacted]					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
[redacted]					
KB-106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2, 6
KB-106	1300	5			
[redacted]					
SQ-415	2200	2, 5	SQ-416	2040	2, 5
[redacted]					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
[redacted]					
AI-306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Romanian Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
2311	18 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182

Up	Time	Sealdah	Time	Dn
3141	13 40	**Teesta-Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6-50	6004
8002	19-20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8-10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16-20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12-00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19-40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13-45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8011	6-15	**Ispat Express**	22-05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5-30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8-25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21-30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4-15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15-00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11-25	8018
2421	16 10	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	—
—	11 05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10-45	2422
6822	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
—	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22-15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri , Arr Tues & Fri	13-45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
—	14-05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13-45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THE NIGHT OF THE STORM

Looking back at the experience, I suppose it was the sort of thing that should have happened in a James Thurber story, like the dam that burst or the ghost that got in

But I wasn't thinking of Thurber at the time, although a few of his books were among the many I was trying to save from the icy rain and sleet pouring into my bedroom and study

We have grown accustomed to sudden storms up here at 7,000 ft in the Himalayan foothills and the old building in which I live has, for 100 years, received the brunt of the wind and rain as they sweep across the hills from the east

We'd lived in the building for over 10 years without any untoward happening It had even taken the shock of an earthquake without sustaining any major damage, it is difficult to tell the new cracks from the old

It is a three-storey building and I live on the top floor with my adopted family — three children and their parents The roof consists of corrugated tin sheets, the ceiling of wooden boards That's the traditional hill-station roof

Ours had held fast in many a storm, but the wind that night was stronger than we'd ever known it It was cyclonic in its intensity and it came rushing at us with a high-pitched eerie wail

The old roof groaned and protested at the unrelieved pressure It took this battering for several hours while the rain lashed the windows and the lights kept coming and going

There was no question of sleeping, but we remained in bed for warmth and comfort The fire had long since gone out, the chimney stack having collapsed, bringing down a shower of sooty rain water

After about four hours of buffeting, the roof could take it no more My bedroom faces east, so my portion of the roof was the first to go The wind got under it and kept pushing until, with a ripping, groaning sound, the metal sheets shifted from their moorings, some of them dropping with claps like thunder onto the road below

So that's it, I thought, nothing worse can happen As long as the ceiling stays on, I'm not getting out of bed We'll pick up the roof in the morning Icy water cascading down my face made me change my mind in a hurry Leaping from my bed I found that most of the ceiling had gone too

Water was pouring onto my open typewriter and abandoning the rest, I stumbled into the front sitting-room (cum library) only to find that a similar situation had developed there Water was pouring through the wooden slats raining down on the book-shelves



●●●

It was cyclonic in its intensity and it came rushing at us with a high-pitched eerie wail. The old roof groaned and protested at the unrelieved pressure. It took this battering for several hours while the rain lashed the windows and the lights kept coming and going

●●●

By now I had been joined by the children who had come to rescue me Their section of the roof hadn't gone yet Their parents were struggling to close a window that had burst open, letting in lashings of wind and rain

"Save the books!" shouted Dolly, the youngest, and that became our rallying cry for the next hour or two

I have open shelves, vulnerable to borrowers as well as to floods Dolly and her brothers picked up armfuls of books and carried them into their room But the floor was now awash all over the apartment, so the books had to be piled onto the beds Dolly was helping me gather up some manuscripts when a large field rat leapt onto the desk in front of her Dolly squealed and ran for the door

"It's alright," said Mukesh, whose love for animals extends even to field rats "He's only sheltering from the storm"

Big brother Rakesh whistled for our mongrel Toby, but Toby wasn't interested in rats just then He had taken shelter in the kitchen, the only dry spot in the house

At this point, two rooms were practically roofless and the sky was frequently lighted up by flashes of lightening There were fireworks inside, too, as water spluttered and crackled along a damaged electric wire Then the lights went out altogether which in some ways made the house a safer place

Prem, the children's father, is at his best in an emergency and he has already located and lit two kerosene lamps, so we continued to transfer books, papers and clothes to the children's room

We noticed the water on the floor was beginning to subside a little

"Where is it going?" asked Dolly for we could see no outlet

"Through the floor," said Mukesh "Down to the rooms below"

He was right, too Cries of consternation from our neighbours told us that we were now having their share of the flood

Our feet were freezing because there hadn't been time to put on enough protective footwear and, in any case, shoes and slippers were awash Tables and chairs were also piled high with books I hadn't realised the considerable size of my library till that night

The available beds were pushed into the driest corners of the children's room and there, huddled in blankets and quilts, we spent the remaining hours of the night while the storm continued to threaten further mayhem

But then the wind fell and it began to snow Through the door in the sitting room I could see snowflakes drifting through the gaps in the ceiling and settling on picture frames, statuettes and miscellaneous ornaments

Mundane things like glue bottle and plastic doll took on a certain beauty when covered with soft snow The clock on the wall had stopped and with its covering of snow reminded me of a painting by Salvador Dali And my shaving brush looked ready for use!

Most of us dozed off

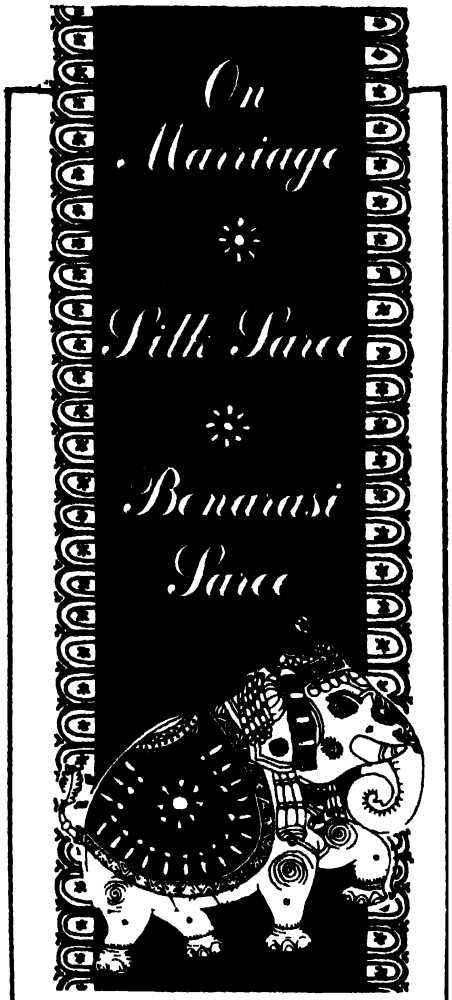
I sensed that the direction of the wind had changed, and that it was now blowing from the west, it was making a rushing sound in the trees rather than in what remained of our roof The clouds were scurrying away

When the dawn broke, we found the window-panes encrusted with snow and icicles Then the rising sun struck through the gaps in the ceiling and turned everything to gold Snow crystals glinted like diamonds on the empty book-shelves I crept into my bedroom to find the philodendron looking like a Christmas tree

Prem went out to find a carpenter and a tin-smith while the rest of us started putting things in the sun to dry out And by evening, we had put much of the ceiling back on again Vacant houses are impossible to find in Mussoorie so there was no question of moving

But it is a much improved roof now, and I look forward to approaching storms with some confidence

(Sanctuary Features)

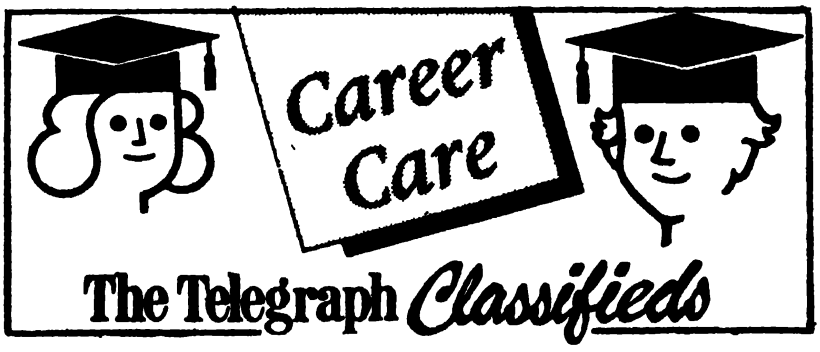


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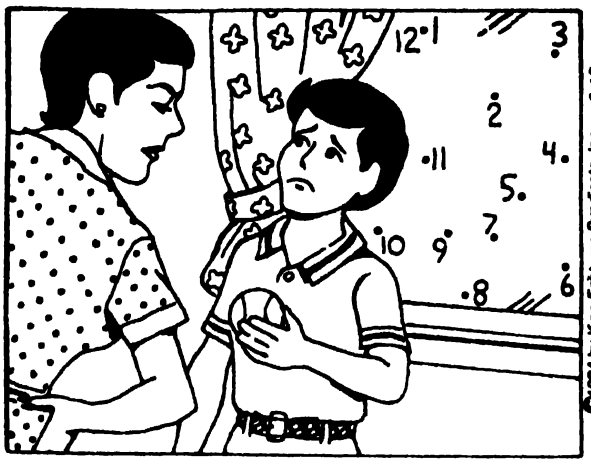
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ADMISSION OPEN

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



BREAK POINT! Mom's had it with Junior, and baseball, too To complete the picture, draw connecting lines dot to dot

SPY LINES! Spy A, after a wild goose chase, filed a one word report ALLO Spy B, pursuing a hot lead reported Mr Bigam Can you decipher the reports? No fair peeking

Spy A—Nothing after all Spy B—Am after Mr Big

1. UP __	7. DOWN __
2. UP __	8. DOWN __
3. UP __	9. DOWN __
4. UP __	10. DOWN __
5. UP __	11. DOWN __
6. UP __	12. DOWN __

UPS AND DOWNS TO PONDER

ADD a four-letter word to each of six UPs (1-6), and to each of six DOWNs (7-12), to form 12 eight-letter words in accord with definitions below

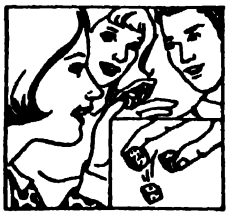
1 On a high note.
2. To modernise
3 Sustain, as a law.
4 Cost of repairs.
5 As a result.
6. Rowdy commotion.
7 Heavy rain
8. Skiing category
9 Make smaller models.
10 Machine outage
11 Reduce hoopla.
12. Lower Manhattan.

1 beat 2 date 3 hold 4 heap 5 shot 6 roar 7 pour 8 full 9 ape 10 dime 11 play 12 town. Variations are possible

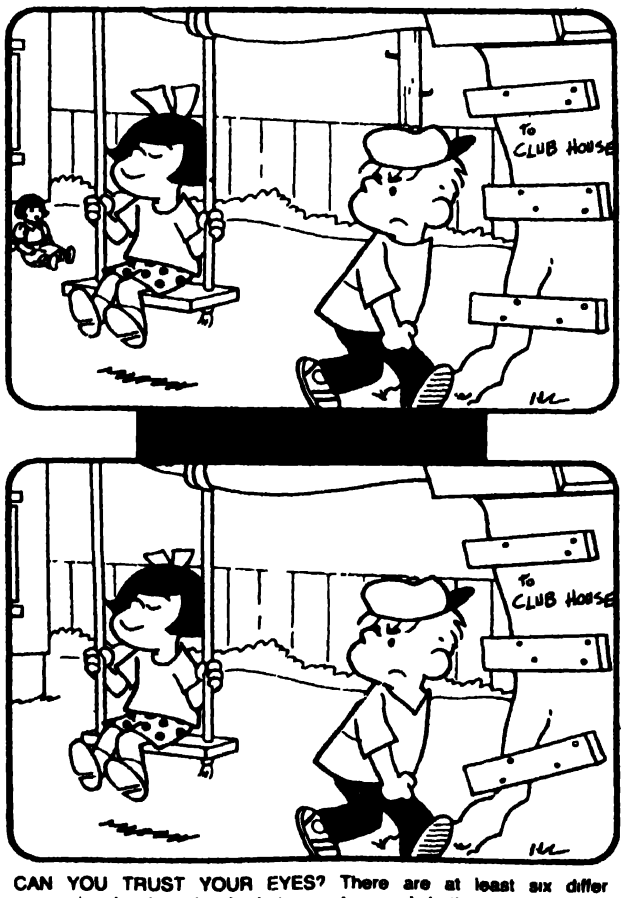
KNOW DICE! Place three dice side by side Pick up all three at once between your thumb and forefinger. Squeeze dice, ease pressure, and alakazam, middle die will fall (see inset), whereupon the other two are brought together

Secret Moisten fingers before you pick up dice Moisture and pressure will cause outer two to adhere to fingers long enough to allow centre die to drop

Give it a try



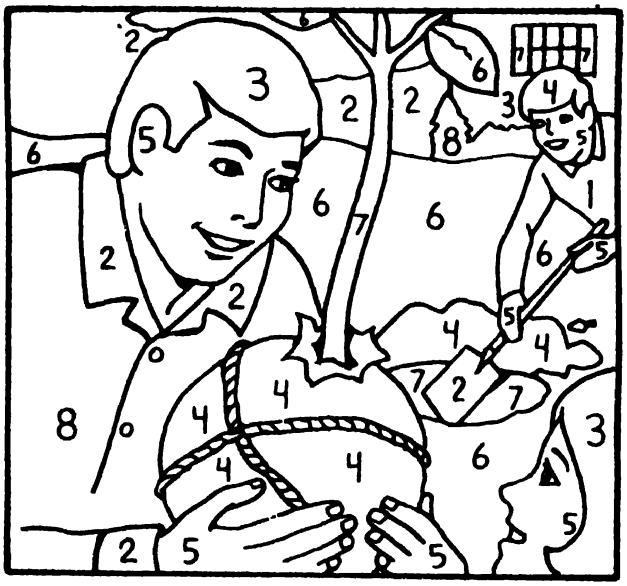
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Doll is missing 2 Bow is smaller 3 Swing seat is smaller 4 Pole is missing 5 Neckline is different 6 Tree step is moved

FUNSPOT



PLANT LIFE! Plant that tree and watch it grow Apply colors neatly by number Code 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk. blue

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

OUTBREAK

- - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

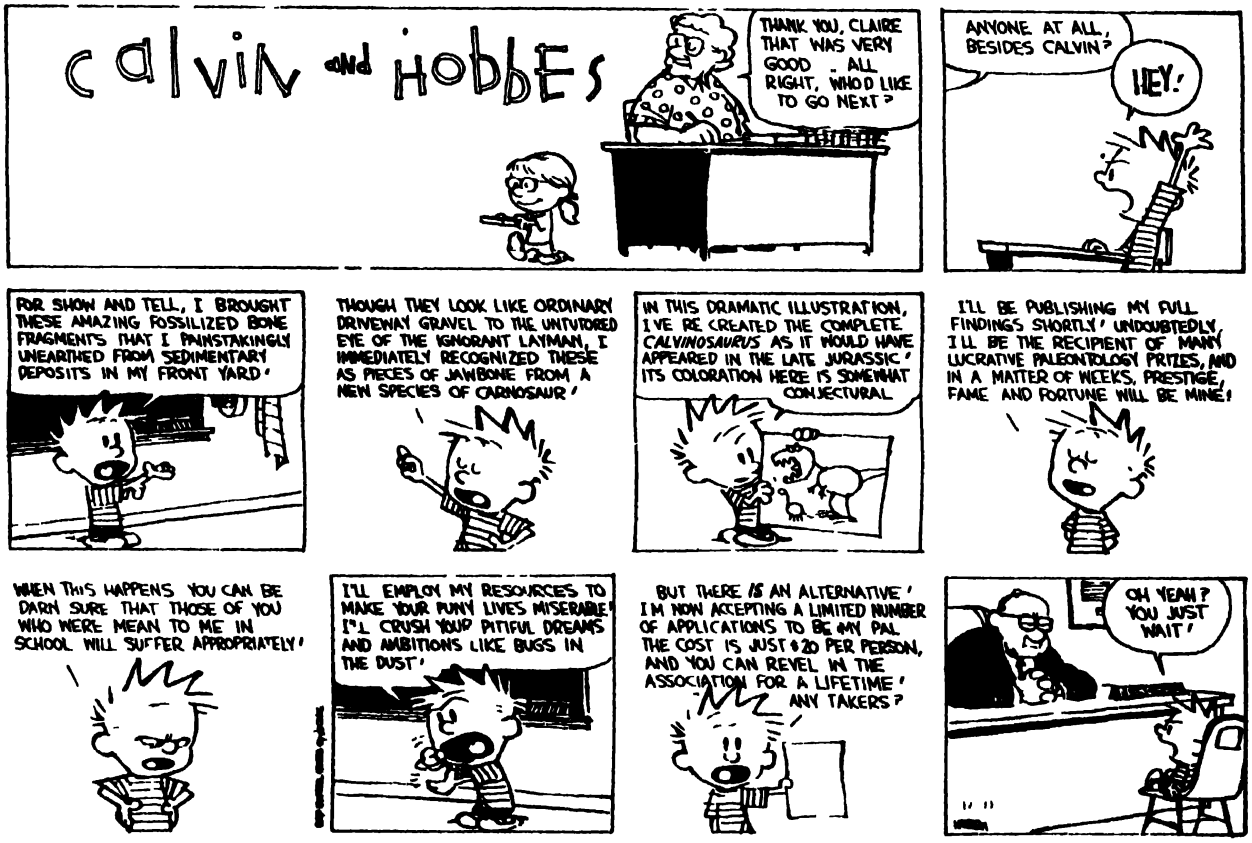
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome Fake bout

ARCHIE



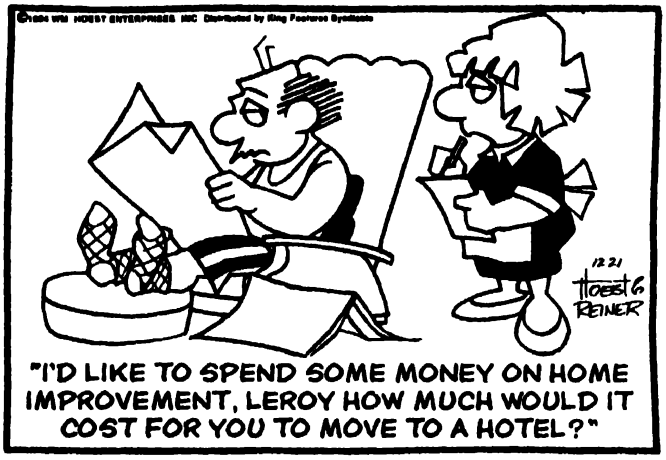
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

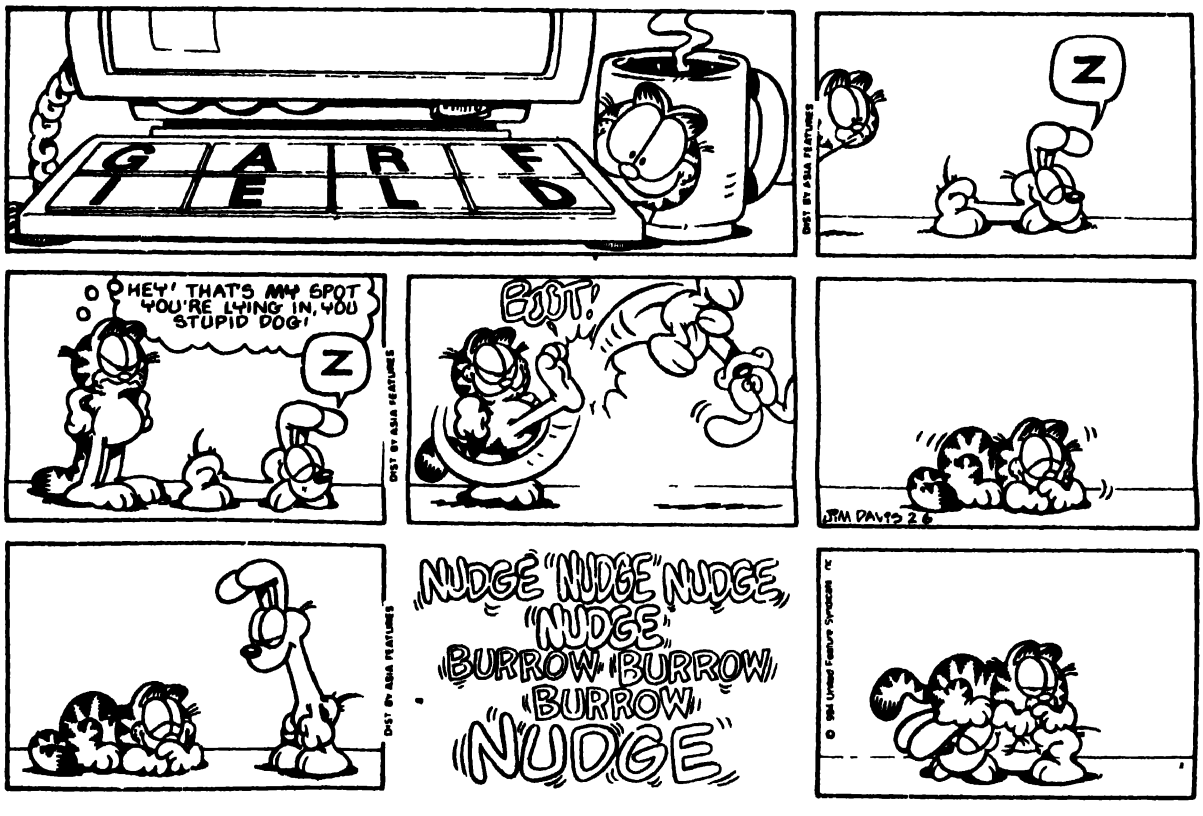








GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

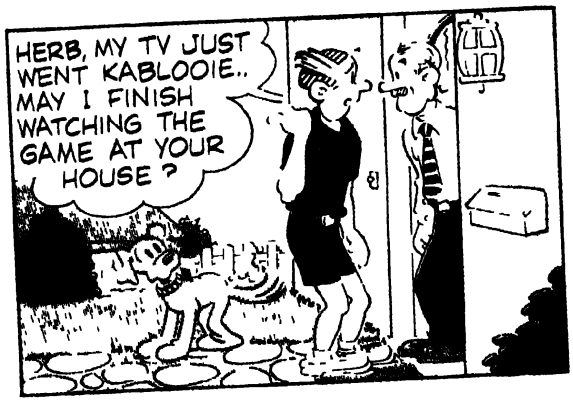


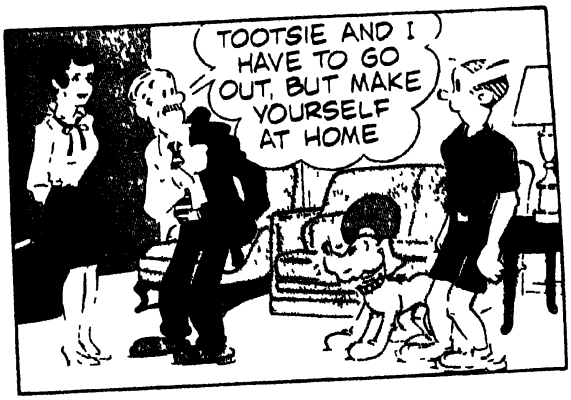
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

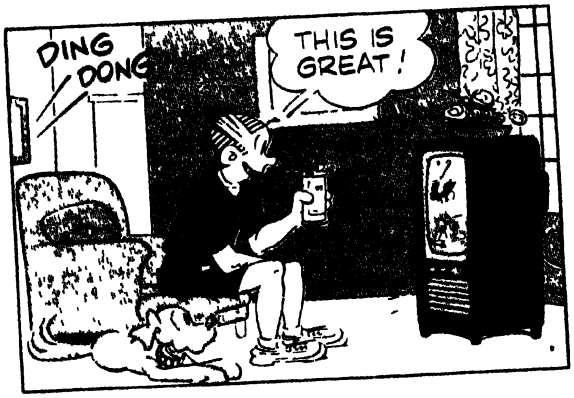


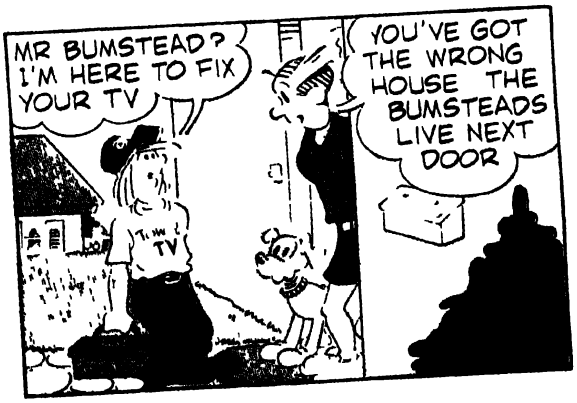
















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Miss India-Universe Manpreet Brar flanked by Miss India-World Priti Mankotia (right) and Miss India-Asia Pacific Ruchi Malhotra

The New Queens

The crowning of India's most beautiful women at the Femina Miss India contest last month was, in essence, a tribute to those with beauty and 'brains'

***Vaishali Honawar** reports*

Femina's "most historic glamorous event of the century", which climaxed with the crowning of Miss India-Universe, Manpreet Brar, Miss India-World, Priti Mankotia, and Miss India-Asia-Pacific, Ruchi Malhotra, was certainly a star-studded event

Besides the celebrity guests from the world of fashion and showbiz, you had among the judges — much to the delight of the crowds — Amitabh Bachchan himself, who seems to have made it his mission these days to be seen at public events

The contest began as a contest should, with no apparent favourites It was only after the second round that Manpreet, who is a model and an MBA student studying human resources in Delhi, set herself apart from the rest of the contestants with her confident answers

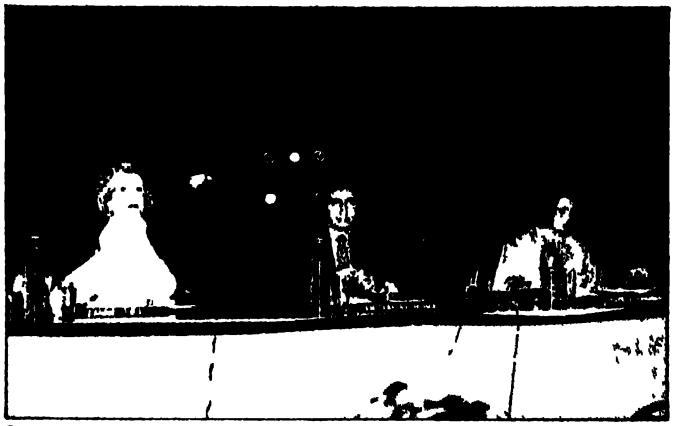
All in all, however, the show was a very long-drawn-out affair, dragging on for four not-so-exciting hours after making a start over half an hour after the scheduled time

The mosquitoes, too, seemed to have turned out in full force at the Andheri Municipal Sports Complex that Saturday evening where the 29 "beauties with brains" from all over the country vied for the crown that took Sushmita Sen to the top of the world, in full view of the country (DD telecast the contest live)

Perhaps, the only time when excitement ran high was when a small fire started close to the stage, when Amitabh Bachchan's name was announced as one of the judges, and when the reigning Miss Universe and Miss World — Sushmita Sen and Aishwarya Rai — rode into the stadium in vintage cars to crown the winners

But otherwise, there were few moments when

Rashbehar Das



Simone Tata, Amitabh Bachchan and Persis Khambatta sit in judgement

the audience was held in thrall, as was apparent from the fast-emptying rows of seats once the show had actually taken off with a Kathak fusion presentation by Aditi Mangaldas and her troupe

First came the swimsuit round after which the celebrity judges — Vijay Amritraj, Geet Sethi, actresses Sarika and Zeenat Aman, politician Renuka Chaudhury, BBC's Indian correspondent Andrew Whitehead, Lakme chairman Simone Tata, fashion designer Abu Jani and Persis Khambatta, besides Bachchan — went to work, bringing down the number of contestants to 20

The sportswear round, introduced for the first time, had the girls walking in tennis shorts, riding breeches and what have you

While the judges set about narrowing the choice further to 10 girls, magician P C Sorcar (Jr) presented a magic show which did not cast much of a spell over the audience

The next was the traditional Indian wear round which had the girls descending on the stage from either side in cage-like lifts

It brings to light the poor quality of the set which was flanked by tacky torches and had the most unimaginative colour scheme possible



Anil Nagda/Femina

Sporting spirit

A rock concert by Gary Lawyer and an unending fashion show later, the five finalists walked in, resplendent in evening gowns One question was put to all of them and "to avoid any confusion or any charges of bias" they were given one minute to write down their answers and to read them out aloud

Miss India-Universe and Miss India-World received identical prizes — Rs 100,000 in cash, a colour television, an air-conditioner, a designer wardrobe from Ritu Kumar and a host of other



Rashbehari Das

Some cheerful counselling Sushmita Sen and Aishwarya Rai with the winners



Rashbehari Das

The fashion extravaganza

prizes, while Miss India-Asia-Pacific received Rs 50,000 in cash, a colour television, a designer wardrobe from Ritu Kumar, etc

Interestingly, Femina has re-christened the titles this year, tagging on with the 'Miss India', the titles of the international contests the winners will represent, insisting it is an indication of the seriousness with which it now regards international contests

Does the fact that Aishwarya lost the crown to Sushmita before winning the Miss World anyway have something to do with it? ■

RASOI

JIGGS KALRA



There are two kinds of chefs operating in the kitchens of restaurants that serve Indian food. The *rikaabdaar jo handi lagana jante hain* and those who only know frying pan cooking. Sadly, most belong to the latter tribe. A tribe that has negated the very basis of Indian cooking. A tribe that has taken the easy way out. A tribe that believes it can cook all Indian food by mixing and matching mutually exclusive ingredients with three gravies — red, brown and yellow.

Mercifully, there are chefs — and their numbers are on the increase — *jo handi lagate hain* and take great pride in their work. Aash Mohammed, presently performing at Hyatt Regency's Dehli ka Aangan, is one. So when Team Rasoi developed the following recipes, we invited this master to experiment with us. We were simply delighted with the results.

Try for yourself and see if you share the pleasure!

BAINGAN BEMISAAL

INGREDIENTS

4 Aubergines (large round)
Cooking oil to deep fry
Cooking oil to grease roasting tray

The Filling

500 g / 1 lb 2 oz Kid mince
50 g / 1/4 cup Unsalted butter
15 ml / 1 tbs Cooking oil
90 g / 3 oz Onions
25 g / 4 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
15 g / 2 1/2 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
8 g / 1 tbs fresh Fennel
240 ml / 1 cup clear Kid / Lamb stock
150 g / 5 oz fresh Tomato puree
1 g / 1/2 tsp *Van Ajwain* / Thyme (dried)
1.5 g / 1/2 tsp Red chilli powder
Salt
24 green Peppercorns (fresh if you can obtain them)
16 Roasted pistachios
75 g / 2 1/2 oz *Paneer*
45 g / 1 1/2 oz Cheddar cheese
15 g / 1/2 oz *Khoya*
2.25 g / 3/4 tsp green Cardamom powder
1.5 g / 1/2 tsp Mace powder

The Gravy

750 g / 1 lb 11 oz Tomatoes
60 ml / 1/4 cup Cooking oil (preferably olive oil)
16 Curry leaves
65 g / 1/2 cup Onions
65 g / 1/2 cup Leeks
8 flakes Garlic
2 Bay leaves
8 black Peppercorns
4.5 g / 3 tbs *Van Ajwain* / Thyme (dried)
2 fresh Red chillies
1 litre / 4 1/4 cups clear Kid / Lamb stock
Salt
5.25 g / 2 tsp Flour of roasted gram
5.25 g / 1 1/4 tsp Unsalted butter

Serves 4
Preparation time 1.15 hours

Cooking time 30 minutes

PREPARATION

The aubergines Wash and halve. Heat oil in a *kadhai* / deep frying pan, add aubergines and deep fry for two minutes. Remove, cool, carefully scoop out the pulp, leaving half an inch, to make 'moulds' and keep aside. (Use the pulp to make *Bhartha* as an accompanying dish.)

The filling Peel, wash and finely chop onions. Remove the whiskers and the outer layer, wash and finely chop leeks and fennel. Wash and pat dry green peppercorns. (If using canned peppercorns, drain and pat dry.)

Grate *paneer*, cheddar and *khoya* in a bowl, mix well. (For cheese use Vijaya, not Amul, as the latter's flowing quality is poor.)

Heat butter and oil in a frying pan, add onions and leeks, saute over medium heat until onions are light golden, add garlic and ginger pastes, saute until onions are golden, add fennel and stir. Then

Baingan Bemisaal



add mince, *bhunno*/stir-fry for 2-3 minutes, add 240 ml/1 cup of stock, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, until liquid has evaporated Increase to medium heat and *bhunno*/stir-fry until the fat leaves the sides Now add tomato puree, thyme, red chillies and salt, *bhunno*/stir-fry until the fat leaves the sides again Sprinkle green cardamom and mace, stir, remove, adjust the seasoning (keeping in mind that you will be adding cheese later) and divide into 8 equal portions

The stuffing Put a portion of the filling in the aubergine 'moulds', cover with equal quantities of the *paneer* cheddar and *khoya* mixture, arrange in a greased roasting tray and keep aside

The gravy: Clean curry leaves, wash and pat dry Remove eyes, wash and roughly chop tomatoes Peel, wash and roughly chop onions Remove the whiskers and the outer layer, wash and roughly chop the leeks Peel and roughly chop garlic Wash red chillies, slit, deseed, roughly chop and discard the stems

Put the flour of roasted gram in a bowl, add the butter, mix until homogenous and refrigerate

The oven Pre-heat to 275°F

COOKING

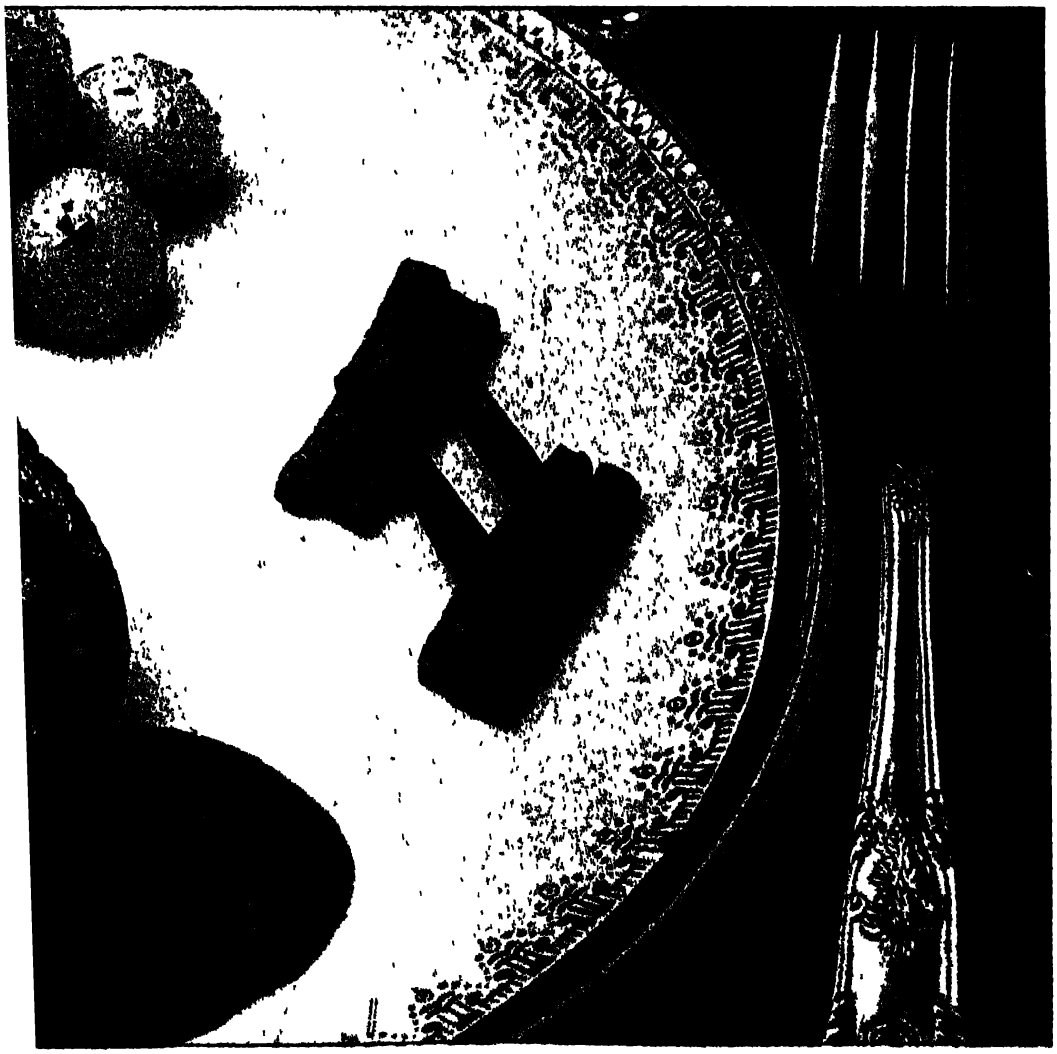
Put the roasting tray in the pre-heated oven and bake for 7-8 minutes, then turn on the top heat and bake for 2 minutes or until the cheese is lightly coloured

To prepare the gravy, heat oil in a pot, add curry leaves, stir over medium heat for a few seconds, add onions and leeks, saute until onions are translucent, add garlic and saute until onions are light golden, add bay leaves and peppercorns, saute until onions are golden

Then add tomatoes, cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until mashed, add stock, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, until reduced by half Remove and pass through a fine mesh soup strainer into a *handi*/pan Return gravy to heat, add thyme, red chillies and salt, stir and simmer, stirring occasionally until of ketchup consistency Sprinkle cardamom and mace, remove and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE

Make a bed of sauce on a third each of four plates, arrange two stuffed aubergines on the sauce and serve with sauteed potatoes, carrots and beans



PANEER KA KOFTA

INGREDIENTS

The *Kofta*

400 g / 14 oz *Paneer*
4 Potatoes (medium)
30 ml / 2 tbs Lemon juice
2 5 g / 1 tsp black Cumin seeds (*Shahi jeera*)
3 25 g / 1 tbs Coriander
2 fresh Red chillies
3 g / 1 tsp white Pepper powder
6 5 g / 1 tbs Cornflour
Salt
Cooking oil to deep fry

The Filling

60 g / 2 oz Broccoli
60 g / 2 oz Red bell pepper (capsicum)
60 g /2 oz Madras onions/shallots
10 g / 1" piece Ginger
2 green Chillies
4 Orange segments
12 Roasted almonds
1 g / 2 tsp *Marua*/Marjoram
Salt

The Gravy

50 g / 1/4 cup *Desi ghee*/Clarified butter
5 green Cardamom
2 black Cardamom
2 Bay leaves
1 stick Cinnamon (1")
200 g / 7 oz boiled Onion paste
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
150 g / 5 oz Yoghurt
60 g / 2 oz Almond paste
5 g / 1 tsp Coconut paste
720 ml / 3 cups Vegetable stock
1 g / 2 tsp *Marua*/ Marjoram
3 g / 1 tsp white Pepper powder
Salt
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp green Cardamom powder
0 75 g / 1/4 tsp Nutmeg powder



Paneer Ka Kofta

10 ml / 2 tsp Rosewater
30 ml / 2 tbs Cream

Serves 4
Preparation time 1 30 hours
Cooking time 45 minutes

PREPARATION

The potatoes Boil, cool peel, mash add lemon juice and mix well
The remaining vegetables Clean, wash and finely chop coriander Wash red chillies slit, deseed, dice and discard the stems
The *kofta* mixture Grate *paneer* in a bowl add the potatoes, coriander red chillies and the remaining ingredients, mix well Divide into 12 equal portions, make balls and keep aside
The filling Blanch broccoli in salted boiling water for a minute, drain, refresh in iced water drain pat dry and cut into the tiniest florets Wash red bell pepper slit, deseed, dice and discard the stem Peel, wash and dice onions Scrape, wash and dice ginger Wash green chillies, slit, deseed, dice and discard the stems Remove the orange segment skin and cut each into small pieces Cut almonds into flakes Put these ingredients in a bowl, add the remaining ingredients, mix well and divide into 12 equal portions
The stuffing Flatten the *kofta* between the palms, place a portion of the filling in the middle of each and make balls again
The frying Heat oil in a *kadhai*, add the stuffed *kofta* and deep fry over medium heat until cooked, ensuring they do not get coloured (approx 2 minutes)
The gravy Whisk yoghurt in a bowl Put the vegetable stock in a bowl, add marjoram, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat and simmer, stirring at regular intervals, until reduced by half

COOKING

Melt *desi ghee* / clarified butter in a *handi* / pan, add both cardamoms, bay leaves and cinnamon, stir over medium heat until the cardamom changes colour, add the boiled onion paste, *bhunno* / stir fry until specs of fat begin to appear on the surface, add the garlic and ginger pastes both dissolved in 45 ml / 3 tbs of water and *bhunno* / stir-fry until specs of fat begin to appear on the surface Remove *handi* / pan from heat, stir in yogurt, return *handi* / pan to heat and *bhunno* / stir-fry until specs of fat begin to appear on the surface Then add the almond and coconut pastes, *bhunno* / stir-fry until specs of fat begin to appear on the surface, add the reduced vegetable stock, pepper and salt, stir, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat, simmer for 2-3 minutes, remove and pass through a fine mesh soup strainer into a separate *handi* / pan Return gravy to heat, add the fried *kofta* and simmer over medium heat for 4-5 minutes Now add green cardamom powder, mace powder and rosewater, stir Remove, stir in cream and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE

Divide three-fourths of the gravy into 4 equal portions, make a bed on each of 4 individual plates, arrange 3 (not 2 as shown in the photograph) *kofta* on the gravy, pour equal quantities of the remaining gravy on the *kofta* and serve with *phulka* or steamed rice

NOTE All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross ■



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The Telegraph

POSTMORTEM

A Poet Among Politicians

■ The cover story on Vishwanath Pratap Singh ('Loner', January 15) gave us an insight into his multifaceted personality That he is an accomplished painter, a good poet and a capable photographer was a revelation

V P Singh has always crusaded for the cause of the minorities and the Dalits It was, perhaps, commitment to this cause, more than any political motive, that prompted him to lend support to the implementation of the Mandal Commission report

It is ironical that those who criticised him on this count and fuelled passions of public fury and hatred against him, were later to mouth the same sentiments for the depressed classes

Throughout his life, he has remained a man of moral instincts and honest endeavours He has never resorted to unfair means, even to grab power

And all his resignations in his long political career bear testimony to this commitment to righteous cause



Shooter

V.P. Singh A crusader forever

Actually, had it not been for the Bharatiya Janata Party, the government of V P Singh would have survived He dared to stop L K Advani's marathon *rathyatra*, knowing very well the BJP would withdraw support to his coalition government and he would have to go
Santosh Kumar Sharma,
Kharagpur

■ The cover story brought to mind a remark of V P Singh which he had made as finance minister in 1985 on his stringent measures against tax evaders

Asked if he was afraid of the repercussions, he had replied that left to himself he would rather pursue painting, photography and poetry than politics His entry into politics was accidental, he had said

He could have remained the Prime Minister of India, honourably and comfortably, had he compromised with the BJP or not implemented the Mandal recommendations

But his was a mission of principle, not compromise to remain in power
Sunil Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ The cover story expressed the actual loneliness of V.P Singh

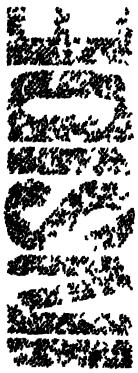
He is the best example of a politician who is secular He relinquished the chief ministership of Uttar Pradesh following an attack on Dalits and minorities

His resignation from the Prime Ministership of India was also prompted by his commitment to secularism It is a pity we do not have more such honest politicians
Biswajit Kar,
Kharagpur

■ In eulogising V P Singh as a maverick politician one should bear in mind that he was solely responsible for igniting communal passions by Mandalising politics
Manoj K. Jain,
Shyamnagar (W B)

■ The cover story was interesting, but too long V P Singh's short tenure as Prime Minister of India was disastrous and most of his political challenges proved wrong

Why does the Magazine have to give such extensive coverage to a flop politician?
Prabal Guha,
Jamshedpur





Gautam Patel

PAGE 4

THE DEFINITION of beauty has always been dictated by America But the victories of Sushmita Sen and Aishwarya Rai in two international beauty pageants last year have ushered in a radical re-evaluation of the concept of beauty

PAGE 26

A PHOTOFEATURE on the Supermodel prelim contest in Bombay
Supermodel contest

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Cover Madhu Sapre
by Madhur Shroff/*Femina*

COVER STORY

BEAUTY: TALL, DARK AND ASIAN

With two Indians winning international beauty contests, perceptions about what is beautiful are changing, says ***Amit Roy***

DO GENTLEMEN STILL PREFER BLONDES? IT'S A PERTINENT QUESTION, CONSIDERING AISHWARYA Rai, the 21-year-old new Miss World, who is very pert and very pretty, is currently doing her stuff in India.

Since her triumph follows that of Sushmita Sen, the 19-year-old Miss Universe, many people have been wondering whether in the international beauty business — and it is a multi-billion dollar business — the blonde look is being replaced by the Asian



Cindy Crawford Top gun in the world market

Some changes are certainly on the way In Britain, the current cover of *Cosmopolitan* magazine has the face of Rohini, a model whose father is Sri Lankan and mother is English

Rohini grew up in Canada and now lives in London with her photographer husband, Angus Ross.

This is the third time this year that Rohini, who has a distinctly Asian face, has made the cover of *Cosmopolitan* Since casual sale of magazines depend on their cover, Rohini is obviously regarded very much a winner She is also very much an exception

For a couple of years, a number of top modelling agencies in London, notably Models 1, have been scouting around for Asian girls but have so far not found anyone suitable.

Models 1 was keen on Mehr Jesia, the top Bombay model who twice came to London but returned home within days. Perhaps

Madhu Sapre As good as any in the West



she was homesick or missed her boyfriend

Madhu Sapre came, too, but did not click with Models 1 The view was that she looked better in real life than in her photographs

Who decides what is beautiful? And precisely, what is beautiful?

Defining what is beautiful is a lot harder than identifying who is beautiful Judging by those whose photographs appear most frequently in Western newspapers and magazines, the Princess of Wales is certainly beautiful

And so are Claudia Schiffer and Cindy Crawford among the current crop of supermodels All in all, picture editors, advertising agencies and clothes companies still believe that when it comes to selling products blondes have the biggest pulling power

To be sure, there are exceptions Naomi Campbell, the first black supermodel Britain has produced, is one Another is Yasmin Ghauri, a New York-based model of mixed Indian-Canadian origin

In London, a modelling agency called Mystique has been set up to cash in on what is thought to be a growing demand for Asian or Eurasian girls But its founder, Kay Khan, is discovering that it is still a slow process getting her girls launched

Nor is the situation likely to improve radically for Asian girls so long as American TV soaps and Hollywood are allowed to define the international concept of beauty

There can't be much doubt that it is American TV and movie moguls who have brainwashed the world into accepting their notions of beauty The evidence comes from the experience with Black judges in South Africa

Mehr Jesia Good show, too



Defining what is beautiful is a lot harder than identifying who is beautiful. Judging by those whose photographs appear most frequently in Western newspapers and magazines, the Princess of Wales is certainly beautiful

When Black and White girls were allowed to enter the same contests for the first time, it was thought that Black judges would pick Black women But not a bit The Black judges invariably plumped for blue-eyed, long-legged, blonde women The same as everyone else

Eric Morley, the chairman of the Miss World organisation and the man who began the contests in 1951, confirms that the dominating influence in defining beauty is American

"The Black judges take their opinions on what is beautiful from Hollywood," he admits

Will Sushmita and Aishwarya usher in a radical re-evaluation of beauty? There are some who certainly think so, among them Vimla Patil, who organised beauty contests in India for 20 years in her capacity as editor of *Femina*

The victory of two Indian girls is, she says, "a sign that beauty and fashion are no longer the preserve of one race"

Asia, she argues, is "looking up" in the economic sense and that "Europe and America will have to change"

Her idea of a beautiful Indian woman is fairly conventional "Sharp features, fair colour and a slight shyness and innocence Not someone who is too brassy or too assertive"

Patil adds "Beauty is a globalised concept"

But is it?

It certainly hasn't been the case with Miss World winners in the past Each year, when the contest is held, the organisation produces a glossy brochure which includes smiling pictures of all the past winners The gallery reveals at a glance that a very high proportion were blondes

Here are a few picked at random —

Miss Sweden, the country associated with the Nordic type, won in 1951 and 1952 Then there was Miss UK (Lesley Langley) in 1965, Miss Australia (Penelope Plummer) in 1968, Miss Austria (Eve Rueber) in 1969, Miss Australia (Belinda Green) in 1972, Miss USA (Marjorie Wallace) in 1973, Miss Sweden — yes, again — (Mary Stavin) in 1977 And so on

To be sure, non-white, dark-haired girls occasionally won — for example, India's Reita Faria in 1966 But between 1951 and 1989, when the contest was held in London, Eastern and Oriental girls had the odds stacked against them

And on this subject of beauty, Aishwarya takes a lofty view "Today, the concept of beauty the world over goes beyond being just pretty," she observes "You have got to think beautiful to be beautiful So it's your inner self, the way you view life, the way you project yourself "

Most of the time however, advertisers are selling a dream so that a woman's inner beauty is irrelevant

"By Indian standards," Aishwarya points out, "I am considered fair, light-eyed, light-haired That's not typically Indian "

Aishwarya is good-humoured and laughs easily when asked to compare herself to her 'rival' Sushmita

"If you compare Sushmita with me, we are quite different in terms of our physical aspects," she responds "At the same time, we are both Indian We are similar in our lifestyles, our traditions We have grown up in a particular manner which is Indian "

She says that according to some people the "dusky Indian look" has become fashionable "By Indian standards I am not dusky I am not typically dark-eyed, dark-haired and typically Indian as viewed the world over But that has not thwarted my comfortable position back home on the modelling front "

This is a reference to her highly successful career as a model in India, where she has promoted everything from soaps to saris

One of the ironies about beauty contests is that they have been phased out of many other regions of the world, including the East, West Asia and eastern Europe They have become hugely popular because women see them as a way of expressing their emancipated status

Aishwarya says she met no opposition from her family "My parents were really supportive "



Naomi Campbell Black, but Western

Her view is that "modelling is a profession like any other You are working in an industry There is the photographer, the artist, the agency, the client, the creative people, all working together to get on with the campaign

"There are contracts, legalities, the financial aspect It's pure business You have got to learn to treat it that way if you want to do it seriously If it is for a lark, a brush with fame, then it's different "

In Britain, however, attitudes to beauty contests have changed radically over the past decade When Michael Grade, now chief executive of Channel 4 television, was controller of BBC 1, one of his first moves in 1987 was to stop screening beauty contests

There can't be much doubt that it is American TV and movie moguls who have brainwashed the world into accepting their notions of beauty. The evidence comes from the experience with Black judges in South Africa

His justification was "These contests no longer merit air time They are an anachronism in this day and age of equality and verging on the offensive "

This is right on stuff Yet, contests had great pulling power once Eric Morley introduced the first Miss World in 1951 as a contribution to the Festival of Britain The following years the Americans started their own pageant and called it "Miss Universe"

Since trans-Atlantic rivalry was now involved, Morley continued with his contests which quickly became a great British tradition

While Morley became the organisational brains behind the contest, his wife Julia (who has accompanied Aishwarya to India) handled the girls Often, there were mini-scandals which helped maintain interest in the ritual

For example, in 1974, Helen Morgan, Miss UK, had to hand back the title because she was revealed to be an unmarried mother In the Britain of 1994, where one out of four births are out of wedlock, that probably would not happen

In 1980, Gabriella Brum, Miss West Germany, relinquished her crown because she had been involved in pornographic films

Were the girls exploited, as feminists often claimed? It didn't seem so

Morley's London office is lined with photographs of past winners, many of whom, he points out, turned out to be high achievers

Miss Grenada (1970) became her country's High Commissioner to Canada, Miss Brazil (1971) a plastic surgeon, Miss Venezuela (1981) a computer engineer, and Miss Dominican Republic (1982) an architect

With time, the contest changed The bikini was used in 1951 but never again Later, the leotard was adopted and showed the natural form One important concession to the feminist movement was dropping the derriere shot when girls were made to turn around for the cameras in a parody of dog shows

Between 1959 and 1979, BBC TV showed Miss World live on television The contest attracted a record audience of 27 5 million in 1969 When Thames TV took over the programme, audiences had started to decline but that was not the real reason why Miss World was dropped from television

It was simply that senior television executives, mainly men, sided with the feminists who had long argued that beauty contests were degrading



Aishwarya and Sushmita Taking on the world, together

'cattle shows'

As chief executive of Channel 4, Michael Grade declared "The sooner they become extinct the better"

In 1989, Miss World moved out of London for the first time, and for the last three years have found a home in South Africa

It cannot be any coincidence that as soon as Miss World was staged outside London, a different kind of look began to be favoured for the winner

This year, Miss South Africa, a Black woman, came second Miss Zimbabwe, another Black was fourth Aishwarya accepted her title from last year's title holder - a Black Miss Jamaica

Unlike Miss Worlds of the past, who were used primarily to sell clothes, the new title holder will work mainly for charity in Third World countries and promote an entirely different political and economic agenda

Not everyone is pleased that beauty contests are no longer shown on British television (other than on Sky, a satellite channel) One influential woman who has surprisingly never objected to them is Mary Whitehouse, long considered the moral conscience of Britain and for 20 years president of the Listeners and Viewers Association, a watchdog body for radio and television

"A lot of people do enjoy them and not just men either," she says "I can understand those who say it is exploitative But so long as the camera does not linger on certain parts of the body, I don't see these competitions as a dire threat to civilised values"

At Models 1, Jose Fonseca, one of the co-partners of the agency, also regrets the passing of contests "English TV felt it was too out of date and that it was against the feminist movement In my opinion, this view is absolutely ridiculous I feel the concept needed to be changed slightly by leaving out bathing suits and high heels As an event, as a competition, it was brilliant It's a shame it was not adapted"

To be sure, non-white, dark-haired girls occasionally won — for example, India's Reita Faria in 1966. But between 1951 and 1989, when the contest (Miss World) was held in London, Eastern and Oriental girls had the odds stacked against them

But, who defines beauty? "Photographers and magazines have a lot of influence," says Fonseca "Advertisers do, too"

This is why she thinks that the East, where economies are growing faster than in the recession-hit West, will be influential in determining what sort of girls are used to promote new products "The growth is in the East That's where the future lies," Fonseca adds

Over the 12 months as Aishwarya undertakes a programme of international travel, she — and Sushmita, as well — will have a chance to project the Indian look

Aishwarya is looking forward to it "There will be appearances, modelling, fashion shows, inaugurations"

She is candid about what becoming



Rolta Faria: Miss World two decades ago

Miss World means. "To be honest this does open a lot of avenues. You lead many years of your life within one year."

The new Miss World laughs easily and there is about her an engaging honesty. "This Miss World experience," she says, "is something I am going to treasure for the rest of my life."

But after seeing Aishwarya and Sushmita, will gentlemen still continue to prefer blondes?

The bikini was found in 1951 but Later, the leotard was adopted the natural form. important to the feminist movement was dropping the derriere shot when girls were made to turn around for the cameras in a

The American soap which is currently popular in Britain — and, one assumes, it will also get a worldwide audience — is *Baywatch*. The action does not change much from week to week. golden blondes in skimpy swimsuits are filmed running up and down golden beaches.

The formula always works So why should it be changed? So far as American soap and movie makers are concerned, blonde is beautiful. And blonde is best.

But Aishwarya has done her bit in the battle to displace the blonde look When she won, her victory was watched by a worldwide television audience of 1.3 billion. ■

EXTRACT

The Man, THE MAGIC

Extracted from Michael Jackson The Magic and the Madness by J. Randy Taraborrelli; Headline Book Publishing Plc; £6.99

BY J. RANDY TARABORRELLI

Being out on the road and forced to mingle with fans whenever he ventured out into the world — which wasn't often — was also difficult for Michael. "Sometimes, you get the real mean ones," he said of his fans. "Those who'll come up to you and say, 'Siddown! Sign this for my baby,' I say, 'I don't have a pen.' 'What! You don't have a pen? Go hunt for one.' I say, 'Oh my God, how can they be so bold and cruel?'"

"And also, it hurts to be mobbed," he complained. "Not mentally, but physically. Your body feels like a noodle, being pulled by ten different people. They don't realise it. They love you so much they just want a part of you. They say, 'I gotta get a piece of this guy, if it's his shirt, his hair, his face, anything.' There are fans who actually have pieces of my hair.

"I could go to England right now, and they'd show me and say, 'This is your hair from three years ago.' I'd say, 'Oh my gosh.' And it's sitting in their wallet. They collect *hair*. There are fans who know the back of your head, the way your body's shaped. I have walked across fans with my head totally down, and I will puff my face out so they don't know who I am — and they stop you anyway. It's amazing. I don't know how they know."

The biggest numbers of The Jacksons' show were always Michael's solo songs from the *Off the Wall* album. There were special effects arranged by magician Doug Henning. Michael seemed to disappear into a puff of smoke after performing *Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough*. Offstage, Michael also seemed to disappear. He stayed to himself, rarely socialising with his brothers or the rest of the entourage. "This is my last tour," Michael Jackson said. "I will *never* do this again. Ever."

★★★

By September 1981, despite CBS Records' best efforts to keep what had happened a secret, most industry insiders were well aware of what had happened between Katherine Jackson and Gina Sprague. Michael had made it clear that he did not want to have to face any reporters, because he was afraid that he might be asked to comment. However, the press grind would continue, Michael's wishes notwithstanding.

I was scheduled to interview Michael on October 3, 1981. My interview had been arranged by CBS Records, Michael's label. I had been warned against mentioning the name Gina Sprague or asking about what was referred to by the record company as 'the incident'. I was compiling a list of questions when the phone rang. It was Michael.

He got to the point immediately. "There's a certain way I want to do this interview."

"Which is?"

"Well, I want Janet to help."

"Help do what?" I asked.

"Janet is going to sit in on our interview," he told me. "You'll direct your questions to her, and then she'll pass them on to me. Then I'll give her the answers, and she'll pass them on to you. It's the only way I'll do the interview. I hope you understand."

It took a moment for me to digest his directions. He made it all sound so logical, I thought I had misunderstood. I asked him to repeat himself, which he did.

"Michael, I don't get it," I said. "You're giving me an interview, but you're not talking to me? What kind of madness is that?"

"It might seem like madness to you," he said. "But there are reasons

for the things I do. You just have to try to understand."

"But—" I began.

"If you're willing to do it my way, I'll see you tomorrow. Good-bye."

He hung up the phone. The discussion had ended.

The next day I arrived at the Encino home on time for the interview. "Glad you could make it," Michael said as we shook hands. He was wearing a black T-Shirt and matching jeans. His feet were bare, as they had been the last time I interviewed him two years earlier. I noticed that his nose was different, thinner and more defined since our last interview. He spoke in an odd, falsetto whisper, which seemed even softer than it had the last time we talked. He was now 23.

After Michael and I exchanged a few pleasantries in the living room, Janet, age 15, walked in wearing a red leather miniskirt, black boots, and a plaid sweater. She did not say hello. She simply sat at Michael's side.

Michael introduced me to her. We shook hands, but she never made eye contact with me. I sat opposite them.

"Now, you'll do the interview the way you promised, won't you?" he asked me.

"I didn't promise anything, Michael," I reminded him.

He rose from his chair. "Then we can't do the interview," he said.

"Wait," I told him. "Okay, let's try it. Let's start with the Jacksons' album, *Triumph*. How do you feel about it?"

Michael glared at me and nodded towards his sister. I redirected my question.

"Janet, please ask him how he feels about the album."

"He wants to know how you feel about the album," Janet said to her brother.

"Tell him I'm very happy with it," Michael said. "Working with my brothers again was an incredible experience for me. It was magical."

In Spain during the Dangerous tour when charges of sexual misconduct threatened to destroy his multi-million dollar empire



Janet nodded her head and turned to me. "He told me to tell you that he's very happy with the album," she said. "And that working with his brothers was an incredible experience for him."

There was a pause.

"You forgot the part about it being magical," Michael said to her. He seemed irritated.

"Oh, yeah, he said it was magical."

"Magical?" I repeated.

"Yes," she said. "Magical."

Michael and I stared at each other for a moment as I tried to think of another question for Janet to ask her brother. Everything I had planned to ask suddenly seemed too complicated.

The interview did not last long. Occasionally, young Janet would interject a comment. "Remember when that girl got upset because she had heard you had a sex change?" she asked Michael. "You remember what happened to her? She got so upset, she jumped out of a window. I think she died." Michael just stared ahead, not saying anything.

After five more questions — and five answers from Michael by way of his sister — I said that I'd rather not continue. "Why not?" Michael wanted to know. "Janet will tell you what happened when I visited Katharine Hepburn last month," he offered.

"I'd rather *you* tell me, M··hael," I pressed.

Janet let out a sigh of relief.

"Well, I can't."

"Then, look, just forget it. Let's just forget this whole thing."

"Okay, if that's how you feel," he told me as he got up. He smiled, shook my hand, and disappeared. Janet followed.

What was happening to Micheal Jackson, I wondered. He used to be such an adorable, happy little kid, totally unaffected by show business — or at least that was how he had seemed when he and his brothers first became famous as The Jackson 5 in the 1970s. On the day of this interview, however, he seemed unhappy and mistrustful. He had told his record company that he no longer sought direct contact with the media for fear of questions about Gina Sprague. He apparently preferred to withdraw. But when the label's executives, and Michael's own father, insisted that he continue courting the press, he rebelled. To please them, he would make himself available to the media, but to please himself, he would not have direct contact with the reporter. This tactic might seem ludicrous to some people, but desperate people sometimes take desperate measures just to make a point, especially when nobody will listen.



Diana Ross is credited to have discovered The Jackson 5

Beverly Hills psychiatrist Carole Lieberman observed, "In Michael's pretend world, he no doubt reasoned that if there was a problem with the story, he never really said anything to the writer at all, Janet did. Also, his actions were his way of distancing himself from the question as to whether or not his mother really did assault that lady. This is the kind of behaviour that, in the extreme, makes people schizophrenic."

It hurts to be mobbed,' he complained. 'Not mentally, but physically. Your body feels like a noodle, being pulled by 10 different people. They don't realise it. They love you so much they just want a part of you. They say, "I gotta get a piece of this guy, if it's his shirt, his hair, his face, anything." There are fans who actually have pieces of my hair'

Upon leaving, I met Michael's father, Joe, in the driveway. I told him what had happened. He smiled, shrugged his shoulders and said, "That's Michael."

As I pulled out of the driveway and through the front gate, I felt a grudging admiration for the way Michael had gotten what he wanted. He had manipulated the situation and made a mockery of the promised interview. I never wrote about that episode. Instead, I cancelled the feature altogether. Michael got what he really wanted: no story.

I was not the only reporter subjected to Michael's odd interviewing style. Reporter Judy Spiegelman also witnessed such a scene, and writer Steve Demorest had a somewhat similar experience. Even though Demorest was asked to direct his questions to Janet, who then redirected them to Michael, Michael gave Demorest his answers directly.

In his interview, for *Melody Maker* magazine, Demorest asked Michael about the possibility of his having children in the near future. Michael shook his head no. He'd like to raise a child, but if he did, it would be one whom he would adopt, "in the far future." He would not procreate. "I don't have to bring my own into the world," he said uneasily.

Michael continued, "One of my favourite pastimes is being with children — talking to them, playing with them in the grass. They're one of the main reasons I do what I do. They know everything that people are trying to find out — they know so many secrets — but it's hard for them to get it out. I can recognise that and learn from it. They say some things that just astound you. They go through a brilliant, genius stage. But then, when they become a certain age..." Michael paused. His face looked sad. "When they got to a certain age, they lose it."

Michael was obviously withdrawing deeper into a fantasy world, perhaps because the real one in which he lived was so turbulent and painful. The Jacksons were supposed to be a positive example to millions of young people as to what could be accomplished with hard work and family unity. Michael sincerely wanted his family to be outstanding role models. "Everybody has somebody to look up to," he said. "The Jacksons give them strong role models. People look up to us. We have a responsibility to them to lead our lives right. And we do." ■

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha hints journey time, collaborations on the anvil at least, rendezvous and conferences, efficiency in work and, therefore, good results Money will come and prestige will soar Home conditions and influences could, however, cause concern A week to reap rich rewards

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Be happy, be valiant Learn to laugh He who laughs, lasts Have faith Be brave, and that implies much can be done with your life Children, hobbies, travel, loans, correspondence and contracts are the corners which will be touched by fate now A week of achievement and joy

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Partnerships at all levels are clearly indicated Also, the focus is on the home, renovation, decoration, alteration, leasing and funding While it is good to be on the go, you don't have to be inordinately aggressive and pushy You don't need to, as money will come and deals fixed

Cancer

June 21—July 20



A week to communicate at break-neck speed, win laurels and recognition, do the impossible and yet be fully alive Sounds good Letters, calls, ads, publicity, fame, journey and an overabundance of news and views will do your heart much good

Leo

July 21—August 21



Two trends now run and may merge More income, business deals, negotiations and hectic transactions is one A creative streak running right through the week, making you very imaginative and daring is the other Many Leons will be working overtime Health safeguards are essential

Virgo

August 22—September 22



The sun-Neptune fine formation helps you to carry the battle over to the enemy's camp and score a thrilling victory It could also mean melancholy will flee, and confidence return Good things happen to you A good week to get engaged, marry and start a new venture

Libra

September 23—October 22



A lot of movement physically, mentally, imaginatively and spiritually It is this fluidity and flux which will be exciting Artists, journalists, writers, those in foreign collaboration, get ample mileage Expenses for a good cause are destined Journeys and contacts complete the scene

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Time to reap a harvest, points out Ganesha, because the sun and Uranus are in a formidable aspect for you More money, a dash of romance and good old luck, clubbing and socialising, getting engaged or marrying, are the various threads of your life Children give joy.

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



The moon's first quarter in your sign helps you to target goals, be sure of yourself, get directional ability and shoot straight, be it business, love, job or profession This is a period to get into the heart of your business or job and score heavily

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



Inspirational moves and intuitive flashes fuse with cold logic, giving you a great natural advantage over others It will help you to deal properly Around February 14, you should experience sweet satisfaction, be it in romance, business, social whirligig, or through children

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



The luck of the draw will favour you, thanks to the moon's quarter That means friendship, favours, interviews, appointments, behind-the-scene activities, negotiations, funding, loaning, capital formation, a house move and an important journey with many spin-offs

Pisces

February 19—March 20



This is very definitely the time to flow with the current, rather than take a stiff, rigid, unbending attitude, as your relationships will determine your happiness An engagement, marriage, collaborations, business and professional partnerships, and journey are foretold

BIRTHDAYS

distinct possibility.

February 16: Venus-Saturn in excellent placing leads to solid foundation for wealth and security. Those in industry, [illegible] sales and distribution do well.

February 17: Moon trines Uranus-Neptune and that could bring about good fortune, often in a sudden and [illegible] manner. It could also mean rewards.

February 18: The moon tenders Jupiter, thus giving you opportunities for advancement in life. It could also mean wealth and joy. Children give delight.

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

BEHIND THE FINCH BEAKS

To write an adventure story about a couple who spent 20 years of their lives measuring finches' bills seems a tall order

But Jonathan Weiner, with his book, *The Beak of the Finch*, has done just that The beaks in question are in the Galapagos islands and the couple are Peter and Rosemary Grant.

It says a lot for the British character that these two extraordinarily eccentric people are English — and a lot for the state of British higher education that they do their research and teach in American universities

But what led them to that remote archipelago, and to all those beaks?

The Galapagos are a hot, inhospitable set of islands off Central America When the third bishop of Panama was blown off course in the 16th century, he described the archipelago by saying, "It looked as if God had caused it to rain stones "

When Darwin landed there on his famous Voyage of the Beagle, he was astounded to see a whole array of species he had never seen before, including a lot of small birds so tame you could swat them dead with your hat

These were the islands which Darwin later wrote were the "origin of all my views" — the source of the theory of evolution

The finches specially fascinated him He wrote, "In the 13 species of ground finches, a nearly perfect gradation may be traced, from a beak extraordinarily thick to one so fine, that it compares to that of a warbler "

He then went on to give his first published hint of what was then his secret theory, "One might really fancy that, from an original paucity of birds in his archipelago, one species has been taken and modified for different ends "

Darwin didn't stay long in the Galapagos He shot some finches, stuffed them (a skill he'd learned from an American ex-slave) and took them back home

He never even saw Daphne Major, the tiny island where Rosemary and Peter Grant and the rest of their Finch Unit have spent 20 years of research

He never realised the potential of what have since been known as Darwin's finches, with their tool kit of 13 different beaks

Daphne Major has no shores, just sheer cliffs Nobody had ever dreamed of living there But inaccessibility guaranteed the Grants a remarkable wild laboratory in which to start from where Darwin left off

To reach the island they have to circle it in a small rowing boat until they come to a tiny ledge the size of a doormat and covered with barnacles

The swell of the Pacific Ocean lifts the boat high above the ledge, and then dips to a level way below it The trick is to jump at the right time to make contact with the doormat ledge. From there it's still a steep climb to the top — and all supplies have to be transferred from the rowing boat to the doormat

These supplies even include great casks of drinking water — there is no source of fresh water on the island

The island is home for cactus finches, which live, breed, eat and drink from cactuses, and seed-eating ground finches The Grants have known every one of them for 20 generations

They know exactly which finch

Darwin didn't stay long in the Galapagos. He shot some finches, stuffed them (a skill he'd learned from an American ex-slave) and took them back home. He never even saw Daphne Major, the tiny island where Rosemary and Peter Grant and the rest of their Finch Unit have spent 20 years of research. He never realised the potential of what have, since, been known as Darwin's finches, with their tool kit of 13 different beaks



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Evolution isn't just fast, it changes direction, and one evolutionary process can cancel out another. So evolution, it seems, is like a volcano. From a distance it looks calm, with just a plume of smoke above the horizon, but close up, it is boiling with activity

●●●

begat which, which offspring lived and which died Each has been mist-netted Or trapped A sample drop of blood has been taken from each of one and the exact dimensions of their beaks measured to within a fraction of a millimetre

Their songs have been recorded and even their food noted The island has been divided into a grid and the size, quantity and species of seeds in each square carefully sifted out of the soil. The result of this elaborate and time-consuming data collection has been to prove that evolution works a lot faster than Darwin ever imagined.

For him, evolution was too slow a process to watch Later, scientists concurred and developed a unit for evolution called, funnily enough, the darwin

The darwin is a rate of change of one per cent every million years Looking solely at changes in fossils this seemed a reasonable rate for evolution — but the Finch Unit showed their birds were evolving at a rate of 25,000 darwins.

Natural selection was on the rampage A severe drought reduced the number of finches of one species by 85 per cent The birds which survived were the ones with larger beaks because the few remaining seeds were hard and needed bigger beaks to crack them. The difference of half a millimetre in beak size meant life or death for the finches

The drought decimated the female finches, which were generally smaller than the males. Then came the rain and the remaining females favoured larger males to mate with and in turn bore fledglings which had beaks five per cent larger than those born two generations previously The whole species had changed

The drought was followed by a tremendous tropical storm called El Nino — the child — which inundated the island, created a vegetation explosion and drove the finches into a breeding frenzy One female laid 29 eggs in 7 clutches in just one season.

The population boomed but the rains were not repeated There were not enough seeds to go round and those that were left were mainly small, opened more easily with a smaller beak. Smaller beaks survived and bred Evolution isn't just fast, it changes direction, and one evolutionary process can cancel out another

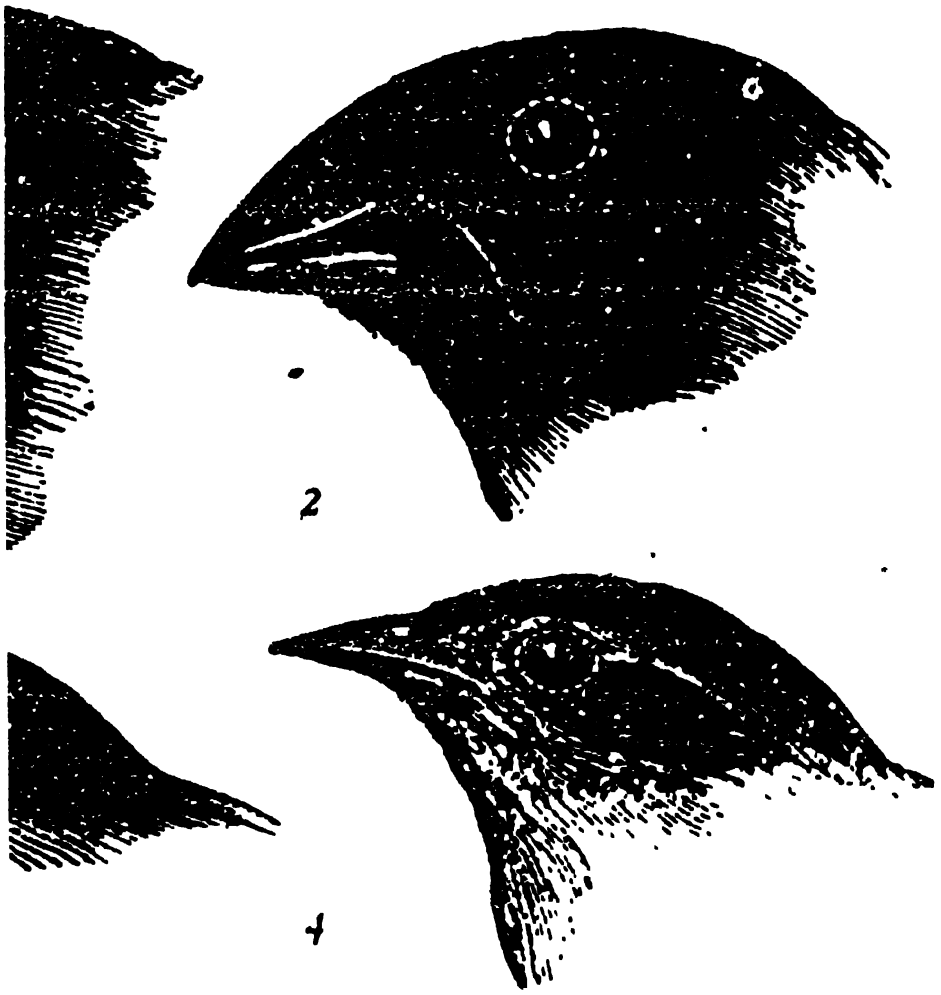
So evolution, it seems, is like a volcano From a distance it looks calm, with just a plume of smoke above the horizon, but close up, it is boiling with activity

Many more discoveries came out of the research but perhaps the most fascinating was when the Finch Unit fed all possible data into a computer and asked the computer to design an ideal ground-finch beak for life on the Galapagos

The computer analysed and came up with not one, but, three ultimate designer beaks — identical to those three different species of ground finches Every finch had found a logical niche for itself

(The Beak of the Finch ,Evolution in Real Time by Jonathan Weiner, Rupa, Rs 572)

(Sanctuary Features)



Four of Darwin's finches from the *Journal of Researches*

[redacted] TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

[redacted] FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted] KHAJURAHO					
IC-741	0710	3, 6	IC-742	0940	3, 6
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5, 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3, 5, 7
[redacted]					
M9-304/109	0855	1 3 5	M9-110/301	1900	1, 3 5
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2, 4, 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-721	1300	1, 3, 5	IC-722	1540	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
[redacted]					
IC-544	1115	2, 7	IC-543	1035	2, 7
IC-769	1525	1, 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
9W-202	0920	daily	9W-201	0840	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-306	1840	5
9W-212	1955	daily	IC-274	1850	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	9W-211	1920	daily
AI-309	2035	6	D2-103	1935	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
[redacted]					
			IC-262	0615	2, 4, 7
IC-263	0700	daily	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	AI-682	0950	1
IC-812	1515	1, 3, 5	4S-806	1115	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1745	1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6	M9-301	1900	daily
IC-261	1900	2, 4, 7	S2 005	1900	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
M9-302	1930	daily	IC-811	1930	1, 3, 5
S2 006	1940	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	IC-264	2210	daily
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3, 5	IC-704	1430	3, 5
IC-703	0800	3, 5	D2-181	1620	1, 3, 5, 7
D2-181	1135	1, 3, 5, 7	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
D2-183	1135	2, 4, 6	IC-702	1630	2, 4, 6, 7
4S-815	1145	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4S-816	1705	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-701	1240	2 4, 6, 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-257	1150	4, 7	IC-258	1650	4, 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	IC-712	1410	2, 6
PF-737	0730	3, 5	IC-704	1430	3 5
PF-705	0730	2, 4, 6, 7	IC-708	1430	1, 4, 7

[redacted] FLIGHTS

[redacted]					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4
[redacted]					
KL-876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC-703	0800	3, 5	PF-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
IC-707	0800	1, 4, 7	D2-181	1620	1, 3, 5, 7
IC-711	0800	2, 6	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
D2-181	1135	1, 3, 5, 7	IC-230	1650	daily
D2-183	1135	2, 4, 6	4S-811	1705	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
4S-812	1145	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	PF-736	1730	1
IC-257	1150	4, 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-211	1240	4, 6	IC-258	1740	4, 7
IC-229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4, 6
[redacted] HYDERABAD					
IC-777	1500	2, 4, 7	IC-778	2005	2, 4, 7
IC-769	1525	1, 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3, 5
[redacted] IMPHAL					
IC-707	0715	1, 4, 6	IC-256	1320	3, 5
IC-255	0830	3, 5	IC-708	1345	1 4 6
IC-253	1100	2, 6	IC 254	1550	2 6
[redacted] JORHAT					
IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2, 4 7
[redacted] LUCKNOW					
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
[redacted] MADRAS					
IC-542	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-541	1030	1, 3 5
IC-544	1115	2, 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2-171	1045	daily
D2-172	1740	daily	IC-766	2220	daily
[redacted] NAGPUR					
IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3, 5
[redacted] PATNA					
IC-249	1430	2, 4, 7	IC-249	1805	2 4, 7
IC-812	1515	1, 3, 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
[redacted] PORT BLAIR					
IC-285	0640	3, 5, 7	IC-286	1100	2, 4 6
[redacted] RANCHI					
IC-249	1430	2, 4, 7	IC-249	1805	2, 4, 7
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2 2 6 7	PF-706	1510	2 4, 6, 7
[redacted]					
IC-255	0830	3, 5	IC-260	1110	1, 7
IC-259	0830	1, 7	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-253	1100	2, 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC-212	1740	4, 6
[redacted]					
IC-213	0910	2, 4, 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-542	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-541	1030	1 3, 5

[redacted] INTERNATIONAL

[redacted]					
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 6, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 6, 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
[redacted]					
RO-076	2040	5, 7	RO-075	1035	5, 7
[redacted]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[redacted]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5
[redacted]					
IC-747	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-748	1455	1, 3, 5
RA-214	1400	4, 7	RA-213	1315	4, 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
BA-142	2050	3, 7	BA-143	1525	3, 7
[redacted]					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
[redacted]					
KB-106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2, 6
KB-106	1300	5			
[redacted]					
SQ-415	2200	2	SQ-416	2040	2, 5
[redacted]					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	7-20	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20-35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13-00	3004
2381	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303		**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon, Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10-45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues, Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11-35	3074
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4-30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9-45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15-30	3050
3039	21-00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5-20	3040
3019	16-05	**Kathgodam Express**	11-55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5-00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday, Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri, Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6-50	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed, Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4-50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6-50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express** Dep Mon, Tues, Wed Thurs, Fri & Sun Arr Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7-15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5-15	3154
5683	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5684
3151	11-45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-55	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	3104
5185	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4-25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19-20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8-10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16-20	8029
2841	14-10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12-00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday, Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8-10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22-35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6-15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21-40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22-15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4-15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16-40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	—
—	11-05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22-35	**Guwahati - Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
—	14-05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	—
6316	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri, Arr Tues & Fri	13-45	6315
6520	22-35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203466-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

IN THE RUINS OF FOX-BURN

In spite of the frenetic building activity in most hill-stations, there are still a few ruins to be found on the outskirts Neglected old bungalows that have fallen or been pulled down, and which now provide shelter for bats, owls, stray goats, itinerant sadhus, and sometimes the restless spirits of those who once dwelt in them

One such ruin is Fox-Burn, but I won't tell you exactly where it can be found, because I visit the place for purposes of meditation (or just plain contemplation) and I would hate to arrive there one morning to find about 50 people picnicking on the grass

And yet it did witness a picnic of sorts the other day, when the children accompanied me to the ruin They had heard it was haunted, and they wanted to see the ghost.

Rakesh is 12, Mukesh is six and Dolly is four and they are not afraid of ghosts I should mention here that before Fox-Burn became a ruin back in the Forties, it was owned by an elderly Englishwoman, Mrs Williams, who ran it as a boarding house for several years

In the end, poor health forced her to give up this work and during her last years she lived alone in the huge house, with just a *chowkidar* to help Her children who had grown up on the property, had long since settled in faraway lands

When Mrs Williams died, the *chowkidar* stayed on for some time until the property was disposed of but he left as soon as he could Late at night there would be a loud rapping on his door and he would hear the old lady calling out "Shamsher Singh, open the door! Open the door, I say, and let me in!"

Needless to say, Shamsher Singh kept the door firmly closed He returned to his village at the first opportu-



nity. The hill-station was going through a slump at the time and the new owners pulled the house down and sold the roof and beams as scrap.

"What does Fox-Burn mean?" asked Rakesh, as we climbed the neglected, overgrown path to the ruin

"Well, Burn is a Scottish word meaning stream or spring. Perhaps there was a spring here once If so, it dried up long ago"

"And did a fox live here?"

"Maybe a fox came to drink at the spring There are still foxes living on the mountain. Sometimes, you can see them dancing in the moonlight"

Passing through a gap in the wall we came upon the ruins of the house In the bright light of the summer morning, it did not look in the least spooky or depressing A line of Doric pillars were all that remained of what must have been an elegant porch and verandah Beyond them, through the deodars, we could see the distant snows It must have been a lovely spot in which to spend the better part of one's life No wonder Mrs Williams wanted to come back

The children were soon scampering about on the grass, whilst I sought shelter beneath a huge chestnut tree

There is no tree as friendly as a chestnut, specially in summer when it is in full leaf The slightest breath of wind makes the leaves break into conversation and their rustle is a cheerful sound, unlike the pine trees in the wind

Mukesh discovered an empty watertank and Rakesh suggested that it had once fed the burn that no longer existed Dolly busied herself making nosegays with the daisies that grew wild in the grass

Rakesh looked up suddenly, he pointed to a path on the other side of the ruin, and exclaimed, "Look, what's that? Is it Mrs Williams?"

"A ghost!" said Mukesh excitedly

But it turned out to be the local washerwoman, a large white bundle on her head, taking a short-cut across the property A more peaceful place could hardly be imagined until a large black dog, a Spaniel of sorts, arrived on the scene.

He wanted someone to play with — indeed, he insisted on playing — and ran circles round us until we threw sticks for him to fetch and fed him half our sandwiches

"Whose dog is it?" asked Rakesh

"I've no idea"

"Did Mrs Williams keep a black dog?"

"Is it a ghost dog?" asked Mukesh

"It looks real to me," I said

"And it's eaten all my biscuits," said Dolly.

"Don't ghosts have to eat?" asked Mukesh

"I don't know, we'll have to ask one"

"It can't be any fun being a ghost if you can't eat," declared Mukesh

The black dog left us as suddenly as he had appeared and as there was no sign of an owner, I began to wonder if he had not, after all, been an apparition A cloud covered the sun and the air grew chilly

"Let's go home," said Mukesh

"I'm hungry," said Rakesh

"Come along, Dolly," I called But Dolly couldn't be seen

We called out to her and looked behind trees and pillars, certain she was hiding from us Almost five minutes passed in searching for her, and a sick feeling of apprehension was coming over me when Dolly emerged from the ruins and started running towards us

"Where have you been?" we demanded, almost with one voice

"I was playing in there — in the old house — playing hide and seek"

"On your own?"

"No, there were two children" A boy and a girl They were playing too"

"I haven't seen any children," I said

"They've gone now"

"Well, it's time we went too"

We set off down the winding path, with Rakesh leading the way, then had to wait because Dolly had stopped and was waving to someone.

"Who are you waving to Dolly?"

"To the children"

"Where are they?"

"Under the chestnut tree"

"I can't see them Can you see them Rakesh? Can you Mukesh?"

Rakesh and Mukesh said they couldn't see any children But Dolly was still waving

"Goodbye," she called

"Goodbye!"

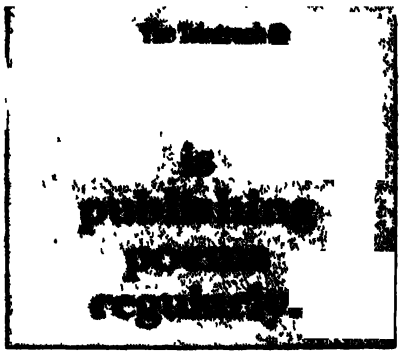
Were there voices in the wind? Faint voices calling goodbye?

"We can't see anyone," I said

"No, but they can see me!"

Then she left off her game and joined us, and we ran home laughing Mrs Williams may not have revisited her old house that day, but perhaps her children had been there, playing under the chestnut tree they had known so long ago

(Sanctuary Features)



JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems. All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and **not** to The Telegraph. Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned.** All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates. No enquiries will be solicited

Fill in the coupon below and send with your contribution

___ Block letters please .

Name_____

Age_

Address_

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Durga

Swathed in yards of synthetic red raiments,
Awash in the haze of an unsure lumionsity.
More like a reluctant witness to our deeds—
Perpetually poised to strike at monsters,
Armed with deadly arms and a divine wrath—
Kill, Mother, tear asunder our black heart,
Out with thy deadly arms and divine wrath
Inured and immobilised you stand and stare,
Like a hapless onlooker, as we sink deep
Overcome by dark passions, into dark and
Vile labrynth of our darkened souls,
And yet you stand oblivious, uncaring
Or, has our evil surpassed our inhumanity,
Undone your power to undo the evil in us?

H. Rajendra Prasad

Bird on the Wall

Days of fever,
Pills and bitter taste
Are over
Morning

I sit on the verandah
Of my house
Watching a bird on
The wall chirping
It seems to
Welcome me back to life

Lively bird,
It doesn't know that
It has made me happy
Watching it
I wonder how can it
Just live a life
Without any wish
To make someone happy.

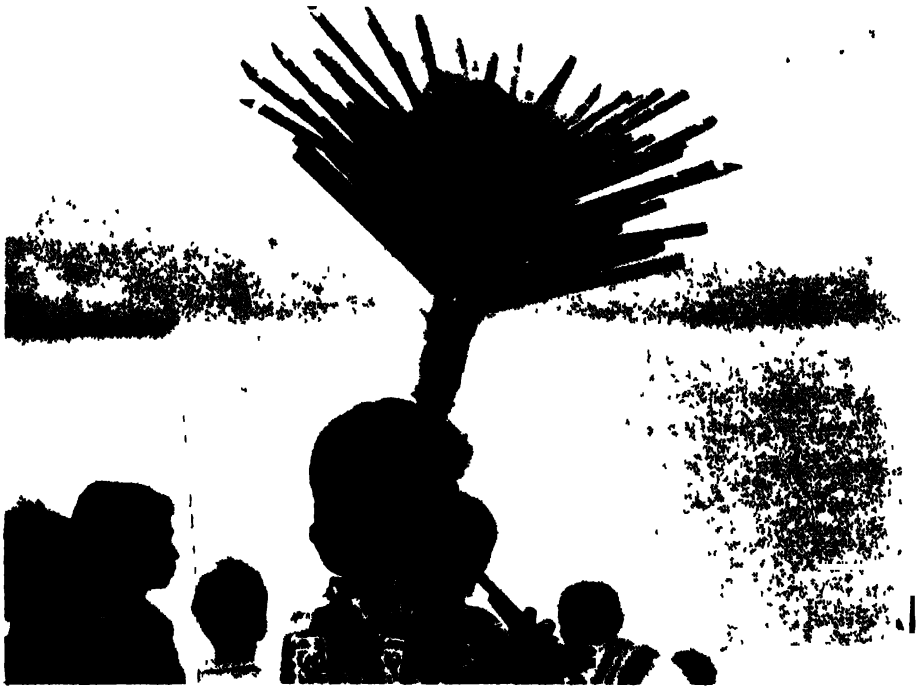
K. Ramesh

The Course it Takes

Now if I think
I think of things not mine
and I do not know of it
at the time it's happening
I have come to it
drifting as a sub-continent
I cannot wrest myself free from it.
a dry leaf, perched on a stream
and desperately seeking a naive bend
I am yet to know where I am heading

But this much I know this thing wafting me
has already made me its victim.
No longer can I ask, nor answer, questions
This thing runs into its kind
of untramelled water and wind.
This thing now quickens its steps
to touch the head of its shadow,
now walks ahead of me
playing with water;
its mouth a dark suture

Rabindra K. Swain



Far Away After an Earthquake

A giggle in the sky

While digging
the crumbled concretes
and powdered mud walls
saw a cry escaping into a placid sky

The earth wriggled
ripples on her belly.
Lives crushed into death

I walked along the road
listening to the people's talk,
never read a newspaper
but
couldn't help watching a TV report

Eyes dry of tears
hearts ignorant of the reason
behind the divine temper
diviners suggested remedies
astrologers proud of precision.

I watched
the drumsticks swaying
in frail branches
and palm trees
madly shaking their fronds.

M. Sabin

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN

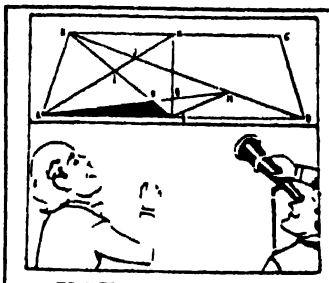


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FIND TWINS! Two of nine perfume bottles seen above look enough alike to be twins Which two is for you to decide

LOOSE CHANGE! Find the name of a current U S coin among consecutive letters of each sentence 1 Cedric entered the race 2 Di met with friends 3 Nick Ellen and Sue left 4 Your oil is down a quart Enn

1 Cent 2 Dime 3 Nickel 4 Quarter



BLACK HOLE SKY SCAN

THERE appears to be a triangular black hole (or something) in the section of sky formed by the trapezoid ABCD shown above

Question Of how many triangular components of the overall area is the black triangle a part? Do you say 4, 6, 8, 10?

Study the figure carefully, then list triangles in which black segment is found (Triangles may vary in size and shape)

When your list is complete, compare it with answer given below

Time limit for your space probe is just two minutes

No fair peeking below

Triangle AEF appears in eight other triangles ACE AHE, AHD AIE AJD, AKE ABE, ABD

FULL HOUSE! Names of eight pieces of furniture are contained in the letter maze provided below You are invited to trace these names letter by letter in the following continuous order

Table, desk, chair, lamp, bed, mirror, sofa, piano.

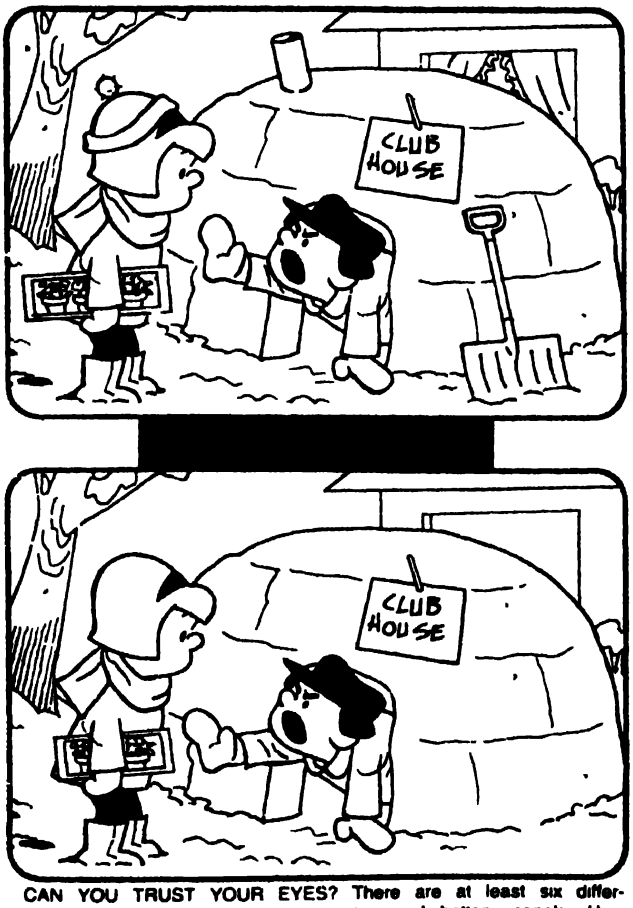
Begin at T in top left corner and proceed to adjacent letters, horizontally, vertically, or diagonally

Each letter in the diagram is to be used just once

Time limit Two minutes

T	A	O	N	O	S
L	B	A	P	F	R
D	E	I	A	R	O
E	S	K	R	I	M
H	C	R	P	B	D
A	I	L	A	M	E

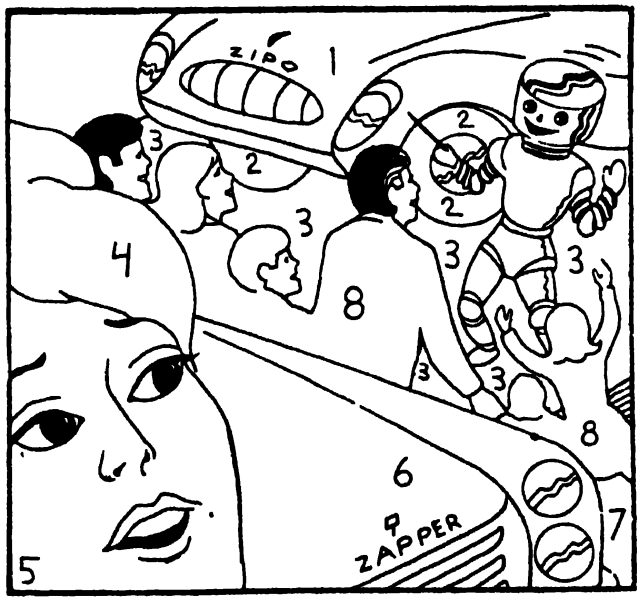
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Cap is missing 2 Picture is smaller 3 Chimney is missing 4 Arm is moved 5 Curtains are missing 6 Shovel is missing

FUNSPOT



SHOW CASE! Rova the Robot is a hit at the car show Add the following colors neatly. 1—Red 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green 7—Dk. brown 8—Lt purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

HEPTAGON

- - - - - - - - -

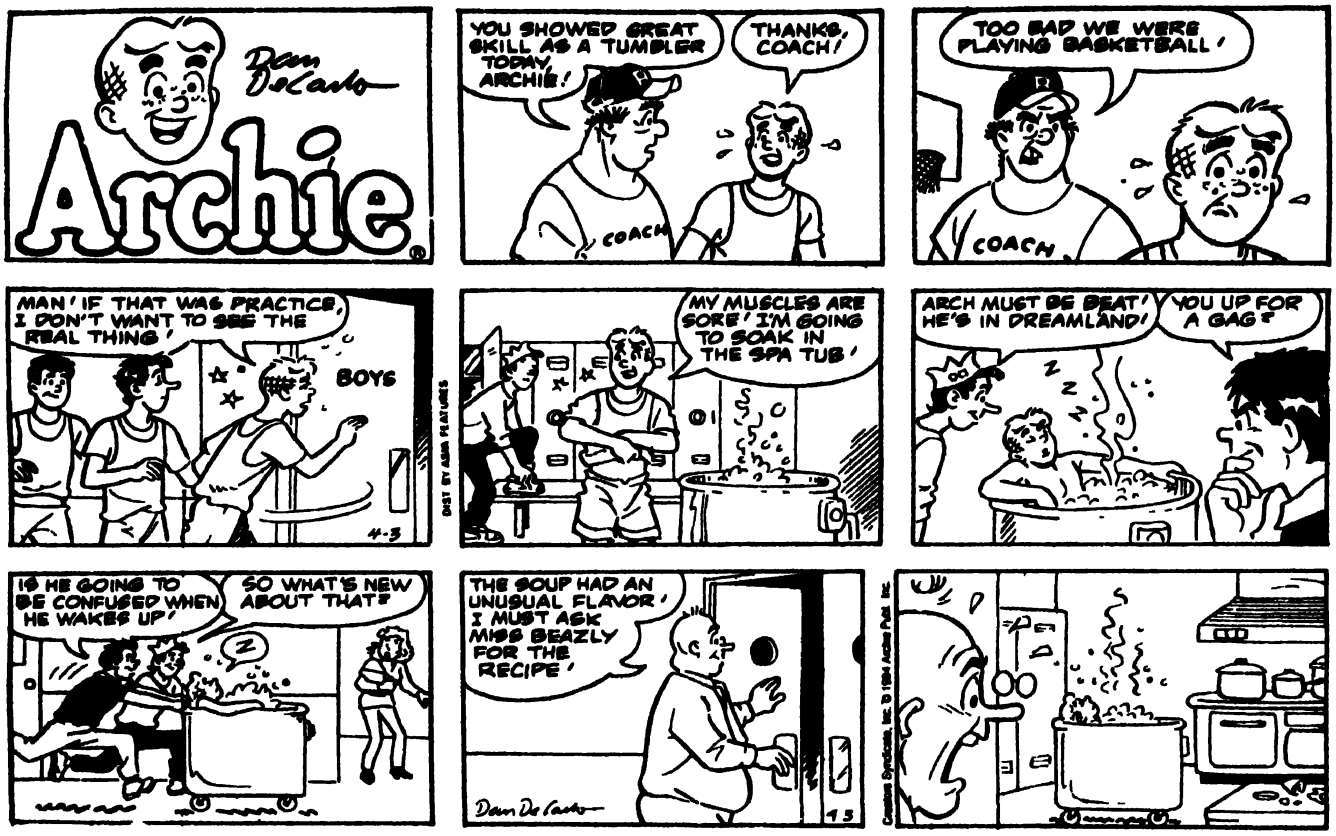
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

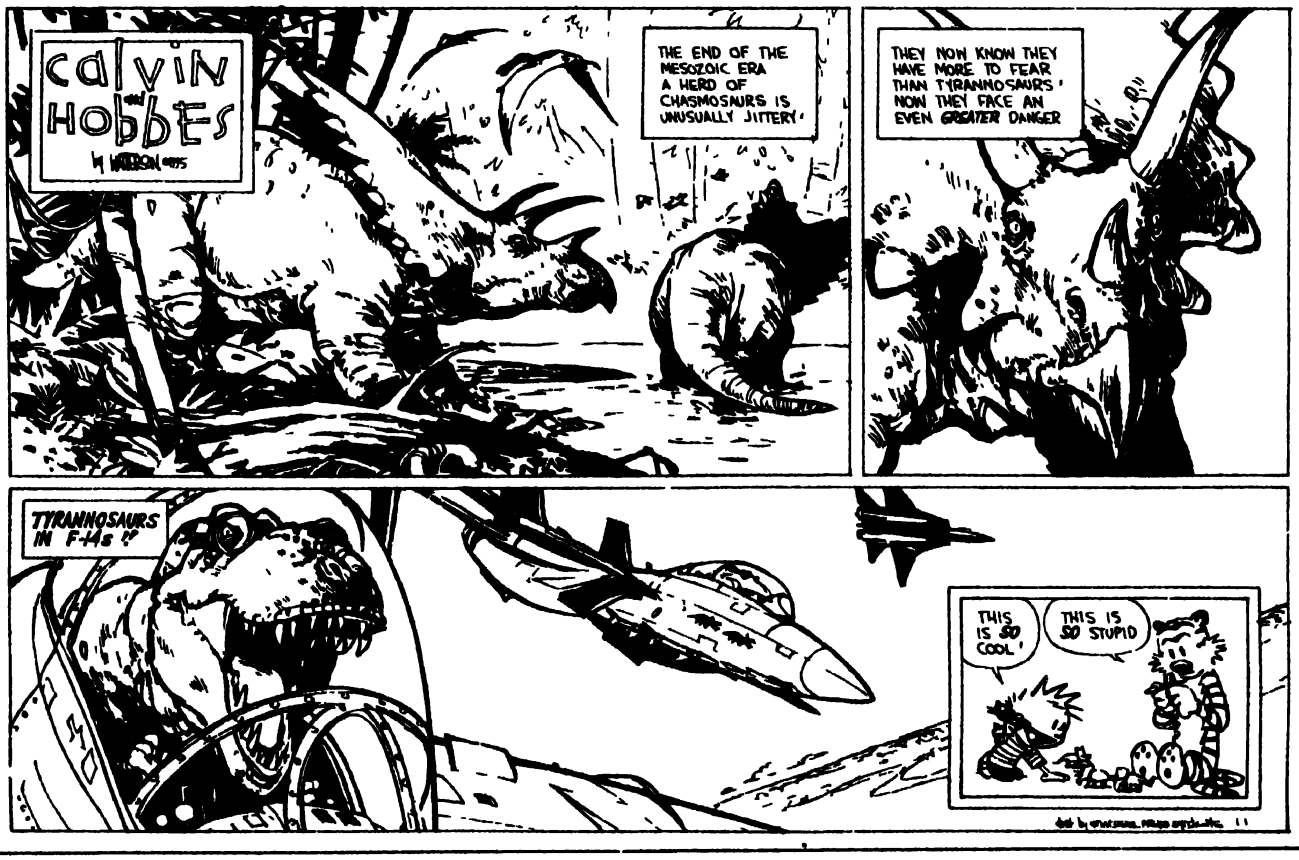
Possible twosome Path gone

COMICS

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

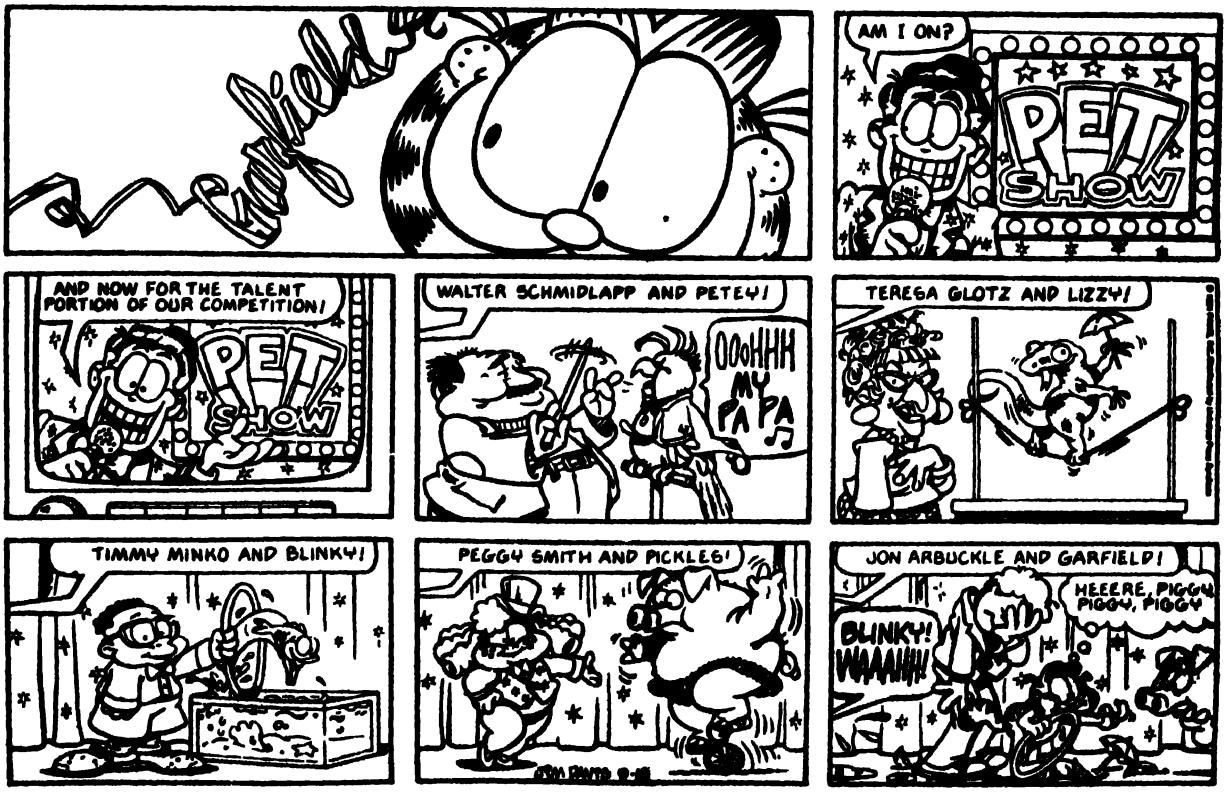






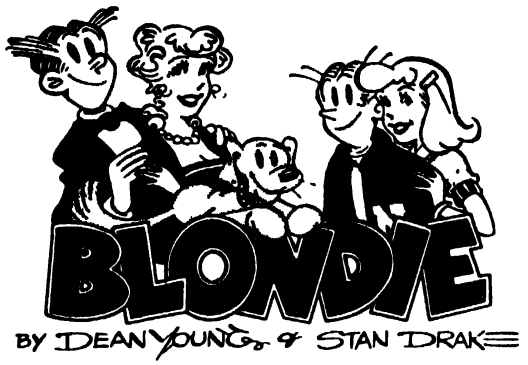


GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

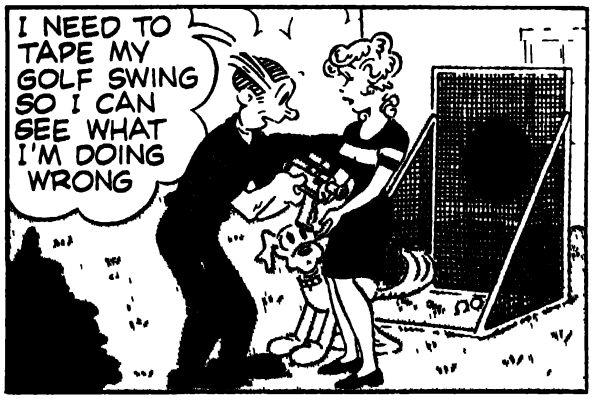


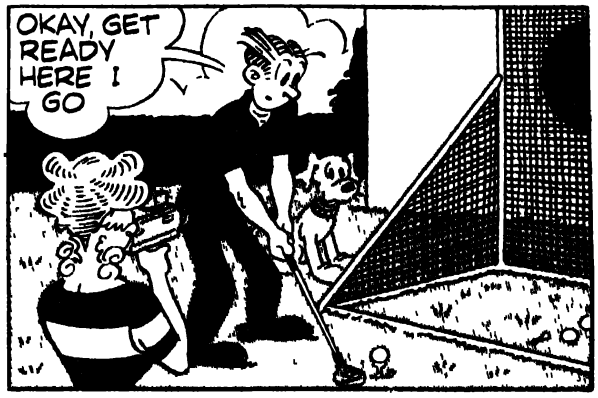
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

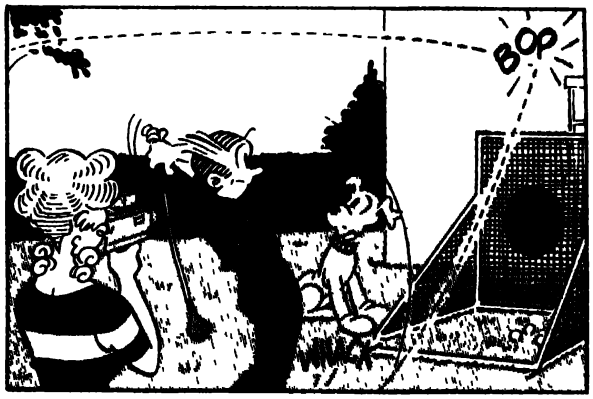


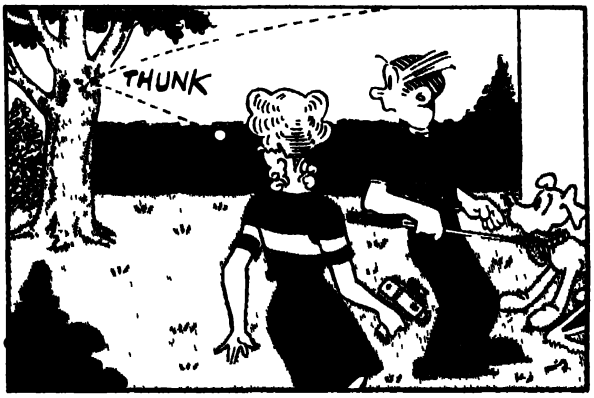


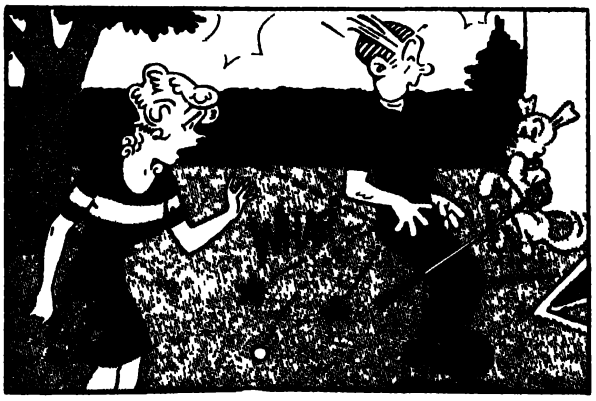












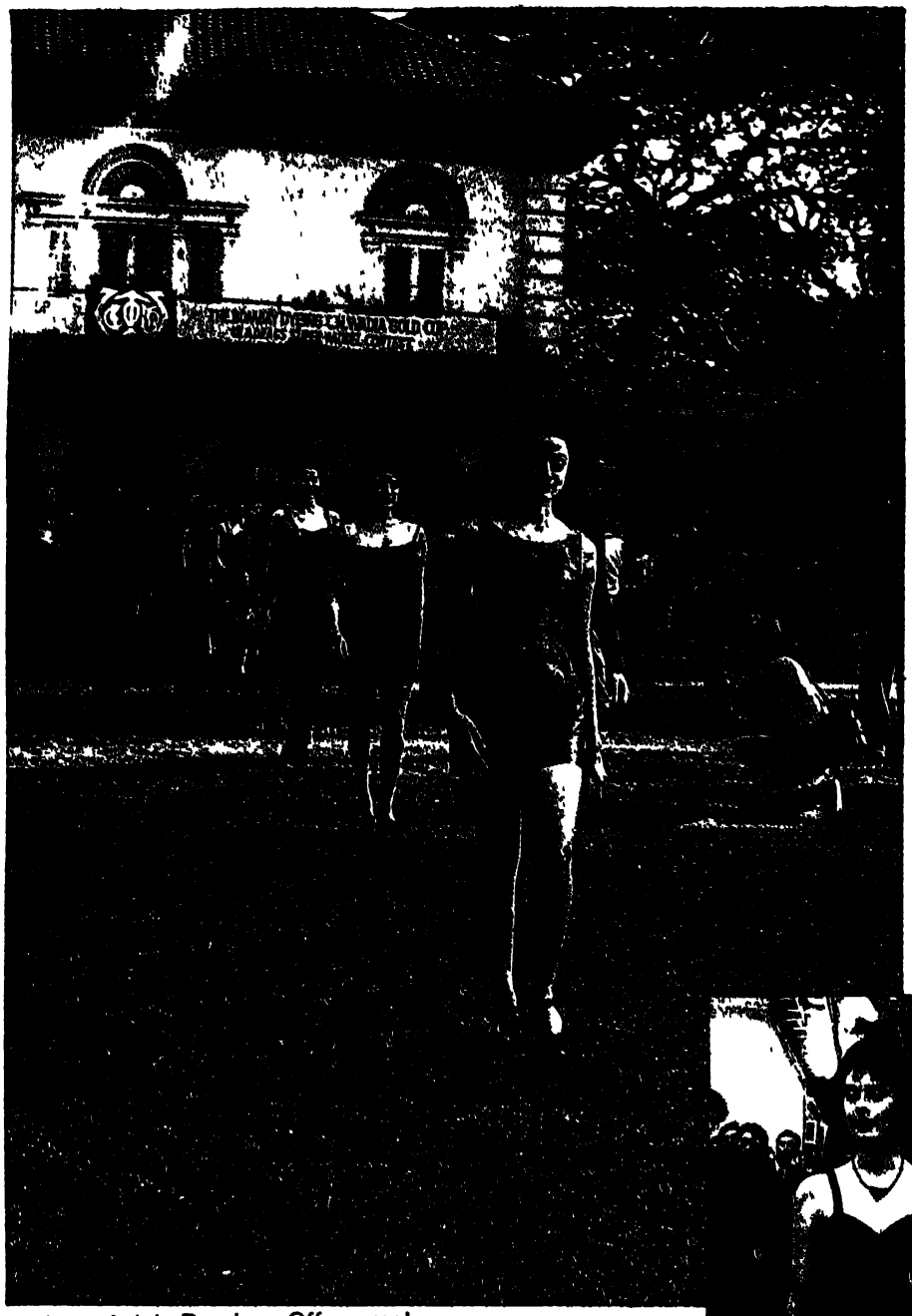
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EVENT

Neigh and Yeah!

At the Mahalaxmi racecourse in Bombay, they had their fill recently; even those with just the glad eye. Lensman ***Gautam Patole*** *had his share of the fun*



At the turf club, Bombay Off course!



Gladrags editor Maureen Wadia with a model (left) and Karishma Kapoor

It was horseplay of sorts! Riding on the success of the Supermodel contest in March last year, Bombay Dyeing and *Gladrags* magazine were back — to put the three glamorous combos of modelling, fashion and racing together

The Mahalaxmi racecourse which provided the backdrop for the pulsating spectacle, Race 'n' Fashion Fantasy, saw not just horseflesh, but starlets, tipsters, punters, beefcake and cheesecake — jostling for space on the turf And there was dreamboat Karan Kapoor, and cousin Karishma, wooed and wowed by the crowd at large

The show began with Denim Rhapsody as the first of the four-part fashion sequence in which models strutted around in rugged cowboy outfits Namrata Shirodkar and Mehr Jesia catwalked on the paddock, as did Mallaika Arora, throwing the male audience into ecstacy

The second round was more ethnic in tone, followed by the Supermodel contest comprising 24 girls and 23 men (horses not included)

The finale at the grand stand, was the longest ever rampwalk (at 1,200 feet) cheered by a crowd gone berserk

Jasmine Shroff, Arti Iyer, Chandni Iyer, Ruskhsnaiida, Dionne Daniel, Zahira Lakdawalla — the semi-finalists among women, and Dinesh Bhandari, Karan Radhakrishna, Aseem Merchant, Mansoor Khan, Hassan Babai and Manpreet Singh — among men, walked away with the plaudits

For them, it could be the start of a promising career, as a look-back shows Jaggi Kaur, Super Model 1994, carving out, within a span of nine months, a career as a model on the international ramp Hardly had the dust settled when Rajat Bedi, India's first all-India



Part of the fashion show



The lineup



The parade



A face in the crowd: Giving the models a run for their money

Male Model 1994, came fourth at the World Manhunt contest in Australia

Bombay's semi-finalists will compete with their Delhi and Bangalore counterparts on D-day — February 18 and those coming up trumps will receive Rs 3 lakh in cash other than a load of gifts and exciting modelling contracts abroad

Though held on the same day as the Femina Miss India contest, there was little to eclipse the euphoria bubbling forth As a show on another course, the contest was an instant hit

Raj Bhatt

RASOI



JIGGS KALRA



Balti cooking is the current range in Britain and leading the Balti brigade is Shehzad Husain, a Pakistani of Hyderabadi origin, who has authored three books on Indian cuisine

A frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines, Husain, a one-time faculty member at the Cordon Bleu school in London, is consultant and advisor to the retail giant, Marks & Spencers Her latest — *The Balti Cookbook* — comes to us courtesy of Subhash Arora and Teksons One has to acknowledge Arora's contribution to food books — and food writers of Indian origin His first effort — *Indian Cookery* by Michael Pandya — was a bestseller Husain's book promises to do even better and as far as Rasoi is concerned, will make a handsome addition to your cookbook library

Two recipes, with a promise of more to follow in the coming weeks

BALTI CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

1 125 kg / 2 1/2 lb Chicken
45 ml / 3 tbs Cooking oil (preferably corn oil)
3 Onions (medium)
3 Tomatoes (medium)
1 stick Cinnamon (1")
3 Green cardamom
2 Black cardamom
4 Black peppercorns
1 25 g 1/2 tsp *Shahi jeera* (Black cumin seeds)
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
3 g / 1 tsp *Garam masala*
3 g / 1 tsp Red chilli powder
Salt
30 g / 2 tbs Yoghurt
60 ml / 1/4 cup Lemon juice
6 5 g / 2 tbs Coriander
2 Green chillies

Serves: 4-6
Preparation Time. 45 minutes
Cooking Time: 35 minutes

PREPARATION

The chicken· Clean, remove the skin, trim, cut each breast into 2 pieces, separate the drumsticks from the thighs to obtain 8 pieces, wash and pat dry
The vegetables: Peel, wash and slice onions Remove eyes, wash, halve and slice tomatoes Clean, wash and chop coriander Wash green chillies, slit, deseed, finely chop and discard the stems
The yoghurt· Beat in a bowl

COOKING

Heat oil in a large *kadhai/wok* or deep round-bottomed frying pan, add onions, *bhunno*/stir-fry until golden, add tomatoes and stir for a couple of minutes Then add cinnamon, both the cardamom, peppercorns, cumin seeds, the ginger and garlic pastes, *garam masala*, chilli powder and salt, stir, reduce to low heat and *bhunno*/stir-fry for 3-5 minutes Increase to medium heat, add chicken pieces, 2 at a time, and *bhunno*/stir-fry for at least 7 minutes or until the spice mixture has completely penetrated the chicken pieces Reduce to low heat, stir-in yoghurt, cover with foil (ensuring it does not touch the food) and cook very gently for about 15 minutes, checking once to make sure that the food does not stick to the bottom of the *kadhai* or pan Sprinkle lemon juice, stir, remove and adjust the seasoning

Balti Chicken



TO SERVE

Remove to a platter, garnish with coriander and green chillies and serve at once

Note. Chicken cooked on the bone is both tender and flavoursome However, you may substitute the whole chicken with 675 g / 1 1/4 lb of boned and cubed chicken The cooking time would be reduced

BALTI STUFFED VEGETABLES

INGREDIENTS

3 Aubergines (small)
1 Red bell pepper
1 Green bell pepper
1 Yellow bell pepper

The Stuffing
45 ml / 3 tbs Cooking oil (preferably corn oil)
3 Onions (medium)
3 g / 1 tsp Red chilli powder
0 75 g / 1/4 tsp Turmeric powder
3 g / 1 tsp Coriander powder
3 g / 1 tsp Cumin powder
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
Salt
450 g / 1 lb Kid / Lamb mince (lean)
3 Green chillies
6 5 g / 2 tbs Coriander

The Sauteed Onions
45 ml / 3 tbs Cooking oil (preferably corn oil)
0 75 g / 1/4 tsp *Kalonji* (onion seeds)
0 75 g / 1/4 tsp Mustard seeds
0 75 g / 1/4 tsp Fenugreek seeds
0 5 g / 1/4 tsp Cumin seeds
4 Dried red chillies
3 Onions (medium)
Salt
3 g / 1 tsp Red chilli powder
2 Tomatoes (medium)
2 Green chillies
6 5 g / 2 tbs Coriander

Serves 6
Preparation Time. 1 hour
Cooking Time 35 minutes



Balti Stuffed Vegetables

PREPARATION

The aubergines (eggplant) Wash, slit lengthwise up to the stalks, keeping the stalks intact
The bell peppers. Wash, cut the tops off the peppers and deseed You can retain the tops and use them as 'lids' once the vegetables have been stuffed
The stuffing Peel, wash and slice onions Wash green chillies, slit, deseed, finely chop and discard the stems Clean, wash and chop coriander

Heat oil in a medium *handi* / pan, add onions, fry over medium heat for about 3 minutes, reduce to low heat, add chilli, turmeric, coriander and cumin powders (dissolved in 30 ml / 2 tbs of water), stir, add the ginger and garlic pastes, stir, add salt, stir, *bhunno* / stir-fry for about a minute Then add the mince, increase to medium heat, *bhunno* / stir-fry for 7-10 minutes, using a wooden spoon to scrape the bottom of the pan Now add the green chillies and coriander, stir, remove, adjust the seasoning and keep aside

When the mince is cool, pack it loosely in the vegetables
The sauteed onions Wipe dried red chillies, clean with moist cloth Peel, wash and chop onions Remove eyes, wash, halve and slice tomatoes Wash green chillies, slit, deseed, finely chop and discard the stems Clean, wash and chop coriander

COOKING

Heat oil in a large *kadhai* / *wok* or deep round-bottomed frying pan, add *kalonji* (onion), mustard, fenugreek and cumin seeds together with the dried red chillies, *bhunno* / stir-fry for about a minute, add onions, fry until onions are soft (approximately 2 minutes) Then add salt, chilli powder, tomatoes, green chillies and coriander, cook for a minute Remove, adjust the seasoning and keep aside

Place the stuffed vegetables on top of the sauteed onions in the *kadhai* / *wok*, cover with foil, ensuring that the foil does not touch the food, return *kadhai* / *wok* to low heat and cook for 15 minutes Remove when the vegetables are tender

TO SERVE

Serve with steamed rice or *pulao*

NOTE All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross ■

FIRST PERSON

KELUCHARAN MAHAPATRA *is one of the few dancer-gurus who is known to have brought Odissi out of the temple sculptures and the traditional palm leaf paintings to the centrestage of contemporary dance. Over 1[illegible] dance numbers, including several* ashtapadis *and* pallavis, *and more than 50 dance ballets have been choreographed by him, though his best performances remain inside the classroom where he has groomed the likes of Sonal Mansingh, Sanjukta Panigrahi and Protima Bedi. A workaholic, this Padma Bhushan is known for his singleminded devotion to his* kala.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
The success of my work
What is your greatest fear?
Non-acceptance of truth in my work.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
Guruma, my wife
What do you dislike most in others?
Bad behaviour

What do you dislike most on your appearance?

My big *naabhi* (navel)

What do you dislike most in yourself?
Not possessing a clear mind
What is your most precious possession?
The blessings of God
What objects do you always carry?
Paan
What makes you most depressed?
Not being successful in my work
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My big *naabhi* (navel)
What is your favourite word?
Shiva
What is your favourite journey?
To Delhi.
What is your favourite dream?
About the *darshan* of God
What is your nightmare?
Criticism
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Nritya
What is your source of sustenance?
My son, whatever I can do for him
On what occasions do you lie?
For the benefit of others
What is your greatest regret?
Not being able to establish a dance institute according to my wish
What has been your happiest moment?
The day I was blessed by my mother for receiving the Padma Bhushan



What do you envy most in others?

That my wife dances better than I do

What brings tears to your eyes?
Teaching the *abhinaya* portion
How do you relax?
Watching television and taking some *seva* from Guruma.
What do you envy most in others?
That my wife dances better than I do
How would you like to be remembered?
For my polite behaviour
How would you like to die?
In the name of Shiva



If you can keep your head while those about
you are losing theirs and blaming it on you
Stay where you are
If you can't, welcome to Kanha - Kipling country
940 square kilometers of Eden
The nearest crowd is a mountain range away
A blurred marsh harrier swoops down
on a cluster of bush quail
A four-horned antelope hangs in
mid-air and races on
A blue bull vanishes behind a veil of bamboo
A leopard rockets across the horseshoe-shaped valley
Now you see him, now you don't
Wait a minute! Hold your breath
You are eye-to-eye with a tiger
Whew!
Slow down It's the only place on earth
where you can see the swamp deer
Kanha
Where Mowgli, Baloo, Bagheera and
Sher Khan are looking forward to your visit



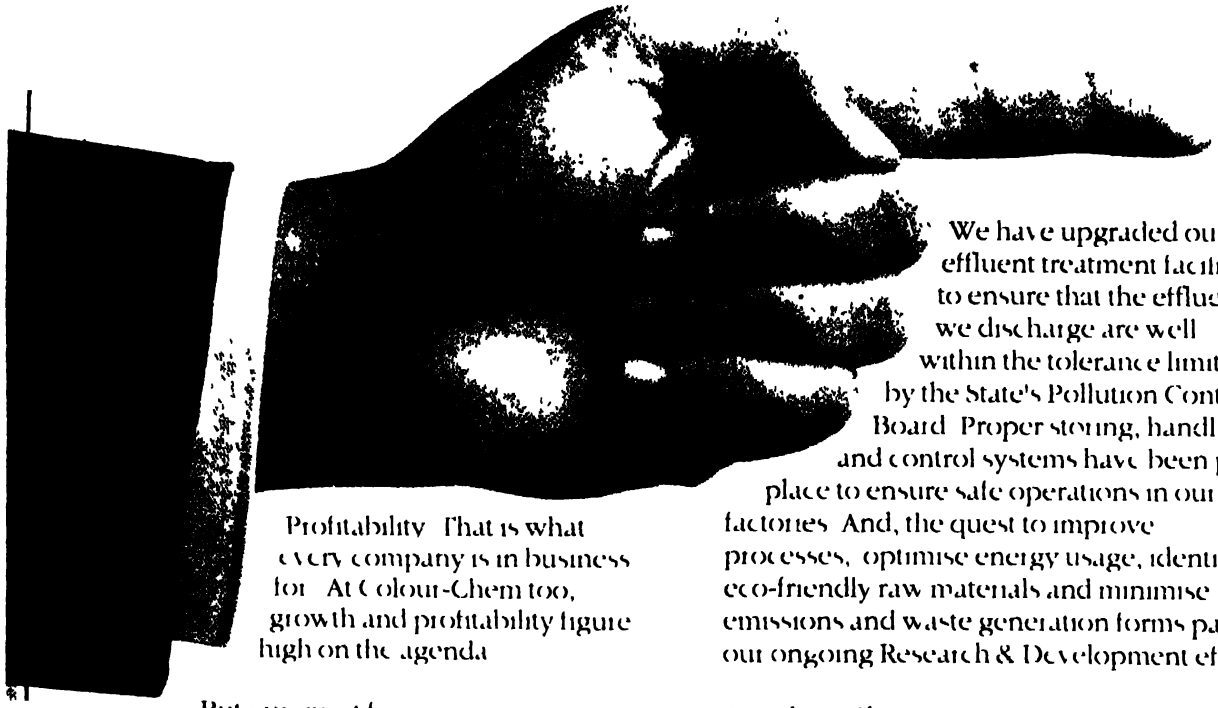
MADHYA PRADESH TOURISM
YOUR HOSTS IN THE HEART OF INDIA

Places of interest nearby MAPBLE ROCKS (Bhedaghat) Soaring to a spectacular 100ft on either side of the serene Narmada Equally spectacular are the Dhuandhar Falls
Where to stay KANHA Kanha Safari Lodge (Mukki) on the banks of a river provides all city comforts Baghira Log Huts (Kisli) is a charming cluster of cottages Jungle Camp (Khatia) provides ideal economy accommodation in a jungle setting Tourist Hostel (Kisli) has dormitories MARBLE ROCKS Motel Marble Rocks provides a spectacular view of the famous gorge JABALPUR Hotel Kalchuri A modern, professionally run hotel with all amenities
How to get there Kanha is well connected by road Nearest railheads are Jabalpur (165 kms), Raipur (213 kms) and Nagpur (290 kms) The latter two are also the nearest airports Bhedaghat is a mere 23 kms from Jabalpur

We offer convenient and great value package tours from Ahmedabad, Bombay, Calcutta and New Delhi For more information and bookings, contact your nearest MPT Office **BHOPAL** Gangotri', T T Nagar Tel 554340-43 Fax 552384 **AHMEDABAD** G 3 Hemkoot Complex, Opp Capital Commercial Centre, Ashram Road Tel 420395 **BOMBAY** 74 World Trade Centre Cuffe Parade, Colaba Tel 2184860, 2187603 **CALCUTTA** 'Chitrakoot' Room No 7, 6th Floor, 230 A, A J C Bose Road Tel 2478543, 2475855 **NAGPUR** 407-A Lokmat Bhawan Wardha Road Tel 523374 **NEW DELHI** 204 205 Kanishka Shopping Plaza, 19 Ashoka Road Tel 3321187 3324511 (Ext 277) Mrignayani Emporium, Brahmaputra Shopping Complex (near Railway Reservation Centre), Sector 29 **NOIDA** Tel 89-55283 89-56756
Kanha National Park is closed from July 1 to October 31


BAGHIRA LOG HUTS KISLI

WHILE THE MIND POINTS TO NEXT YEAR'S TARGETS, OUR HEARTS POINT TO THE ENVIRONMENT.



Profitability That is what every company is in business for At Colour-Chem too, growth and profitability figure high on the agenda

But our quest for success is distinguished by an additional characteristic - an abiding concern for the environment It is this voice that ensures that the Company's growth is not at the expense of the environment

We have upgraded our effluent treatment facilities to ensure that the effluents we discharge are well within the tolerance limits set by the State's Pollution Control Board Proper storing, handling and control systems have been put in place to ensure safe operations in our factories And, the quest to improve processes, optimise energy usage, identify eco-friendly raw materials and minimise emissions and waste generation forms part of our ongoing Research & Development effort

At Colour-Chem, concern for the environment always comes ahead of plans for growth and progress Because our Company has a heart that rules over the mind

Colour-Chem

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194 Churchgate Reclamation Bombay 400 020

Hoechst

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The Telegraph

19 FEBRUARY 1995

POST MORTEM

Not Born in the USA, But...

■ The cover story, 'Campus Complex' (January 22), reflects the initial agonies of Indian students who go to the US for higher studies

Self-help forms the basic philosophy of the American education system And the faster the Indian students learn it, the better

There is no private coaching system American students spend more hours in the library than their Indian counterparts The sincerity of the teachers is a great motivating factor for the students which is rarely found in Indian campuses

Once Indians learn to cope with the pressure and feel less homesick, they perform very well because of their hard work No wonder American professors prefer Indian students to do research under them than American students

But Indians used to hostel life have an advantage They can face the new environment with greater confidence and can adjust faster

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur



C R Venkatesh

Bangalore: The people are as nice as the city

■ After a long time the Magazine produced an excellent cover story Indians, to whom emotions matter more than competitions, naturally take long to adapt themselves to an alien society

Sanjib Dutta,
Calcutta

■ I feel proud that Indian students are able to make a niche for themselves in the academic world of the US

Education also means being able to adapt oneself to any environment Once a student does so, much can be expected of him

One important thing Indian students in the US should never forget is their cultural moorings Even as students, they should project Indian culture and its traditions abroad

Prasanta Kumar Ghosh,
Barasat (W B)

Bangalore, With a Heart

■ The cover story, 'Urban Holiday' (January 8) only harped on the material development of Bangalore The human side was totally ignored

Undoubtedly, Bangalore will soon become one of Asia's prime electronic centres But the people of Bangalore are worth talking about

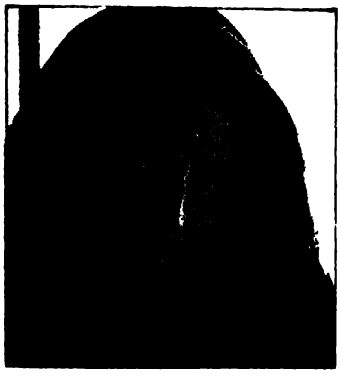
I was in Bangalore at the time of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination and very apprehensive of an outbreak of communal violence But not only did the city stay calm throughout that tumultuous period, the citizens went on with their daily chores, quite unruffled

They are very courteous to people who visit the city What the article really missed out was Bangalore's work culture Hartals, strikes or any form of unrest are rare No wonder foreign investors are making a beeline for Bangalore

Calcutta should see the difference

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore (Orissa)

INSIDE



Anil Grover

PAGE 6

SHOBHA DE has done it again This time, she becomes the first in Indian publishing history to release two titles simultaneously — at the Calcutta Book Fair, which ended last fortnight And each title from a different leading publisher We give you extracts from both

SECTIONS

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30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Anil Grover

IF YOU PLEASE!

The latest in the line of fashion, from Paris (and Milan)

Photographs: AP



German model Claudia Schiffer does wonders for a pale blue, tight-fitting dress as part of Valentino's ready-to-wear collection



Italian model Carla Bruni in a red flared cocktail dress (Herve Leger collection)



Danish model Helena Christensen presents a black cocktail Herve Leger design



Italian actress-model Isabella Rossellini on the catwalk during a Bluemarina fashion show

COVER STORY

The TRIP

Ritika was a woman with wild uncontrollable longings It had always been this way with her, ever since she was a child growing up on the outskirts of Delhi Her parents had long given up trying to understand their self-willed youngest daughter, so different from the other children So different in fact that her timid mother often wondered under which particular celestial conjunction she'd conceived her Ritika looked different, acted different, behaved different She was unlike anybody her family had ever known — with an untamed, limitless imagination that made people around her dizzy It got Ritika into a great deal of trouble too as a school girl And even more of it as an adult, especially since her husband, locked in a world defined by money and yet more money, didn't have the foggiest notion about his sweet, docile wife's secret life peopled by dangerous men and breathless moments Hiten only saw a restrained and respectable woman who kept a clean, efficient house and was a wonderful mother to their three children

But recently, Ritika's fantasies had started to scare and worry her She'd begun to panic at her own thoughts, agonise over the eventual consequences of actions not yet taken Because she knew she was going to do it -- fulfil at least one of her recurrent dreams, that is Before it was too late — too late to live the life she constantly yearned for A life lived on the edge nervously but oh so deliciously Ritika was sick of the self-deception She'd started to feel more and more like an imposter And like all imposters, she knew it was only a matter of time before she'd found out and exposed Not that she cared about the outcome of such a prospect in her more reckless moments On the contrary, she hankered after it "God, I hope it happens soon," she'd think to herself as she supervised dinner "I can't keep up the pretence much longer " Pretence? What pretence? Nothing had changed as far as her behaviour was concerned She didn't neglect to perform any of her duties She loved and cared for her family She said all the right things at the right moment to the right person She was admired for her skills at 'managing' everything so efficiently without neglecting anyone or anything Friends often asked *her* advice on how to perform the perfect balancing act She'd overheard one or the other remarking, "It's amazing how she does it Just look at her — so in control, so on top of the situation And look at me, for instance — one minor emergency and I promptly fall apart "

Ritika enjoyed stringing women like them along — offering advice on time-management to harried careerists, giving tips on smart investments to housewives with small, private incomes, helping a mother understand a difficult child better, counselling a distraught wife on how best to cope with a neglectful husband without nagging Yes, Ritika could do all that most convincingly even as her mind continued to race with fevered images of unlikely situations, unspoken conversations and untamed couplings with strangers at twilight

It amused and aggravated her that her husband suspected nothing, knew nothing, understood nothing He saw in her only what he wanted to see — a loving wife who behaved herself at parties, unlike some of the other bitches, a conscientious mother who didn't skip a single PTA, and an obliging bed partner who rarely said "no" Hiten was a simple, self-satisfied man



Ajit Gore

Extracted from Small Betrayals by Shobha De, UBSPD, 1995, Rs 85

BY SHOBHA DE



whose idea of a marital crisis didn't go beyond his wife's refusal to attend a business dinner with him because she just wasn't "in the mood"

"There's no question," he'd once thundered when Ritika had trotted that out as an excuse "Moods don't come into this It is your duty as my wife to accompany me whenever and wherever I go after all, it's for *our* sake that I'm doing all this Do you think I enjoy going to all these boring affairs?" Ritika had bowed her head and assumed a penitent expression -- she'd become very good at doing that without further argument, she'd gone to her cupboard and busily started looking for an appropriate saree How easy it was to fool her husband -- to appease him, distract him, and forget about him

Sometimes Ritika wondered whether there was something seriously the matter with her Did other women 'suffer' from a similar syndrome? Whom could she ask such a crazy question to? Ritika imagined phoning her friend, Anisha — the only real friend she had — to ask, "Do you sometimes feel so strongly attracted to a stranger that at that particular moment you know — you just know — you'd leave your family, your husband, children, everything and run away with him?" It had happened to her She remembered at least one incident clearly

Hiten had decided — uncharacteristically — to take her along on a business trip abroad They were to spend four days in Dubai — a place that had always intrigued Ritika - - before leaving for London The thought of travelling with as boring and unadventurous a companion as Hiten was something Ritika reconciled herself to At least he was pleasant enough, if not exactly inspiring Besides, a new place always fired up her imagination and made her pulse race The possibilities — oh God — the possibilities, she'd think excitedly even when at the back of her mind she knew only too well that each trip would be exactly like the previous one — uneventful and crammed with shopping for the kids And yet, as Ritika packed, she had visions of unexpected adventures, unplanned happenings Hiten, of course, only experienced the usual excitement most people display at the prospect of going abroad "I'm warning you," he cautioned his wife goodhumouredly, "No shopping this time I'm not a rich man, remember "

Ritika had grinned tolerantly at that husbandly remark Shopping! He actually thought she was all charged up about shopping! Ha! What did she care about a new lipstick or the latest perfume? What a fool Hiten was to think she'd be smiling her secret smile over something as mundane as shopping

On their third day in Dubai, exhausted, dehydrated and desperately bored going from one glittering shopping mall to the other, Ritika had longed to catch her breath and drink a tall glass of iced tea She'd tugged at Hiten's shirt sleeve He'd looked irritable and tired too, as if all the walking around looking for cheap electronic goods was her fault

"Now what?" he'd asked shortly

She'd pointed to a small self-service cafe and said, "I'm thirsty Can we catch our breath a little?"

He'd consulted his watch — a gesture she found particularly irritating — it wasn't as if he had an appointment to keep and they were running hopelessly behind schedule because of her Reluctantly, he'd agreed They'd staggered towards the chairs and collapsed tiredly, scattering their bundles all over

Ritika had her large sunglasses on She was dressed in clothes she despised — clothes she wouldn't have dreamt of wearing in Bombay — tights and a casual shirt She sat at a small round table and looked blankly ahead of her while Hiten went off to get her tea She noticed a small, chic shoe shop adjoining the cafe It had an unusually attractive window display Whoever had arranged the hay and rocks over painted sand must have been awfully artistic, she concluded idly, comparing the different textures and colours The shoes were different



Dilip Sett

too — not the usual strappy sandals and chunky platforms so in vogue then These were beautifully crafted works of art in jewel tones — rich purples, deep pinks, velvety greens, indiscent blues Classical shoes, moulded to caress the foot snugly Some had tiny windows cut on top, others were laced up in front The heels were graceful and sculptured, the leather, matt-finished and unblemished Ritika couldn't take her eyes off the footwear, poised so delicately over rough-hewn rocks She couldn't remember shoes ever looking so seductive She imagined how wearing one of them would feel - - the leather brushing against her skin, her toes fitting snugly inside, her ankle resting lightly on the well-balanced heel

And shoes were not even a fetish with her To add to it, Ritika had problem feet and a bunion distorting her left big toe It was one of the reasons why she disliked travelling Her feet experienced enormous fatigue even before she left the airport But these shoes looked so heavenly so pretty almost too pretty to be worn At least far too pretty for her singularly unattractive feet So what? She thought defiantly I know I'll never own such a fine pair — they probably cost a small fortune — but at least I can dream She continued to stare, lingering over each handcrafted detail Just then, a man with a long, easy stride walked out of the shop She noticed him immediately He noticed her too He was one of the best looking men she'd ever seen And frighteningly elegant in a studiedly casual sort of a way He walked a short distance to an adjoining shop and came back briskly His eyes caught hers again

In real life Ritika rarely reacted to men — strange men — this strongly But this man *was* extraordinary To begin with, he sported a neatly-tied pony-tail Normally, Ritika would have mocked a grown man with a similar hair-style And this chap was no spring chicken He had a much-lived face — angled and sharp This ought to have made the pony-tail seem still more incongruous, almost foolish - - he certainly wasn't dressed like a hippie On the contrary, his clothes were conservative and expensive-looking Loose grey trousers and an open-necked blue shirt He wore tan-coloured brogues on his large feet But then, he was large too — over six feet tall And broad Ritika quickly tried to think who he reminded her of — some Hollywood movie star? An archetypal gigolo from a European film? No Then it came to her — he resembled a Giorgio Armani advertisement — the one that featured a mature man with a weathered face A man who looked like he'd slept with hundreds of women and would sleep with hundreds more And yet, not an obvious Lothario Not a vain, empty-headed Lover Boy but a man of refined tastes and acute sensibilities A thinking man A sensitive man Someone who probably played the flute for relaxation Ate strawberries after sex and painted his lover's toe-nails fire-engine red while she slept

Hiten came back crossly saying, "No iced tea " They don't have it Why don't you drink a Pepsi like everybody else?"

The spell was broken, but not entirely Absently Ritika said, "OK I'll have a Pepsi Sorry about the tea '

And Hiten was off again Ritika's eyes went back to the shop entrance She knew he'd walk out soon Very soon And he did Her heart skipped a beat and she began to wonder whether he'd come up to her and ask, "Mind if I join you?" He probably thought she was alone since Hiten had been in a queue most of the time She obviously looked interested Ritika blushed at the thought Maybe she was giving out all the wrong (right?) signals The man must have concluded she was a tourist — one of those bored, rich wives, on a shopping junket He probably saw (and slept with) several of those How terrible She stared as he strode off again His back looking as inviting, as sexy as his front Perhaps even more so Mentally, she stripped him off his clothes She visualised

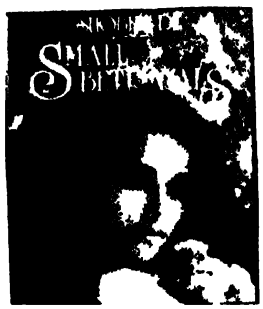
what his bottom must look like — taut and well-muscled, though it was really quite hard to tell through the loose lines of his impeccably cut trousers She liked his loping walk The way he'd causally rolled up his sleeves The neat bow around his pony-tail The broad, square forehead The cheekbones like priceless calcium deposits The eyes — deep-set and as blue as the Mediterranean This man was a cliche. Alarmingly good-looking A three dimension designer ad

Then why was she reacting so foolishly? She, who was not the sort to go for lookers and never had been She, who rarely devoured men with her eyes (most weren't worth the effort) She who didn't see herself as a particularly sexual animal (all that unaesthetic heaving and huffing) And here she was going weak at the knees over a man who looked like the jacket of a *Mills & Boon* romance (without that pony-tail, of course) Now, he was walking back towards her staring hard sizing her up? She could've looked away Feigned disinterest Pretended she hadn't noticed him in the first place But she didn't Instead with great deliberation, she removed her sunglasses and placed them on the table She held his eyes steadily with her own, almost challenging him beckoning him to take the initiative He didn't He walked back into the shoe store Ritika felt bitterly let-down Perhaps he was the owner Maybe he was trying to entice her to enter his shop — see him on his own home ground She actually considered it Hiten? Well, that was easily taken care of All she had to do was park him at the table with all the shopping and say lightly, "Will be back in just a moment — spotted something cute — but don't worry, I'm not buying, just looking " And she'd saunter off unhurriedly perhaps never to return

Ritika dejectedly watched Hiten walking back with a small plastic tray loaded with paper glasses of Pepsi and ice He'd thrown in a packet of potato crisps for himself Hiten looked so vulnerable so unsuspecting so, so silly, as he negotiated his way past manic shoppers to where she was seated Her impulse was to pick up her bag briskly and announce to Hiten, "This is it I'm leaving you I can't stand another minute of monotony And the predictability I'm bored out of my wits I'm off " But she knew she wouldn't do it Not now Not ever She smiled sweetly at her husband and said in her submissive wifely voice, "Sorry for the trouble But I *was* dying of thirst "

They sipped their drinks in silence Rivulets of sweat were trickling down Hiten's face He needed a shave He looked almost shabby in his semi-holiday gear The T-Shirt was too tight His paunch was showing The bald patch on his head too The whites of his eyes looked yellowish There were blackheads over his nose She thought of his bottom — it was ugly Discoloured, rough to the touch Large and completely lacking in any sort of muscle tone It jiggled each morning as he walked nude from the bathroom to his cupboard Ritika had always had a thing about men's bottoms She'd noticed the one featured in the Obsession fragrance ad It had been perfect — firm, round high, compact She was certain the shoe shop man's would be similar As she drank down her Pepsi thirstily, she imagined what he might be doing inside the shop at the moment Maybe he was a salesman Maybe *he* had a fetish for women's feet Maybe he worked in a shoe shop so that he could caress hundreds of anonymous feet attached to strange women Ritika didn't want him to see her own ugly ones No, there was no way she was going to walk into his shop

He came out again This time, he was accompanied by a woman He looked in her direction and smiled a small, ironic smile as he caught sight of Hiten She got the message, and shrugged He shrugged, too The



Ritika imagined phoning her friend, Anisha — the only real friend she had — to ask, 'Do you sometimes feel so strongly attracted to a stranger that at that particular moment you know — you just know — you'd leave your family, your husband, children, everything and run away with him?' It had happened to her



woman with him took his arm possessively

Was she his wife? Ritika immediately imagined them in bed together and hoped they'd be entirely incompatible The woman with him looked brassy and hard And the way she clung to his arm revealed her insecurity She also looked ill-tempered and impatient, deep frown lines criss-crossing her forehead The lipstick was all wrong — a bright orange that clashed with her colouring Her hair seemed bleached and coarse Ritika looked at her clothes — too tight, too short, too obvious But she probably had great breasts The legs were passable though the ankles were too thick Actually it was her manner that wasn't attractive — bossy, pushy as she looked this way and that, her hands holding on to his arm like grasping claws Before they crossed the street and disappeared from view altogether, he turned around for one final time and looked at Ritika With such intensity, it was as if they had made love Ritika's hand — the one that was holding the straw — suddenly dropped to the table with a loud thud Her eyes lost their shine The corners of her lips drooped, and the colour drained from her face She felt exhausted And old

Hiten was staring at her strangely "You look ill Are you all right?" he asked

She looked past him at the rapidly shrinking flash of blue in the distance She shook her head Hot tears started to well up in her eyes Ritika felt a dull pain growing in her heart It was hopeless If only she could have had one glorious hour with the man Just one Not even an hour of sex Just conversation And kisses And cigarettes And laughter And touches And jokes One hour She'd have untied his hair and buried her face in his neck She'd have opened her mouth to receive his tongue She'd have stroked his back And made love to his face One hour. That was all she wanted from life One hour of being hundred per cent alive A hundred per cent herself One hour free of pretence No acts No duties No obligations No strings attached No memories No future No regrets Especially, no regrets

She composed herself and turned towards Hiten He was still looking at her, this time with genuine concern "Maybe we should try and see a doctor You look pale," he said Ritika straightened her narrow shoulders, pushed back the hair from her eyes, stuck her chin out, inclined her head and smiled a slow, mysterious smile before saying, "I'm fine Absolutely fine Never felt better Really " She wasn't exactly lying, either

LITTLE GASPS

And this is an extract from the other title of ***Shobha De***, Snapshots

Sounding wistful Aparna said to a visibly fatigued Swati, "You've led quite a life, girl I'll say that "

Swati, struggling with obvious tiredness, managed a small smile while saying, "It hasn't been such a ball, Aps Not really I've had to pay the price too "

Aparna asked gently, "So, what went wrong with the Juan thing?"

"Everything We were completely mismatched except in the bedroom And guess what? Both of us knew that with our special talents in that department, we'd always get compatible partners Soon after the hush-hush wedding Juan went back to his polo ponies in Argentina, businesses all over the world, besides panting women at each turn, a few men, and God knows who or what else Maybe a couple of frisky emus and llamas too I was expected to look a Maharani and behave like one whenever he was in town and in the mood to show me off My career fell to pieces and I was virtually isolated from my friends, my life in England "

Aparna didn't look very sympathetic as she asked in a voice sharper than she'd intended it to be, "But you got to keep the money right?"

"Yes and no," Swati said "I got sufficient pocket money But strictly no credit cards, no joint accounts and no access to Juan's real wealth With my terrible habits, it didn't take me too long to blow it all up And guess where most of it went? Straight up my nose!"

It was Aparna's turn to regard her friend with shock and disbelief "Are you telling me you snorted a fortune away?"

Swati shook her head miserably "There was nothing for me to do I was like a captive animal,part of his zoo By the way, his major passion in life was to collect endangered species He used to pay the earth for creatures on the World Wildlife Fund's protected list I began to feel like a snow leopard or something One of his trusted aides, who was my bodyguard, offered me some coke one evening while amusing me with backgammon tricks Juan was out of town and I was in a reckless mood That was it You can't imagine how quickly that stuff can get one hooked And how swiftly it disappears Later, much later, it took me years of expensive therapy to pull out Besides months spent in a drying out clinic in California "



Extracted from** Snapshots* ***by Shobha De, Penguin India; 1995; Rs 100



'Believe me — all men are just the same. And Indian husbands, the worst. Look at that German couple in the next block, see how much work the man does. Why, the other day while strolling downstairs, I saw him feeding the baby. Changing his nappy. Even playing with the kid! Have you seen any of our men doing that?'

Aparna looked at her watch pointedly "Whew! This has been quite a day It's too late now to reopen closed chapters, but I wanted to ask you whether you remember this?"

Swati gasped as Aparna pulled out a printed muslin dupatta with pretty beads stitched into its corners The expression on Swati's face was difficult to fathom even for Aparna, who knew her so well But that little gasp had given her away and she realised it quickly Swati regained her composure before asking casually, "How come you are still hanging on to that old thing? I thought you must've thrown it into an incinerator "

Aparna shook her head and laughed bitterly "No way Each time I look at this dupatta I'm reminded of of you know what "

Swati shot to her feet and started pacing the small study "I told you earlier, it didn't happen the way you're probably imagining it "

Aparna sat back quietly and said, "No? Well then, how about telling me what did happen? I think in all fairness you owe me that much "

Swati took a deep breath and continued to walk around the room This was one episode she wasn't hazy about No, Swati had no trouble recalling the details — the smallest ones At the end of it all, Rohit hadn't been worth the time or the effort But in any case, Swati's target hadn't been Aparna's man, it had always been and still was Aparna herself The smart, cool, efficient, together Aparna The woman Swati secretly longed to be but never could become



Aparna worked late and hard Often, Rohit would get home before her and start po'tering around the neat kitchen, checking the fridge to find out what was going for dinner Sometimes he'd chill a bottle of beer or two And occasionally help with preliminaries by chopping and cutting vegetables or getting a large, cheerful salad ready Rohit also specialised in aloo parathas and dry bhindi — two dishes that had kept starvation at bay in his hostel days Aparna was always appreciative of these gestures even if she knew in her heart of hearts that Rohit did it all for himself - he enjoyed cooking And he liked his beer He also preferred dinner on time And a menu he could control Besides, as he often reminded Aparna, she may have been the world's greatest ad lady but she was no cook And, of course, her mother never failed to remind her, "Thank your stars Rohit helps you with housework Look at your father Or any of the other husbands All they do is come home, put their feet up and order their women around 'Get me this! Do that Do this '" "Not modern ones, Mama," Aparna would say gently making her mother snort, "Believe me — all men are just the same And Indian husbands, the worst Look at that German couple in the next block, see how much work the man does Why, the other day while strolling downstairs, I saw him feeding the baby Changing his nappy Even playing with the kid! Have you seen any of our men doing that"

It made Aparna happy that her mother seemed as ga-ga over Rohit as she herself was Yes, no question about it — Rohit was very, very special in her besotted eyes And Aparna felt blessed This was a side to her personality — her *soppy* side — as she identified it, that she was unable to fathom Rohit brought out her suppressed sentimentality on a scale that often scared her Aparna carried his pictures in her bag and didn't require too much encouragement to pull them out Friends told her she gazed at him with an "I adore you" expression that was almost embarrassing in its intensity And yet Aparna was realistic enough to realise that Rohit as viewed by the rest of the world was by no means an

exceptional person He was just a regular sort of chap Good-looking but hardly irresistible Average Yes, that was the word Average height Average looks Average achievements But to her Rohit embodied all that she'd ever longed for in a man When asked by curious colleagues to define those qualities Aparna would blush deeply before saying evasively, "It works for me, whatever this *it* is And that's all that matters Besides, every other male bores the hell out of me Either he's busy being supermacho, super-stud, super-prick, or he turns out to be a slobbering slave No thanks I think I belong to the fortunate few who have actually found the mate of their dreams " Rohit gave the appearance of being easygoing — even likeable He was smart-talking, amusing, slightly lazy, good-humoured and inoffensive A sly flirt with an innocuous rogue's easy charm, Rohit was known to chat up Aparna's more attractive friends after a beer too many But nobody minded since it was assumed he didn't intend his attentions to be taken seriously He'd declare boozily at the end of the evening, "I'm just a party-flirt, girls, ignore me But do take my compliments seriously " Everybody would smile indulgently, including Aparna But what Rohit didn't know or refused to acknowledge was that even these light, breezy, social flirtations bored little holes into Aparna And each time he looked into another woman's eyes and fed her some silly line or the other, Aparna would recoil with hurt and pain and end up blaming herself for not being a sport For not being sufficiently tolerant Or worse — for not being interesting enough in Rohit's eyes

he'd sensed a certain, something
tween Swati and Rohit the first time they'd met during one of Swati's early trips back home But she'd reminded herself sternly that Swati was her oldest and closest friend and an incorrigible tease who didn't mean a thing when she parked herself on a man's lap and announced, "Darling, when was the last time you got this lucky?" This was supposed to be her style An act that nobody was meant to take seriously. Rohit obviously enjoyed the attention, and which man wouldn't, Aparna reasoned Besides, Swati was just an occasional visitor to India and one of the few mutual friends they both enjoyed An evening with Swati was always so fizzy and fun, Aparna didn't mind putting up with her playing games with Rohit Anything that was so blatant was obviously innocent and certainly not to be taken to heart Swati couldn't help being Swati Rohit agreed when later, lying in bed reviewing the evening, Aparna would bring up some of Swati's more outrageous comments and check Rohit's reaction to them "She's a kid, darling That woman has never really grown up," he'd say with a small laugh

There were times Swati would pop by unannounced, straight from the airport, carrying a bottle of wine, some imported cheese and french bread Occasionally she'd drag in the boyfriend *du jour* as well While Aparna didn't exactly welcome these impromptu affairs, Rohit seemed to perk up at the intrusions

"Let's party, guys," Swati would announce making herself comfortable on the carpet while her escort filled up the ice bucket and Aparna fixed a meal that was more substantial than usual There were also a couple of times Aparna would get home late from work and find Swati giggling away happily with Rohit They'd greet her cheerfully and carry on with their interrupted conversation making her feel like an interloper

"Hi, sweetheart," Rohit would raise his hand in greeting, while Swati would continue to loll around, displaying her legs, stretching her limbs and holding out her glass to Rohit with a pout, "Darling, be an absolute doll and throw some cubes in there, please " There'd be a perfunctory explanation thrown in Aparna's general direction, "Was on my way to the hotel and I saw the light on. Couldn't resist checking out the scene Don't mind do you, darling?"

"I bloody well do," Aparna had been tempted to scream once or twice. But never did And she felt far too ashamed to voice her annoyance to Rohit What would he think of her? How petty she'd appear And it wasn't as if Swati was just any old woman off the streets Besides, as the sound of their laughter floated into the bedroom while Aparna wearily got out of her office clothes and went in for a bracing shower, she'd feel relieved that Rohit was being entertained by someone as exuberant as Swati Aparna often felt she was a bit too serious, a bit too earnest for her own good A bloody bore in other words Maybe Rohit needed someone bubblier, someone who laughed at his corny jokes, told a few dirty ones herself, someone frothy and fun, someone less uptight, less inhibited, someone like Swati Anxiously, she'd ask Rohit about it, trying to make her worries less weighty by sounding as off-hand as she could Rohit was always exceptionally prompt with his reassurances He'd clasp her in a bear hug, ruffle her hair and say, "Forget it, love of my life If I need to be entertained I can always reach for my *Playboy* joke books Don't be silly I adore you just the way you are — grim and starchy and tense and intense and terrible "

"I'd come to collect my dupatta, the one I'd forgotten the previous time — remember? You'd liked it — pink bandhni That was it I hadn't gone to your place to seduce your man Damn it I was surprised to find him at home at that hour "

"Really?" Aparna said bitingly "My version is slightly different I heard you called him from London while he was at work and fixed it all up thinking I was *en route* to Delhi for the new cola launch Only, the two of



'It works for me, whatever this *it* is. And that's all that matters. Besides, every other male bores the hell out of me. Either he's busy being supermacho, super-stud, super-prick, or he turns out to be a slobbering slave. No thanks. I think I belong to the fortunate few who have actually found the mate of their dreams'



you miscalculated My flight was late and it finally got cancelled Too bad I came home, huh? And the look on your face — do you think I'll ever be able to forget it? What was it, come on, tell me Triumph or guilt?"

Swati, pretending to study a small chip on her carefully lacquered nails, asked softly, "And what about the look on Rohit's face? What did you make of that?"

Blandly, Aparna said, "Shit-faced That's exactly how he looked Shit-faced I could've killed the two of you Strangled you both with your pretty dupatta " Aparna fingered it lightly "You forgot to take it with you in your hurry to get out of the place I kept it as a memento " Aparna spread it out slowly taking her time Swati watched fascinated, like it was an object she'd never seen before or a deadly snake raising its hood out of a basket "Miss it?" Aparna asked "I've preserved it the way I found it It even smells of you, at least of the way you did in those days What was it you always wore? Some cheap stuff Charlie?" Aparna held the dupatta to her nose and sniffed it "It's there — everything, the whole story Here, hold it Feel it Smell it " She handed it over to Swati whose instinctive reaction was to draw back from it like it was something live, something that could bite her

Recovering rapidly, Swati picked it up and draped it around her shoulders "Isn't that how I used to wear it? Loosely tied like a large scarf? I loved bandhni things in those days Still do But now they make me feel tacky Very Janpath, if you know what I mean But back then all of us lived in Rajasthani stuff — remember? And all that chunky silver jewellery You were famous for your powder bindis and I had more kajal in my eyes than a Kathakali dancer " Aparna smiled at the memory despite herself Swati came over to sit by her "Hey, all this was a long, long time ago We've all moved on, changed, grown up Or don't you agree? You shouldn't have kept it, you know What was the point in hanging on to this wretched thing Bad memories Nasty ones Horrible, just horrible "

Aparna nodded "True But Rohit was my husband not yours Perhaps your little affair was nothing more than a casual screw to you But it destroyed my marriage, my life Had I been more like you I might have moved on, found someone else I tried to But it didn't happen I wanted Rohit Longed for him In a way, I still do I've got so many of his shirts, a tennis racquet, shoes, shaving things, a discarded wrist watch, coffee mug, books, music, speakers, he still lives there, you know It sounds crazy, but after so many years I haven't got over him "

Swati patted her hand "There were others I wasn't the only one he betrayed you with. He told me so himself And these letters, they're unbelievable He's boasting like a bloody schoolboy trying to impress me with his conquests — 'body counts' as he calls them Pathetic I really don't know what it was — is — that obsesses you about that scumbag "

Aparna's eyes flashed as she hissed, "Don't call him that You brought out the ugly side in him The Rohit I knew was different A caring, attentive, sensitive person — the only man I respected In many ways he was the only man who made me feel wonderful and I'm not talking only about sex, you know He brought out my femininity, — made me feel, you know, a woman in the best sense of the word "

"Aa-ha, now comes the truth You've always had a problem about that, haven't you?" Swati asked, her eyes glinting

"About what?" Aparna countered, a defiant edge to her voice

"About being a woman — that's what," Swati replied

A long silence followed A silence that was filled with the filtered noise of desultory conversation from the next room Aparna's face was mask-like as she fought unsuccessfully to keep her emotions at bay Swati watched her keenly, revelling in the discomfort she had successfully created Finally, when Aparna spoke, it was with sorrow "I don't care if you know or who knows any longer Yes, I have problems, but then, who doesn't? Maybe you are very secure about your sexuality I've always been confused — always Way back in school too "

Swati said, "Don't I know it? You fall into the classic butch category "

Aparna shook her head "It isn't that simple Had it been so uncomplicated, I might have been able to come to terms with it It isn't just about liking women and hating men It's far more complex Besides, I don't really hate men Maybe I hate myself, at least certain aspects of myself But the fact still remains — I'm uncomfortable about being born a woman It seems so so I don't know unfair Rohit was the only person who understood this and accepted it It was so comforting, so wonderful Maybe it was this very quality that made him irresistible to other women — to you or to the one he finally left me for or to the countless others I'm sure he bedded "

Swati was reflective as she replied, "Yes, Rohit was sensitive to women Simpatico as the Spanish put it But more than anything else, he was great in bed And coming from me, baby — that's a mega compliment " ■

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

THE HEAT AND DUST OF MUGHALSARAI

When was the last time you drove down from Varanasi to Mughalsarai? Not recently, if you have any sense I came to the distinct conclusion that I hadn't any as I hit the jam by the Ganga bridge for the third evening in succession

My companions and I had been doing a little filming for a documentary on the Mughalsarai side of the Ganga, but were staying in the Cantonment on the other On this, the last of a three-day shoot, one of our two Ambassadors had developed massive problems in the region of the carburettor float and could only proceed in 50-metre spurts before flooding

No *mistri* in Chakia could handle it, so we all crammed into the second car, two of us reciting the *Hanuman Chalisa* It happened to be Hanumanji's birthday Perhaps it was he who carried us across the bridge, and perhaps it was the scepticism of the godless in the back seat that brought us to a halt behind innumerable trucks immediately afterwards

"Saale jam to dekh kar bukhar aa jata hai," said our driver, just after he had threatened to thrash a trucker for not giving right of way

How can I describe the dust and dark and diesel fumes of this stretch of road? The surface is pot-holed and the air so thick that light barely passes through it There are continuous roaring trucks, overloaded and continually breaking down — often on the narrow, two-lane bridge across the Ganga

These are the breakdowns which cause jams more than 10 kilometres long, where drivers rev their engines for hours before losing hope and switching them off

Then the Ambassadors and smaller vehicles fight down the dusty berms to try to beat as much of the jam as they can Bullock carts ensure that traffic across the bridge proceeds no faster than them, even when it starts to move Then there is a regular stretch of hell into the city

Rubbish has been piled on either side of the main highway Sometimes it burns, but mostly it rots and the dust it produces is pestilential

We laughed at the dust the other night, although we could see a man coughing into a flannel in the car in front The next morning, however, as I coughed and sneezed and vomited, I reflected more seriously on the dangers of atmospheric pollution

All of us who live in cities now



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know there is something wrong, and that even without advanced road development we are managing to produce advanced pollution

One encouraging thing is that in Britain they have noticed it too — despite years of Thatcherite rule (the PM who would never travel by train) and the dominance of the road lobby led by a formidable organisation called the British Road Federation Two recent reports have made it clear that the car cannot be king, and human selfishness and unbridled individualism, which the British Road Federation calls "personal freedom" will have to be curbed for our survival

You may not be able to see the air pollution in Britain as you can in Mughalsarai, but it is there all the same Teachers in London are now given training in coping with asthma in the classroom and are told that in every class of 30 children, three are likely to be asthmatics carrying drugs and inhalers

This marks a considerable increase in asthma in children It is not yet conclusively proved that traffic pollution alone causes the disease, instead of just aggravating it, but a betting man would put his money on guilty

Those aren't my words but those of an expert witness who deposed before the cross-party committee of British MPs looking into transport and particularly the causes and effects of the clouds of filth that hang over London

Their report roundly condemns the motor car It also condemns the good that people think they are doing by using a popular kind of unleaded petrol Less lead maybe being pumped into the atmosphere, but, says the report, "Evidence strongly suggests that the potential health hazards resulting from the excessive aromatics used outweigh any possible benefits from the reduced lead "

Aromatics like benzene are linked to cancer and childhood leukaemia It begins to seem that motor transport is irredeemably environmentally unfriendly

This is also the view of Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution In spite of the bad name the royal family has given itself, a royal commission is still a royal commission This one had officially recognised what most poeple had noticed for years — that building roads just increases traffic

It has challenged the whole concept of Mrs Thatcher's "great car economy" which has held sway for so long It calls for more public transport, the doubling of the price of petrol and a halving of the government's £19-billion road programme

The money saved, the Commission says, should be spent on rail, buses and trams The Commission chairman is aiming for "a transport system which is much less damaging to health and the environment, and at the same time more efficient in providing the access people want for work and for leisure" The report has been widely welcomed because it deals in plain, old-fashioned commonsense

However, it is difficult in a democratic country to control something as personally convenient as the motor car Down the Grand Trunk Road it is very difficult to control trucks — even the drivers often don't succeed Most of these trucks are plying down the main rail route between Calcutta and Delhi But if the railways were permitted to develop and aggressively market their freight services, perhaps commonsense could clear the air there and save the lungs of those who live and travel along the Grand Trunk Road

(Sanctuary Features)

You may not be able to see the air pollution in Britain as you can in Mughalsarai, but it is there all the same. Teachers in London are now given training in coping with asthma in the classroom and are told that in every class of 30 children, three are likely to be asthmatics carrying drugs and inhalers

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TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0710	3 6	IC-742	0940	3, 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3, 5 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3, 5, 7
AHMEDABAD					
M9-304/109	0855	1 3 5	M9-110/301	1900	1 3 5
AIZAWL					
PF-705	0730	2, 4, 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-721	1300	1, 3, 5	IC-722	1540	1, 3 5
BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC-544	1115	2, 7	IC-543	1035	2, 7
IC-769	1525	1, 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3, 5
BOMBAY					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
9W-202	0920	1 2 3, 4, 5 6	9W-201	0840	1 2, 3, 4, 5 6
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-306	1840	5
9W-212	1945	daily	IC-274	1850	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
AI-309	2035	6	D2-103	1935	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
DELHI					
			IC-262	0815	2, 4, 7
IC-263	0700	daily	M9-303	0825	daily
M9 304	0855	daily	AI-682	0950	1
IC-812	1515	1 3, 5	4S-806	1115	1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S 805	1745	1 2 3 4 5, 6	M9-301	1900	daily
IC 261	1900	2, 4 7	S2 005	1900	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
M9 302	1930	daily	IC-811	1930	1, 3, 5
S2 006	1940	1 2 3 4 5, 6	IC-264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF-737	0730	3 5	IC-704	1430	3 5
IC-703	0800	3, 5	D2-181	1620	1, 3, 5, 7
D2 181	1135	1, 3 5, 7	D2-183	1620	2, 4 6
D2-183	1135	2, 4 6	IC-702	1630	2, 4, 6 7
4S-815	1145	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 6	4S-816	1705	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-701	1240	2 4, 6, 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
DIMAPUR					
IC-257	1150	4 7	IC-258	1650	4, 7
GUWAHATI					
PF-735	0730	1	IC-712	1410	2 6
PF-737	0730	3, 5	IC-704	1430	3 5
PF-705	0730	2 4, 6, 7	IC-708	1430	1 4 7

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
BANGKOK					
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 6, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 6, 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6
DHAKA					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4
KATHMANDU					
KL-876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7
KUALA LUMPUR					
MH-684	1000	1	MH-683	1800	1
MALE					
IC-703	0800	3, 5	PF-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
IC-707	0800	1, 4, 7	D2-181	1620	1, 3, 5, 7
IC-711	0800	2, 6	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
D2-181	1135	1, 3, 5, 7	IC-230	1650	daily
D2-183	1135	2, 4, 6	4S-811	1705	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
4S-812	1145	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	PF-736	1730	1
IC-257	1150	4, 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-211	1240	4, 6	IC-258	1740	4, 7
IC-229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4, 6
HYDERABAD					
IC-777	1500	2, 4 7	IC-778	2005	2 4, 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
IMPHAL					
IC-707	0715	1 4 6	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC-708	1345	1 4, 6
IC-253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2 6
JORHAT					
IC-213	0910	2 4, 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3, 5
MADRAS					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2-172	1740	daily	IC-766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 /	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC-285	0640	3 5 7	IC-286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF-705	0730	2, 2, 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
SILCHAR					
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC 260	1110	1 7
IC-259	0830	1 7	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2, 6
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 212	1740	4, 6
TEZPUR					
IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2, 4 7
TEZU					
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC-542	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-541	1030	1, 3, 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
[redacted]					
RO-076	2040	5, 7	RO-075	1035	5, 7
[redacted]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[redacted]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5
[redacted]					
IC-747	1115	1 3, 5	IC-748	1455	1, 3, 5
RA-214	1400	4, 7	RA-213	1315	4, 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
[redacted]					
BA-142	2050	3, 7	BA-143	1525	3, 7
[redacted]					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
[redacted]					
KB-106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2, 6
KB-106	1300	5			
[redacted]					
SQ-415	2200	2, 5	SQ-416	2040	2, 5
SOFIA					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13-40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22-05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	--
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
-	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	–
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
–	14 05	**Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203496 3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

CRITICKED OFF

Every author, little or great, has received at least one review that has stung to the quick The great have often received more than their share of literary brickbats — if that's any consolation to the rest of us

I don't know what Shakespeare thought of his critics, but we do know that Voltaire described *Hamlet* as "the work of a drunken savage" Well, there's no reason why a drunken savage shouldn't write a masterpiece But it wasn't only *Hamlet* which came under attack

The diarist, Samuel Pepys, said, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* "was the most insipid, ridiculous play I have ever seen in my life" He may, of course, have been to a particularly bad performance Just as I did when I saw the Hollywood version over 30 years ago

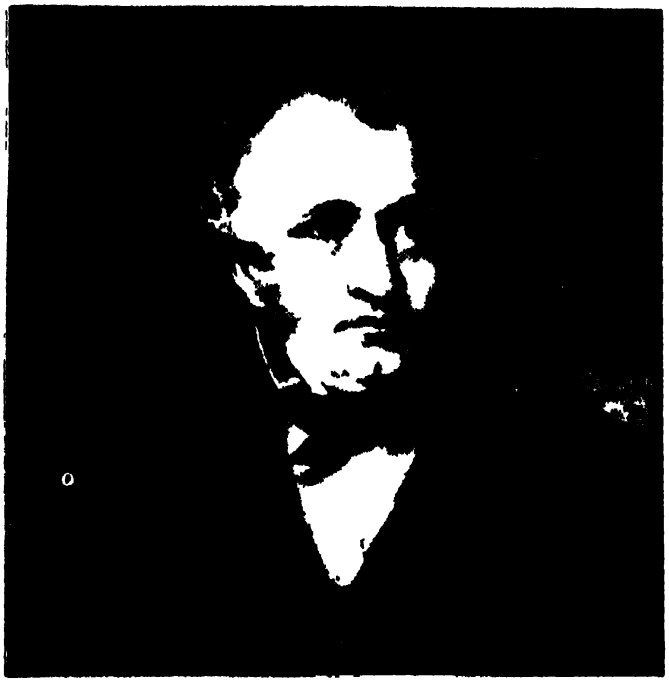
James Cagney as Bottom, Mickey Rooney as Puck and Joe E Brown as Flute were just a little too incongruous to successfully inhabit the enchanted world of Shakespeare Not the author's fault!

Dickens had been transferred more successfully to film, but in his lifetime he was regularly savaged by reviewers who refused to believe his reputation could last and who called his writing "meagre and melodramatic" and "transparent and make-believe"

The reading public paid no attention to the critics He was the most popular author on both sides of the Atlantic and continues so till this day Over a hundred years on the bestseller lists

Sometimes, I wonder if adverse criticism doesn't actually help an author's reputation

Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* was dismissed as "sentimental rubbish" Today, no shelf of classics would be complete without it Macaulay sneered at Wordsworth's "crazy mystical metaphysics, the endless wilderness of dull, flat, prosaic twaddle" That last phrase would be a good description of Macaulay's own turgid and unreadable prose Wordsworth's craziness continues to enchant



Thomas Babington Macaulay

Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* was dismissed as 'sentimental rubbish'. Today, no shelf of classics would be complete without it. Macaulay sneered at Wordsworth's 'crazy mystical metaphysics, the endless wilderness of dull, flat, prosaic twaddle'. That last phrase would be a good description of Macaulay's own turgid and unreadable prose. Wordsworth's craziness continues to enchant

Thomas Carlyle got personal and called Emerson, "a hoary-headed and toothless baboon" and described Charles Lamb thus "A more pitiful, grasping, staggering Tomfool I do not know " We wish had Carlyle staggered around a little, he might have had some thoughts equal to Emerson's and written prose as memorable as Lamb's Carlyle is a sure cure for insomnia

One reviewer called Whitman "morally insane", and another accused Dean Swift of having a "diseased mind" H L Mencken, a vitriolic news paperman, said of Henry James that he was "an idiot and a Boston idiot to boot, than which there is nothing lower in the world" Mencken came from Baltimore, which probably accounts for his prejudice

John Keats, who had once been a chemist's apprentice, was advised by one cruel reviewer, "Back to the shop Mr John Back to the plasters, pills and ointment boxes " Poor John died before he could take the advice of his detractor, but his love poetry lives on, long after his unloved critic bit the dust (*Sanctuary Features*)

INNER EYE — Bejan Daruwalla

Aries
March 21—April 20



Time to gallivant, throw bread upon the waters, be friendly, make up with enemies, marry or get engaged, go in for collaborations, a tie, and a link Ganesha says, do enlist in clubs and organisations Good for you financially and, more importantly, emotionally and socially

Taurus
April 21—May 20



You will have to strain your sinews, work to a plan, but rest assured the results will be simply wonderful and, therefore, well worth the while A journey or a house move is definitely on the cards A trip towards the week's close is indicated Also, this is a good week for amusements

Gemini
May 21—June 20



Your work will be done and consequently you must go all out and push for it with all your might Many Geminians feel shy at the start Don't Just resolve and be victorious Loans and funds for a project and an enterprise will be made available Approach those who are able to help you

Cancer
June 21—July 20



Cultivate the positive attitude that nothing is beyond you and you will find nothing really is Yes, you will have to make that extra effort, give that final heave, but it will yield magnificent results Many Cancerians will be in for contacts and contracts with foreign lands and distant places

Leo
July 21—August 21



A time to find what you are seeking But be a little careful of health and finances. Let not trifles upset you unduly Be generous as is your real nature Joint-finances and investments could be of great importance now Mars helps you to be victorious, but you don't have to bait others

Virgo
August 22—September 22



You will be in a half-way house between service and alliances A period of transition is foretold It could mean a change of job/profession/business Partnerships, be they personal or professional, could also undergo a change A few gains could be registered

Libra
September 23—October 22



Romance, speculation, birth of children, higher education and promotion, these are the issues which will form the framework of your life now It would be a good idea to cultivate friends and well-wishers, as you are going to need them Love knocks at the door of your heart

Scorpio
October 23—November 22



Mercury, in direct motion now, suggests news, messages, renovation, decoration, courtship and children Your creativity will be commendable Many of your plans can, and will, be put into action with success What you do now will have a fine spin-off in April, specially financially

Sagittarius
November 23—December 20



This is an excellent week to contact and communicate, be it through flyers, posters, calls, letters, ads, telex, fax and so on Your home will also come in for a full share of attention Important changes in the office are also foretold Health of elders could concern though Do be careful

Capricorn
December 21—January 19



This week your finances and family matters could liven up considerably That, in turn, should make you happy You will be paying great attention to your personal appearance, home and your public image Find time for entertaining and developing a hobby An exciting week

Aquarius
January 20—February 18



Pluto in Sagittarius, temporarily, according to Western astrology, helps you in your enterprise and social circles You will be making many new friends, starting a new relationship, so to say More importantly, your attitude will be very positive, a pointer to success

Pisces
February 19—March 20



A good week to carry out your plans, be diplomatic but get the message through Many Pisceans will be honing their skills, thinking of shifting to a new job, a different profession, an ancilliary line of work Visits, house and office move could take up a lot of your time

BIRTHDAYS

February 19: The planets signify excellent intuition and expression Changes of job and work are absolutely certain Care of health is a must.

February 20: Despite pressure and prejudices, you are bound to succeed, says Ganesha. Keep your cool and do your duty.

February 21: Moon-Saturn fine placing shows slow, but sure, improvement in health and status. Things will begin to go your way. Journeys and ceremonies give delight.

February 22: Moon's last quarter makes you overtly ambitious and daring You will therefore venture forth and be successful, says Ganesha. Romance foretold.

February 23: Moon-Jupiter conjunction shows expansion, growth, progress and development. Romance and good fortune in property matters are foretold.

February 24: Moon-Sun sextile leads to opportunities, good fellowship, hectic socialising and success in job.

February 25: Moon-Saturn excellent placing means slowly but surely your plans will crystallise and bear fruit. Planning is everything.

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COURSE COMMENCING FROM: July 1995 (8th Session)
PROSPECTUS: Can be collected from College or City office on cash payment of Rs. 250/-. Outstation candidates have to send Rs. 270/- through M.O. Only to Executive Director (Admission), IAM, AE-486, Salt Lake, Calcutta-700 064.

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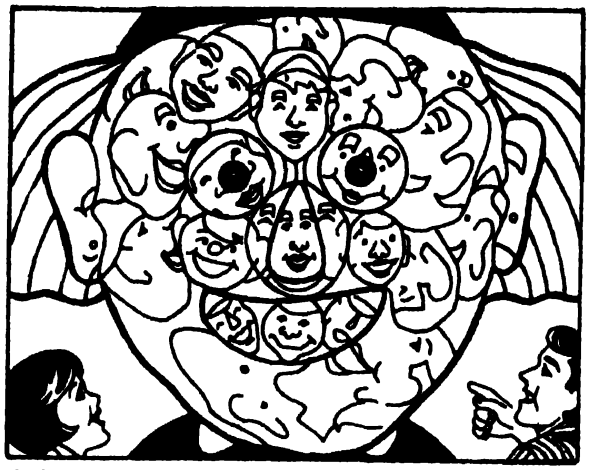
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Guwahati: G N B Road, Silpukhuri (Near Goswami Service) Guwahati — 781003

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ADMISSION OPEN

JUNIOR WHIRL



FACE TRACE! Our artist says there are some 28 faces in the clown portrait above How many of them do you find?

FINGER FRAUD! Count backwards on fingers on your left hand — 10, 9 8, 7, 6 Add five for your right hand that's total of 11 Which you don't have



LETTER MIX EXERCISE

SEVEN letters in Panel 1, above, may be un-scrambled to form three different seven-letter words, while six letters in Panel 2 will form three six-letter words Clues to possible words are provided by these definitions

Seven-letter words
(a) Cutting back on calories, etc
(b) Fixing typos
(c) Applied a match
Six-letter words
(a) Smokey the Bear's hangout
(b) Not as loud
(c) Companion word to child or home

What are the words?

Words in order Dieting, editing, quitting, forest, rather, foster

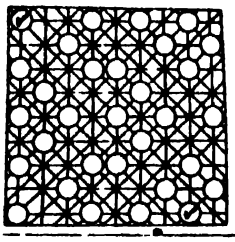
CHECK MATES! Two checkmarks appear among the circles of the figure below You are asked to insert seven more checks in such a manner that no two checks appear in the same horizontal or vetical row, or on any of the numerous diagonal lines

Remember, two marks are now in place Insert seven more

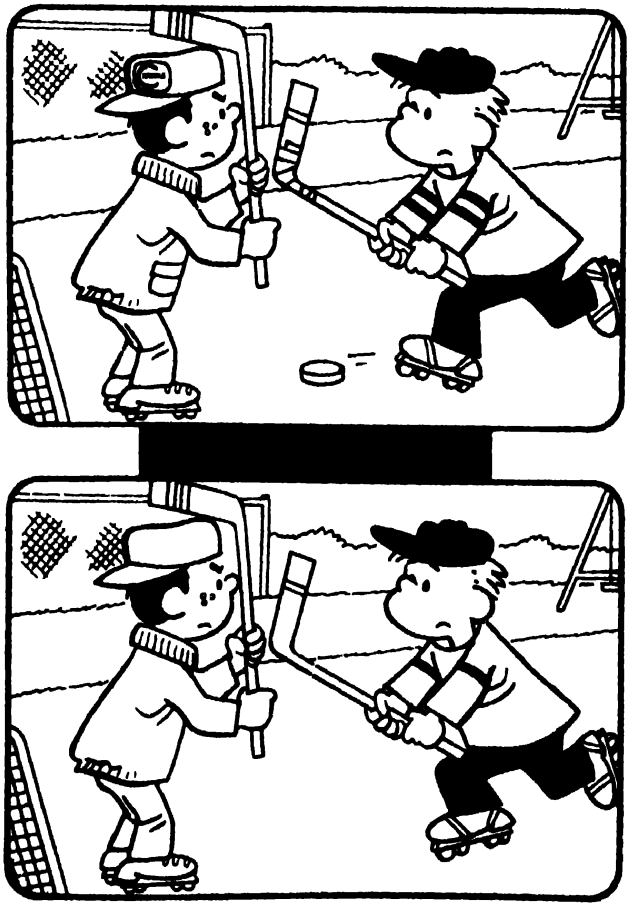
Patience will help, as will an eraser

No fair peeking below Other answers may be possible

Check 2nd circle in 2nd row from top 2nd in 3rd row from top 2nd in 4th row 4th in 5th row 1st in 7th 1st in 8th 3rd in 6th 1st in 8th



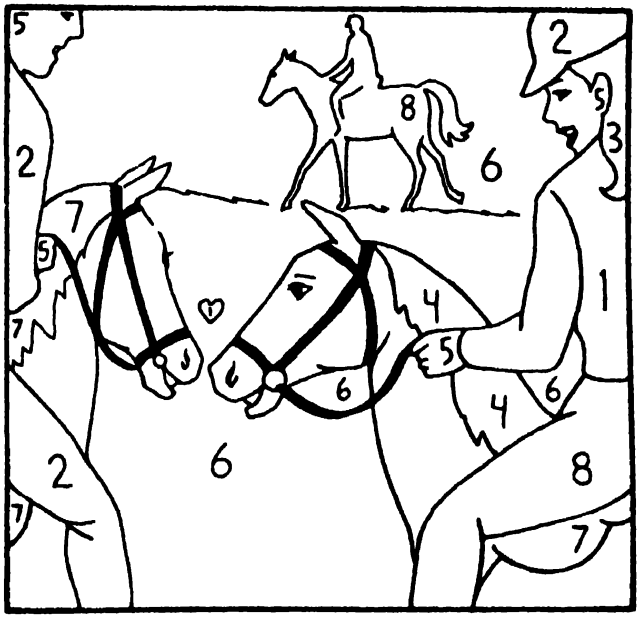
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Hat logo is missing 2 Pocket is missing 3 Tape is missing from hockey stick 4 Puck is missing 5 Arm stripe is missing 6 Leg is moved

FUNSPOT



STABLE TALK! Well, fancy meeting you here! Use crayons or colored pencils to add these colors 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown 8—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

ALLOCATE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

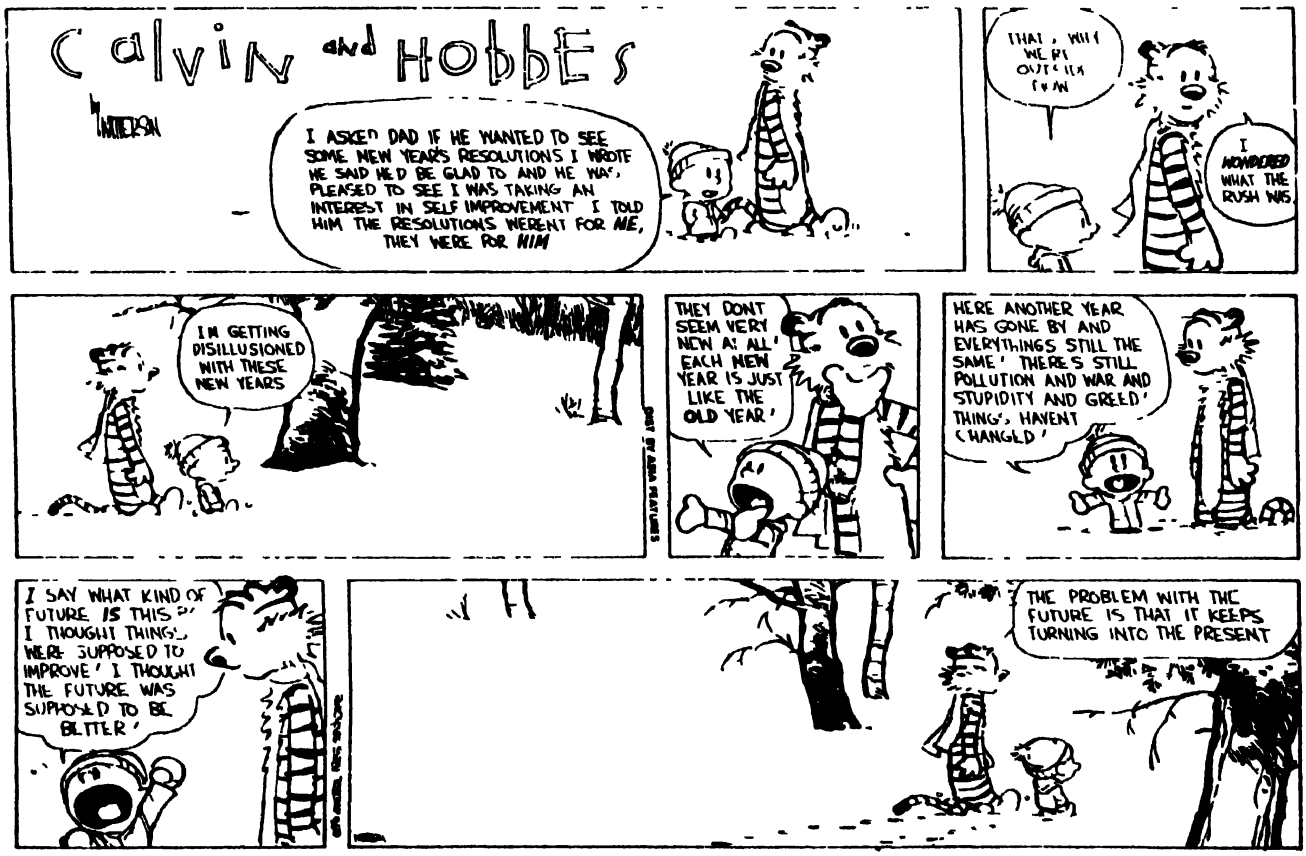
Possible twosome Coal, tale

COMICS

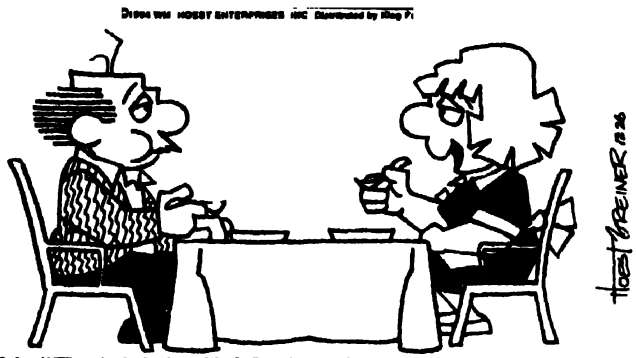
ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



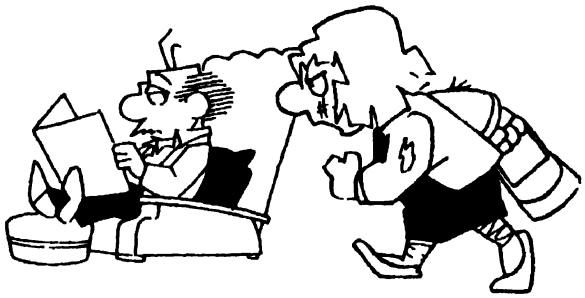
THE LOCKHORNS



I CAN'T HEAR A WORD YOU'RE SAYING, LEROY YOU'RE TALKING WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL. KEEP IT UP."



"WELL ..... THERE'S A WIG SHOP ON THE WAY HOME"

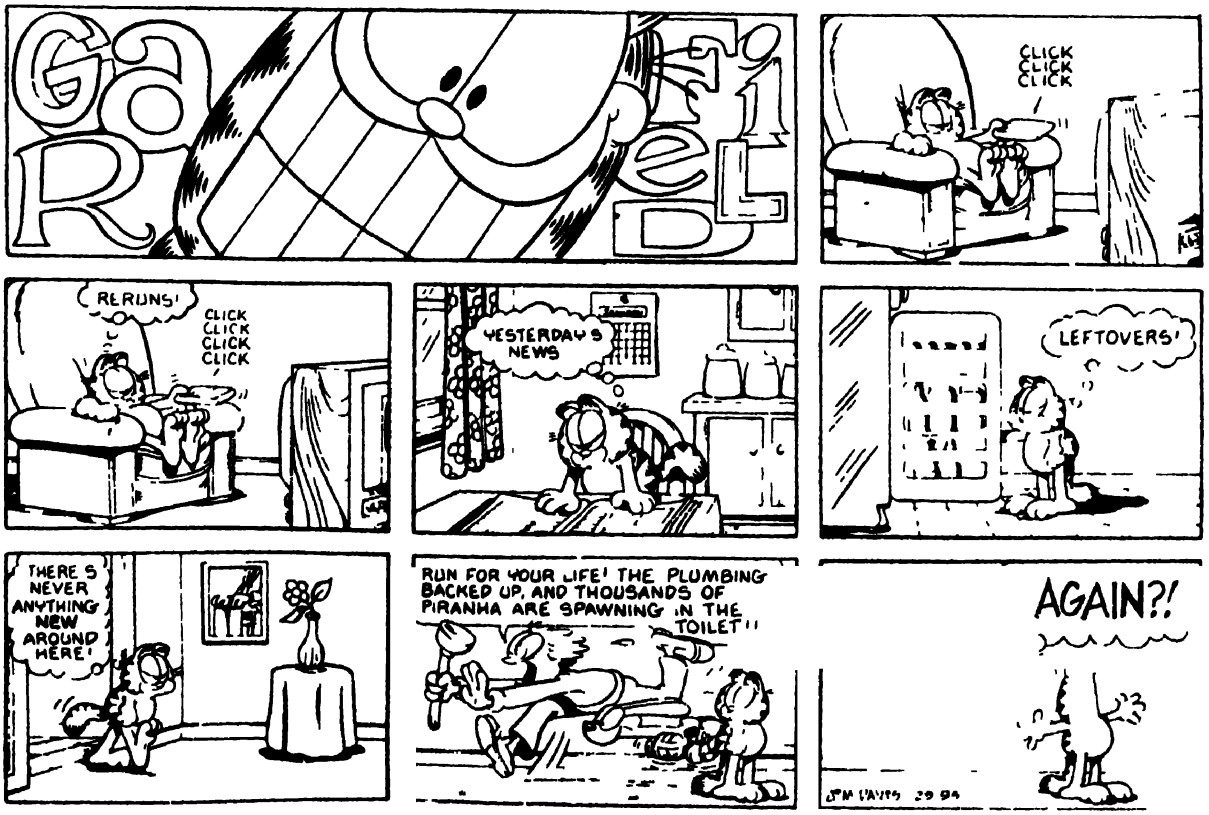


"I STOPPED TOO FAST FOR THE CAR IN BACK OF ME, AND TOO SLOW FOR THE CAR IN FRONT OF ME!"

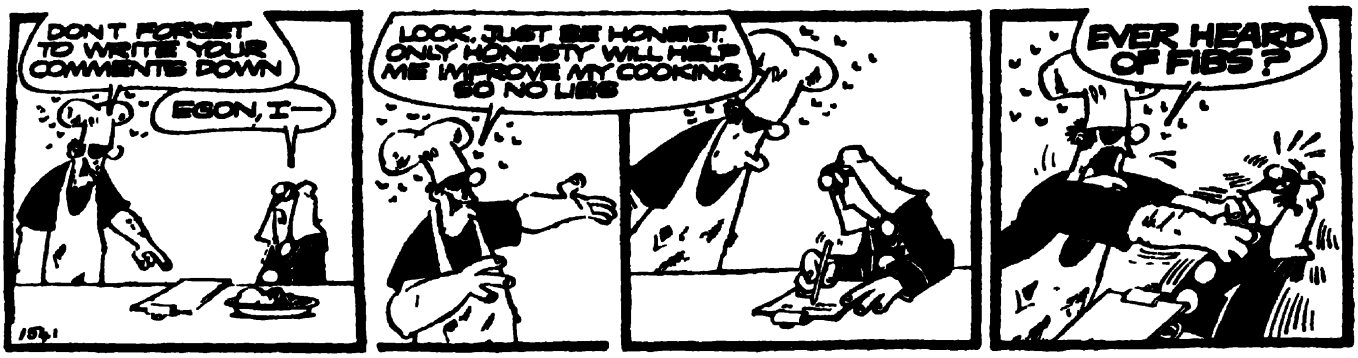


"LEROY HAS MOOD SWINGS FROM NASTY TO HOSTILE"

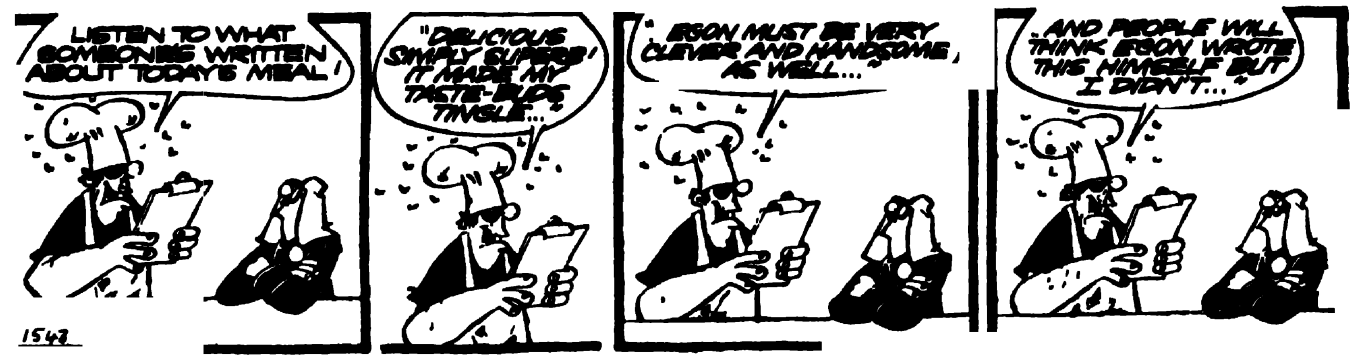
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

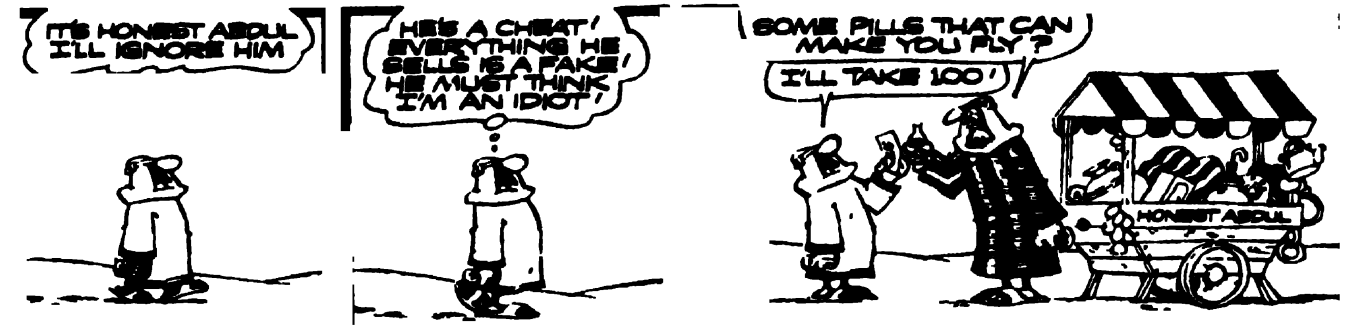


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

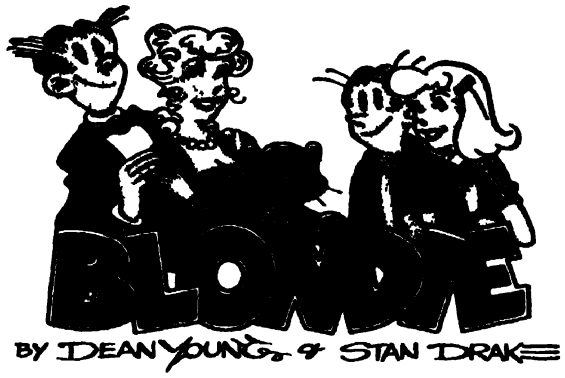
















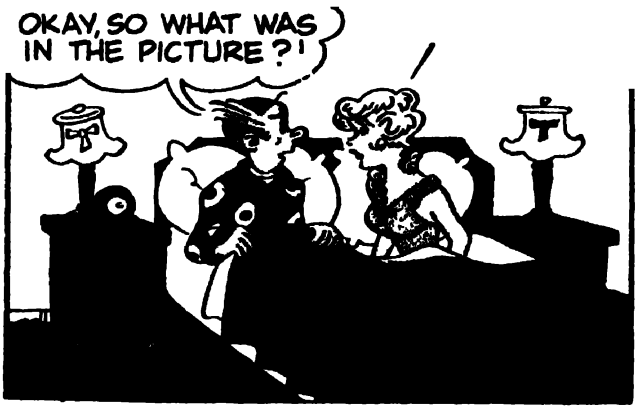








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Sharon Stone

Sharon, by Choice

Not everyone seems to agree that Sushmita Sen and Aishwarya Rai are the two most beautiful women in the universe or the world.

When some male British celebs were asked recently to name the woman they thought was most sexy and beautiful, they unanimously voted for Sharon Stone, the hottest star in Hollywood.

"I am a normal red-blooded man," admitted best-selling author Jeffrey Archer in justifying his preference for the blonde actress.

The 35-year-old top Hollywood star who shot into fame with her portrayal of the sexually emancipated Catherine Tramell in *Basic Instinct*, garnered twice as many votes as runners-up, pulp fiction actresses Uma Thurman and Kim Basinger.

"She embodies all the glamour a woman of the Nineties should," said the famed fashion designer, Giorgio Armani.

Of course, Michelle Pfeiffer and Princess Diana were not to be forgotten Michelle, many felt, had a very "sexy mouth" and they adored Princess Di "for her curious blend of English rose and raw sex appeal"

Strangely, none of the respondents opted for any Indian beauties.

Blonde, Big and Blue-eyed

When it comes to a choice between Michelle Pfeiffer and Julia Roberts, most men prefer the former. This was revealed in a *GQ Magazine* survey conducted on 635 men, aged between 20 and 44, which said men desired women who were blonde, reasonably intelligent, big-bosomed and blue-eyed.

And topping the list was none other than the ravishing beauty, Michelle Pfeiffer.

Surprisingly, men want their women to be demanding and not submissive. Eighty-two per cent of those interviewed said so.

Seventy-two per cent felt women were jealous, 68 per cent viewed them as bitchy and 71 per cent saw them as wilful partners.

Good looks may be a stimulus for a lasting relationship for many, but not for all. Sixty-one per cent admitted they like women with 'no looks' but 'great brains'.



Michelle Pfeiffer

Whereas only 29 per cent sought 'great looks' and 'little brains' in their women. The finest quality, however, men look for in women for a stable and mature relationship is a keen sense of humour followed by honesty, loyalty and intelligence

The ideal partner, so said the men, should be shorter than them, have straight, blonde hair, blue eyes and a proportionate figure.

Do Indian men endorse these preferences?

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS



The Road to Wellville The story, set in Michigan, is based on a leading sanatorium for the well-known and well-to-do (Perhaps along the lines of the Betty Ford Clinic)

A thoroughly enjoyable comedy, starring Anthony Hopkins, Bridget Fonda and John Cusack

BOOKS

***Deadlier than the Male*, Alix Kirsta: This book is sure to generate a lot of debate on what the author says — millions of children, old people and husbands share the same secret that they are being either battered or sexually abused by women.**

The author argues that it's a myth that it's alien to women's nature to be agressive and violent.



Almost a century ago, writer Cesare Lambroso reckoned he could detect the female with a criminal bent of mind: she'd be fat and ugly. Lately, it has been established that rogue hormones are to blame for deviations from women's nurturing roles.

Published by HarperCollins; £6.99.

LIFESTYLE

Hot pot Milton's new casserole has Golmaal for a name, sans the chaos and the hotchpotch it inevitably conjures up

The product, on the contrary, is specially designed to be flat for the sake of "retaining the shape" of those soft, rounded *malai*



koftas, dahi wadas and lipsmacking *gulab jamuns* kept within its confines

In delicate, floral designs, it is meant for the ever-busy housewife who wants to serve her meals piping hot, or as the perfect gift item for your gourmet friend

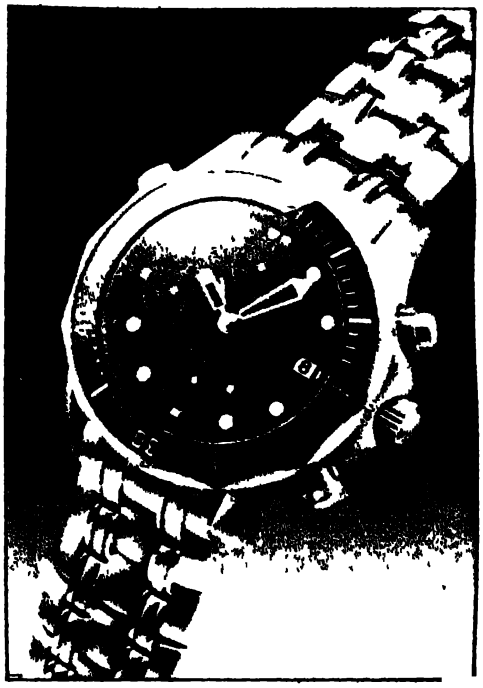
The price of the casserole along with six bowls is Rs 598

Just the casserole is tagged at Rs 426 A tempting offer — won't you agree?

Big league Omega, the legendary Swiss watchmakers, are on the expansion trail in India, introducing for the first time their new Seamaster range

The one to watch out for is the Omega Seamaster Professional Chrono Diver, which can brave the scorching heat and the tumultuous ocean waters

What's more, it's equipped with a helium escape valve with screw-in crown and has specially developed chronograph pushtons which can function underwater to a depth of 300 metres



Nominated as the Watch of the Year (1994) by the German trade magazine, *Armbanduhren International*, the Chrono Diver is meant for the man with exacting standards, be it in business or at leisure, for the aquatic sports lover or the deep sea diver It's for all tides — and naturally, for all times

HEALTH

***Fishy odour:* Most people have a wrong idea that a fishy body odour is caused by a lack of personal hygiene. According to medical sciences, the Fish Odour Syndrome is caused by the body's inability to efficiently oxidise the chemical, trimethylamine, present in choline-rich foods.**

The fishy odour is excreted through urine, saliva, breath, sweat and even vaginal secretions.

So, the best remedy would be, besides taking antibiotics, to avoid choline-rich foods that include eggs, liver, offal, soya beans and sea fish.

TASTINGS

Piece of cake Here's how you'll find baking a child's play Just go by the easy-to-follow instructions that Brown and Polson Cake Mix spells out for its users And you're sure to come up with the softest, fluffiest and scrumptuous cakes in town

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RASOI



JIGGS KALRA



Last year, when Rasoi travelled in the United States, the most noteworthy aspect on almost every menu was the emphasis on stir-fries. Of course, the other side of the pond had taken a shine to Chinese stir-fried food. Pity, the Yanks haven't quite discovered the exotic charm of the sub-continental stir-fries. Last week, we brought you the first taste of Balti cooking. Balti, which is an extension of *kadhai* cooking, applying the speedy stir-frying technique to a whole range of wonderful dishes, is the style that has finally challenged Tandoori and Moghalia cuisines in Britain.

Shehzad Husain's *The Balti Cookbook*, brought to Indian lovers of food by Shubhash Arora of Teksons, presents a perfect introduction to an old cooking style of India and Pakistan. The recipes included in the book range from the classics to the innovative. Two recipes

CHICKEN KOFTA BALTI WITH PANEER

INGREDIENTS

The *Kofta*

450 g / 1 lb Chicken
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
5 g / 1/2" piece Ginger
4.5 g / 1 1/2 tsp Coriander powder
4.5 g / 1 1/2 tsp Red chilli powder
0.75 g / 1/2 tsp Dried fenugreek leaves (*kasoori methi*) powder
0.375 g / 1/4 tsp Turmeric powder
Salt
6.5 g / 2 tbs Coriander
2 Green chillies
Cooking oil (preferably corn oil) to grill *kofta*

The *Paneer* Mixture

175 g / 6 oz *Paneer*
175 g / 6 oz Sweet corn or Corn kernels
1 Onion (medium)
1 Red bell pepper
1 Green bell pepper

The Garnish

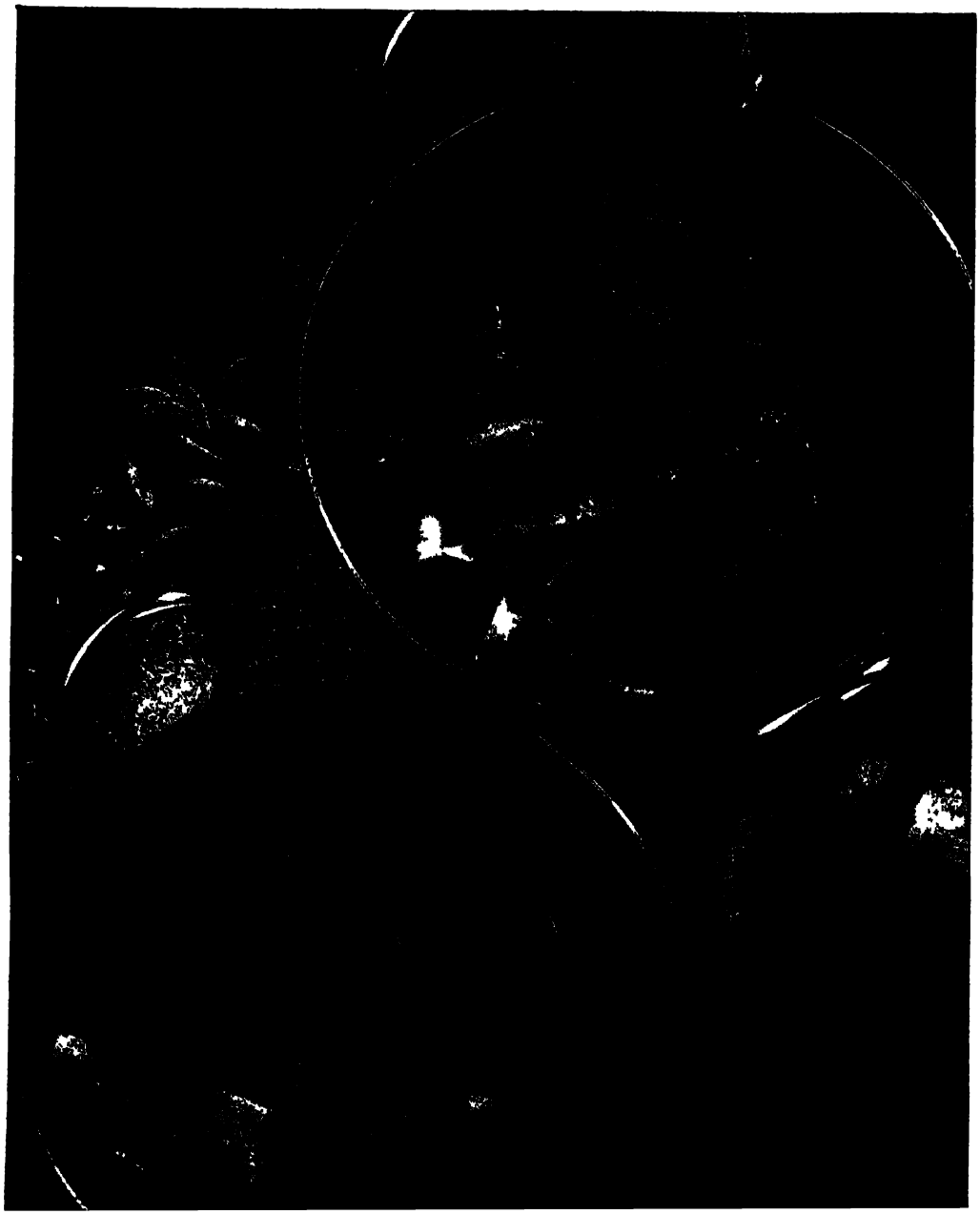
6 Mint sprigs
1 Dried red chilli (optional)

Serves: 6
Preparation time: 45 minutes
Cooking time: 30 minutes

PREPARATION

The chicken: Clean,

Chicken Kofta Balti with Paneer



remove the skin, debone, cut into cubes, wash and pat dry.
The vegetables: Scrape, wash and shred ginger. Clean, wash and finely chop coriander. Wash green chillies, slit, deseed, finely chop and discard the stems.
The *kofta:* Put the chicken and the remaining ingredients, except oil, into a medium *handi*/pan, add 600 ml/2 1/2 cups of water, bring to a boil over medium heat and cook until the liquid has completely evaporated Remove and cool

Transfer to food processor or blender and mince for 2 minutes, stopping once or twice to loosen the mixture with a spoon Scrape the mixture into a large mixing bowl, using a wooden spoon Divide into 12 equal portions and make balls
The *paneer* mixture: Cut the *paneer* into 1 1/2" cubes Peel, wash and slice onions Wash red and green bell peppers, halve, deseed, cut into juliennes and discard the stems
The garnish: Clean mint, wash and pat dry Wipe red chilli clean with moist cloth and then crush

COOKING
Heat oil in a *kadhai*/wok over high heat, reduce to medium heat, add *kofta* and deep fry until light brown Remove with a slotted spoon to absorbent paper to drain excess fat

Reheat the remaining oil in the *kadhai*/wok, add the *paneer* mixture ingredients and flash fry over high heat for approximately 3 minutes Remove and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE
Divide the *paneer*mixture equallly between 6 *kadhai*/woks, add 2 *kofta* to each serving and garnish with mint sprigs and equal quantities of the crushed chillies if you wish



Balti Baby Vegetables

BALTI BABY VEGETABLES

INGREDIENTS
10 New (baby) potatoes
12 Baby carrots
12 Baby courgettes
30 ml / 2 tbs Cooking oil (preferably corn oil)
15 Baby onions
30 ml / 2 tbs Chilli sauce
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
Salt
200 g / 1 cup *Kabuli channa* (chick peas)
A generous pinch soda bi-carb
10 Cherry tomatoes
1 Dried red chilli (optional)
20 g / 2 tbs Sesame seeds (white)

Serves: 4-6
Preparation time: 30 minutes
Cooking time: 35 minutes

PREPARATION
The vegetables: Wash, pat dry and halve the potatoes Peel, wash and pat dry carrots and onions Clean and wash courgettes Wash and pat dry tomatoes
The *kabuli* channa: Pick, wash put in a *handi*/pan, add 1 litre/4 1/4 cups of water, bring to a boil and then continue to boil for 2 minutes. Remove and reserve in the same water for 1 hour

Drain, add 1 litre/4 1/4 cups of fresh water and the soda bi-carb, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat, remove the scum, cover and simmer until cooked but not mashed. Drain and keep aside
The red chilli: Wipe red chilli clean with moist cloth and then crush

COOKING
Put water in a medium *handi*/pan, add salt, stir, bring to a boil, add potatoes and carrots, boil for 12-15 minutes, add the courgettes and boil for a further 5 minutes or until all the vegetables are just tender Drain and keep aside

Heat oil in the *kadhai*/wok, add baby onions, fry over medium heat until golden brown, reduce to low heat, add the chilli sauce, garlic paste, ginger pastes and salt, taking care not to burn the mixture Then add the boiled *kabuli channa* (chick peas) and *bhunne*/stir-fry until the moisture has been absorbed Now add tomatoes and stir with a slotted spoon for about 2 minutes Remove and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE
Transfer to a serving bowl, sprinkle red chillies and sesame seeds and serve as part of a main meal or as an appetizer

** By varying the vegetables chosen and experimenting with different combinations, this recipe can form the basis for a wide variety of vegetable accompaniments Try baby corn, French beans, snow peas, okra and cauliflower florets*

NOTE: All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross ■

GANESH PYNE, *58, the reclusive painter with a melancholic disposition, can hardly be accused of being prolific, choosing to work with the more painstaking medium of tempera and using potions that are solely his own making. But Dame Fortune has been kind, smiling through his best known works,* The Two Brothers, The Assassin,Boy and the Painted Horse *and* The Blue Column. *Though awards have poured in, his desire to excel continues*

Tarapada Banerjee



What is your idea of perfect happiness?
A mind which is beyond any confusion whatsoever, and impossible for me to attain
What is your greatest fear?
Life
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My grandma
What do you dislike most in others?
Their unwillingness to communicate—to reach out, so to say
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My introvert nature
What is your most precious possession?
The materials with which I draw and paint
What objects do you always carry?

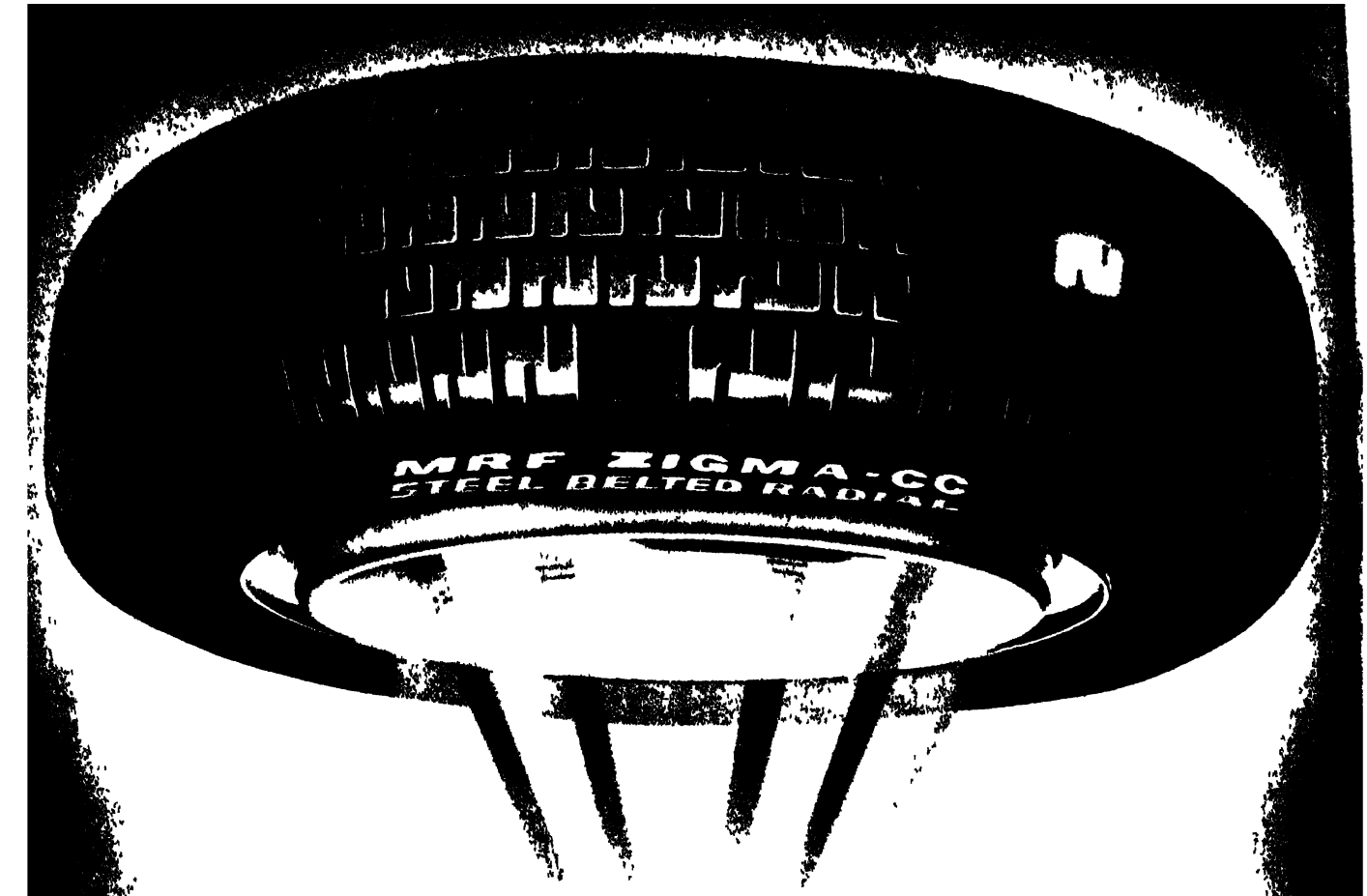
What do you dislike most in yourself?

My introvert nature

Curiously enough, it is a *jaiphal* (nutmeg) I always keep tucked into my pocket
What makes you most depressed?
The cry of helpless children
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
I have never given it a thought, nor been aware
What is your favourite word?
Oh God!
What is your favourite journey?
None that I can think of
What is your favourite dream?
Sleeping in deep waters
What is your nightmare?
The void beneath the steps that I am descending, and a contrary one, which involves my ascending those that end before a closed door
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
My grandma When alive, it is she I loved most, and now that she is gone, it is her memory that I cherish
What is your source of sustenance?
Solitude
On what occasions do you lie?
To fortify my privacy
What is your greatest regret?
That my dreams of being a writer could not be fulfilled
What has been your happiest moment?
When I enrolled as a student at the Government College of Art and Craft, Calcutta
What brings tears to your eyes?
When two ends do not meet despite my repeated efforts
How do you relax?
By allowing my mind to move freely
What do you envy most in others?
Determination
How would you like to be remembered?
I would not like to be remembered at all
How would you like to die?
If and when I wish to

What is your favourite dream?

Sleeping in deep waters



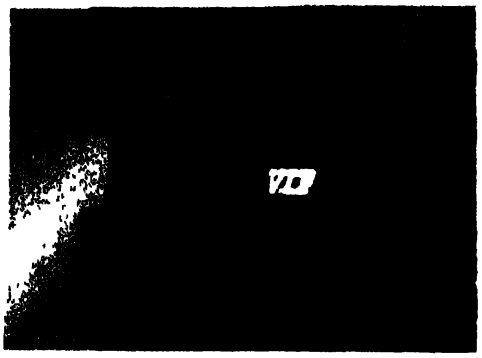
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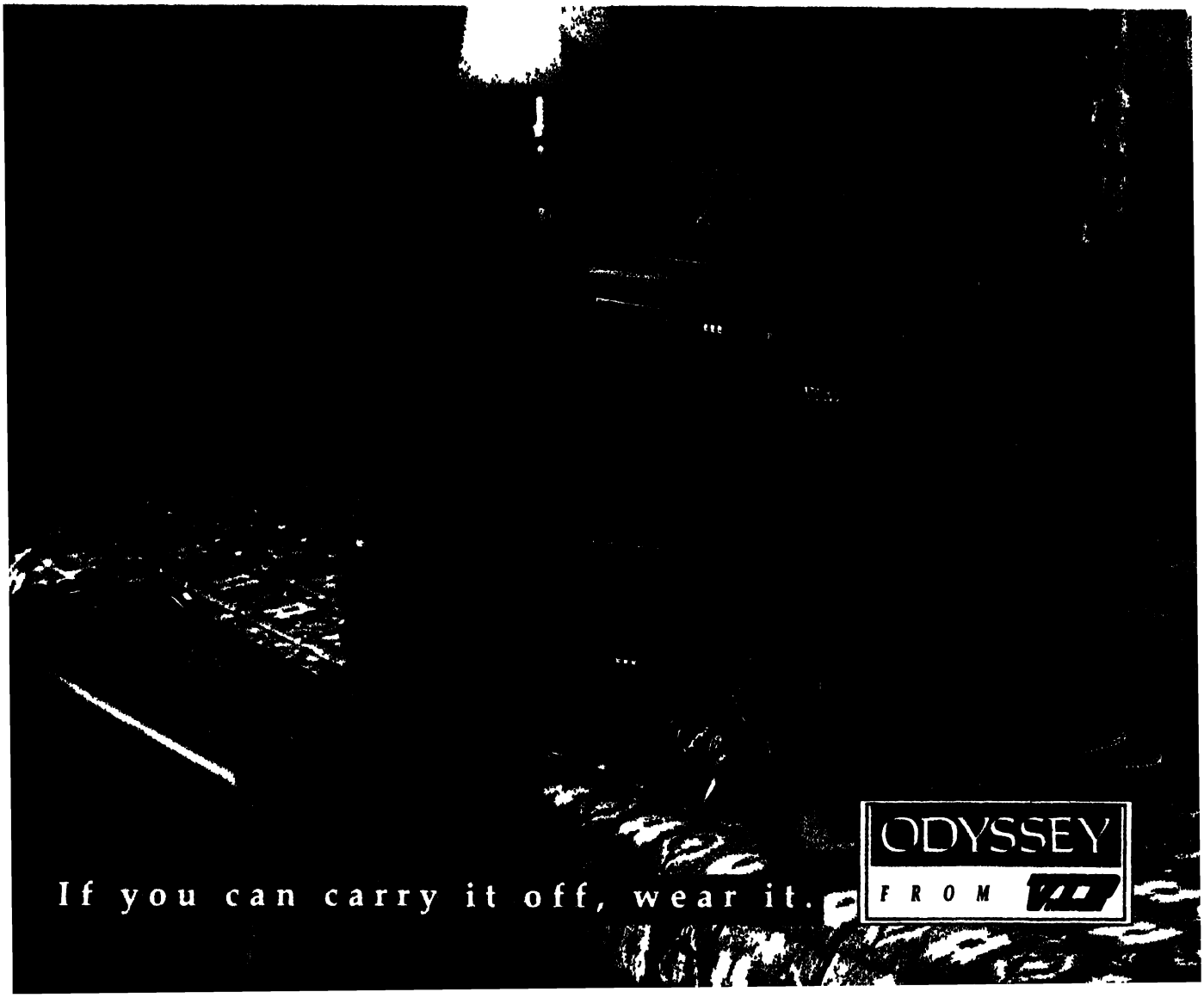
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The Telegraph

26 FEBRUARY 1995

POST MORTEM

In the Winter Years...

■ The spirit to live life creatively in spite of physical failings is amazing ('Life at 80' and 'Summer of the Patriarchs', January 29)

When the season of life proceeds from "mists and mellow fruitfulness" to severe winter we need not surrender totally to the ravages of age

In particular, Bhabatosh Dutta's grit and determination is awe-inspiring We could never have dreamt of his agonising physical and circumstantial limitations despite which he keeps his intellect alive

I hope we can shake off our insensitivity to the other elderly members we see and meet, and develop more sympathy and respect for them

Dipali Mukherjee, Calcutta

A Glimpse of Broadway

■ The Magazine could not have chosen a better subject for its cover story ('Still a Hit', December 11) But somehow, the writeup did not deliver what it promised

I expected some nostalgia — an opportunity to flip through the legacies of Broadway But what I got was only a glimpse of Broadway

The cover story should have said more about this threatre district than just giving review-like accounts of Broadway's current productions

Neelanjan Bhattacharji, Calcutta

Mr Unclean

■ V P Singh has forever tried to establish that he's the man on the right path ('Loner,' January 15) Time and again he has used his resignation letter to gain public sympathy

His political track record has nothing much to talk about After the chief ministership of Uttar Pradesh, he found a berth in the Union Cabinet getting portfolios like defence, finance.

After Indira Gandhi's death he gained political prominence as Rajiv Gandhi's ally But he betrayed Rajiv Gandhi, too, to bolster his 'Mr Clean' image

He succeeded in forming a new political alliance, thanks to which he became the Prime Minister

But the period of his Prime Ministership was also not without controversy It was one of the darkest periods ever witnessed in India He divided society for electoral gains by using the Mandal card His divisive policies caused many an innocent student to self-immolate on the streets of Delhi

Singh deserves to remain a loner, for, the moment he enters active politics the nation will be in danger

Manish Chaturvedi, Calcutta

Mixed-up Mixes

■ The articles in the Magazine are eminently readable except for the Rasoi column of Jiggs Kalra His recipes for some quaint dishes are indeed very complicated

Secondly, it is difficult to become a good cook by simply following a set recipe

Instead of Rasoi, why don't you start a regular sports column?

Sharmistha Dutta, Calcutta

■ I am an insignificant old man of 80 who has read the cover story with unconcealed delight

The active lives of Jyoti Basu (80) and Sagarmoy Ghosh (82) have inspired me to live up to 81 — and quite actively.

I am a vegetarian and undertake the usual outdoor chores. I am proud of the fact that for the past 25 years, I have not felt the need to take any medicines.

I keep myself engaged reading books on biology, physics, mathematics and poetry. I am a regular contributor of articles on science and maths to the Bengali science magazine *Gyan Bigyan*.

I do not have either blood pressure or blood sugar and sleep well at night. With the blessings of Sarada Mata I am fit and fine. What more do I need?

P.C. Dasgupta, Calcutta

INSIDE



Gautam Patole

PAGE 8

IN A few days, Morarji Desai will turn 100 An affectionate look at the Grand Old Gandhian

PAGE 4

THE DISCOVERY of pre-historic cave paintings in France throws up an aesthetic question, too

SECTIONS

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22 COMICS
28 RASOI
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Gautam Patole

FOCUS

IS IT ART, ANYWAY?

The recent discovery of prehistoric rock paintings in southeastern France raises an important question, says ***Pothik Ghosh***

Imagine standing before the *Guernica* without being told what it is or who created it Think of embarking on a hazardous expedition to reach a modern art gallery displaying works of Rembrandt, Raphael, Salvador Dali and Marcel Duchamp

Reflect on the possibility of cutting across snake-infested jungles, navigating through rapid-ridden rivers, clambering along a steep cliff and crawling on your bellies through dark caves to reach Louvre

The ideas seem crazily anachronistic with the modern understanding of fine arts —both their creation and appreciation A museum which is the ultimate epitome of art and its critical appreciation and which as a concept developed a thousand years ago, reaching its acme during the Renaissance, has an aristocratic and luxurious ambience to it

Art in its present form is an activity that has been born out of profusion and abundance and the presence of art galleries is a significant attribute that expresses the modernity of a place—New York being an example

But human beings painted pictures perhaps an era before the Sistine Chapel or anything similar to it came into existence If the prehistoric rock art and cave paintings are any indication then creation of pictures have occupied human consciousness for about the last 50,000 years

Last December three amateur explorers chanced upon a cave at the foot of a cliff in the Ardeche region in southeastern France They had to wriggle through a tunnel into the complex labyrinth of caves, and lo! to their surprise, in the pale glow of their head lamps, they noticed two red lines on a cavern wall

One of the explorers, Jean Marie Chauvet, who is a government employee overseeing the protection of the many historically important caves in the region, said that those markings were characteristic of the stone age

The French ministry of culture later claimed that the caves, which had a large number of animals drawn on their walls, were perhaps more valuble than the legendary prehistoric cave paintings of Lascaux in France and Altimira in Spain They have dated these cave paintings to be as old as 20,000 years

In fact, when the first cave paintings were discovered in Spain they were dismissed as hoaxes It was only in the beginning of this century that such 'art-forms' were accepted as the genuine manifestation of prehistoric human consciousness

The recently discovered cave paintings depict animals such as the woolly rhinoceroses, bisons, mammoths, deer, bears, lions, horses, a panther and a hyena The colours used are red, black and ochre, out of which the preponderance is that of red The pigment is an oxide of iron called haematite and has been extracted from the earth

There is a painting which represents 50 woolly rhinos It has a rhythm, texture and exuberance, unparalelled even by the most modern of all visual arts According to Jean Clottes, a well-known expert on prehistoric art, the most important thing about the entire find is that predatory and dangerous species like lions, panthers, hyenas and bears far outnumber horses, bisons, deer and mammoths Clottes also says that this is something unique to the recent discovery



Animals resembling a bear and a panther in

Patrice Beghain, the regional head of cultural affairs, says, "These paintings are more beautiful than those in Lascaux " But this is where a disturbing question needs to be confronted Is the aesthetic evaluation of these paintings justified?

The great film maestro, Satyajit Ray, in his last film, *Agantuk*, uses the famous bison of Altimira as a motif of aesthetics in prehistory That was, perhaps, the attempt of a modern man trying to understand an undocumented, iconographic representation without the bridge of language and writing



one of the 20,000-year-old wall paintings found near Vallon-Pont-d'Arc

The idea, however, is whether we can possibly interpret prehistoric cave art in terms of aesthetics, specially when the date for the invention of aesthetics is yet to be ascertained

Though there are differences of opinion, most prehistorians and archaeologists agree that communication by visual images came into existence some 40,000 years ago That was when the *Homo sapien Cro-Magnon* migrated from West Asia and reached Ice Age Europe

The evolutionary superiority of Cro-Magnons over the Neanderthals, according to some experts, was a brain with a large frontal lobe well-equipped for associative thinking This can easily be inferred because art is essentially an effort to symbolise a particular thing by something else — association

It is a language, that rests on the structure of a signifier representing

According to Jean Clottes, a well-known expert on prehistoric art, the most important thing about the entire find is that predatory and dangerous species like lions, panthers, hyenas and bears far outnumber horses, bisons, deer and mammoths



Buffaloes and horses are among the animals depicted in the cave paintings found in southern France

and thus giving meaning to a signified

At least on this count an attempt can be made to understand pre historic art, even if aesthetic considerations are discounted

Therefore, if we try to comprehend the Ardeche cave paintings without using any modern tool or aid for art appreciation, the proposition beco mes all the more interesting

If an archaeology of art is performed it is found that among the oldest types of art is personal decoration — ornaments such as beads, bracelets, pendants and necklaces

Tatooing and painting body-surfaces also formed an integral part of such practices The latter persists even to this day among many tribes the world over

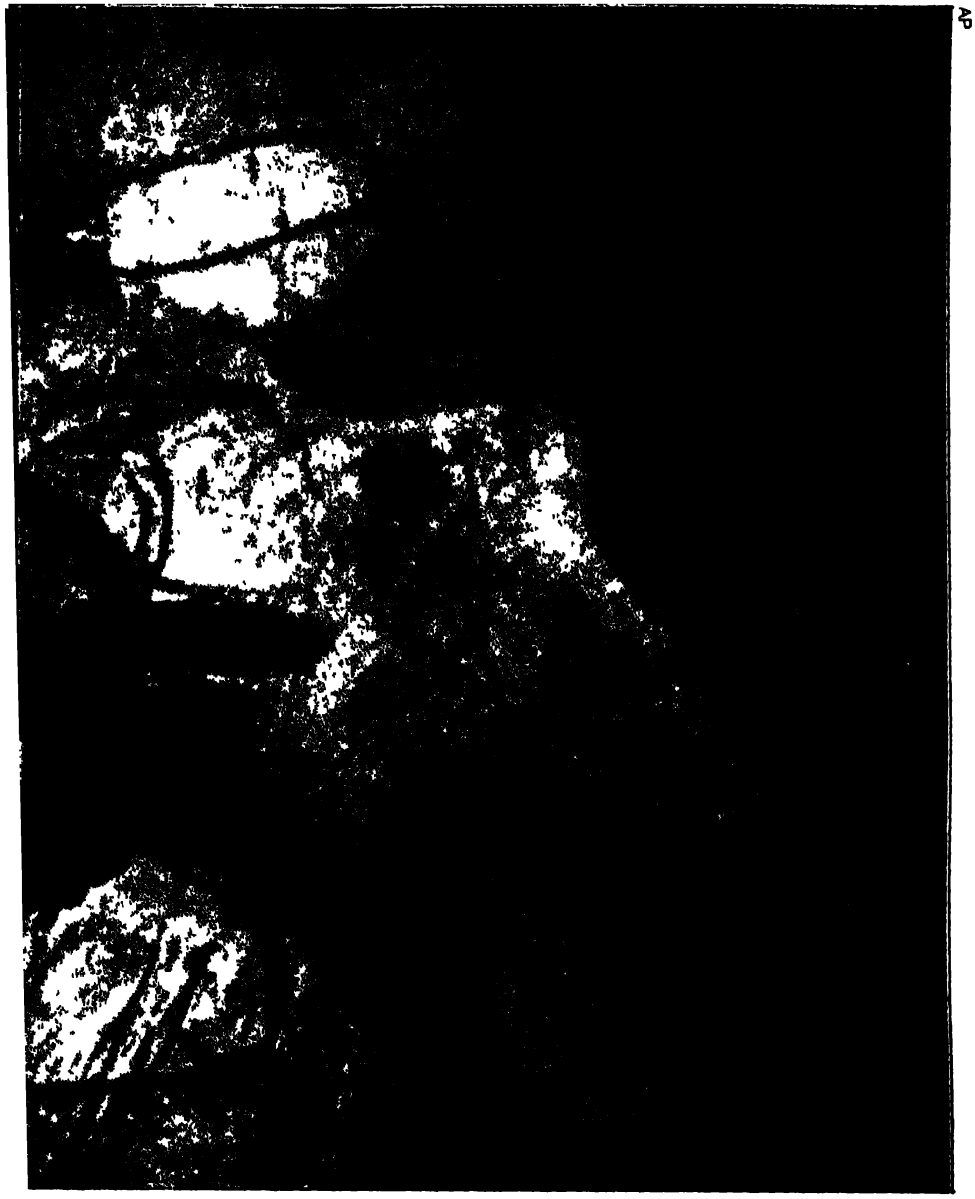
It is not yet clear, as to whether the aforestated practices are interpreted and understood as art or rituals Or why else should pictures be painted in the most inhospitable and inaccessible of regions Tatooing and painting body surfaces were done to practise totemism The use of beads, masks, and feathers of different birds are also various manifestations of the custom

Totemism, according to the Oxford Dictionary, is the practice of using emblems of natural objects, usually animals, to represent a clan or an individual This practice helped differentiate between a bison man and, say, an eagle man Totems also served as a form of magic in which it was believed that certain animal symbols and tatoos represented certain good or bad omens

For example, the cry of an eagle indicated victory in wars A famous anthropologist says, "It appears that a totem may be any enduring element of the physical or mental environment, either unique conceptual entitities, or more frequently, classes or species of things, activities, states, or qualities which are constantly recurring and are thus considered to be predurable "

The shift of the background from body-surfaces to walls of caves and rock shelters can, perhaps, be explained by the following statement of ethnographer Sir James Frazer on the prehistoric and tribal conception of magic "If we analyse the principles of thought on which magic is based, they will probably be found to resolve themselves into two first, that like resembles like, or that an effect resembles its cause, and, second, that things which have once been in contact with each other continue to act on each other at a distance after the physical contact has been severed "

From this it can plausibly be constru-



ed that cave paintings began when the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) man thought that by painting animals, which were hunted for food or for his protection, he could have control on the animals in the same way in which he controlled their figures, shapes and sizes, while painting

Totemism also acquired fixed positions, as is evident from a painting in the recently discovered Ardeche caves, in which several horses are shown charging towards two rhinos Perhaps, representing the animosity of a 'horse' clan towards a 'rhino' clan

Prehistoric rock shelter paintings discovered recently in India, throughout the length and breadth of Bihar, according to Dr Prakash Charan Prasad, are perhaps the oldest (dating back to 20,000 years) Haematite has been used in all these paintings

Prehistoric rock paintings of Arnhem Land in Australia which are also thought to be of the same age as Altimira and Lascaux, have definite indications which show that they are forerunners of aboriginal art

However, the most significant out of all these are particularly the ones in a village called Isko, Hazaribagh district

The Isko paintings, unlike all other such art discovered till date, does not depict a single hunting scene Animals are drawn in ones and twos and are not shown in a group An anthromorphic figure or the painting of a strong and super man with a distinct phallus is also visible on the Isko rock shelters

According to a local Munda tribal the prevailing tradition of *kohvars*— paintings on the walls of the room where newlywed couples spend their first night are actually a continuance of these prehistoric paintings *Kohvars* have very strong tantric connotations - - a form of sexual or virile sorcery and magic

Prehistoric rock paintings of Arnhem Land in Australia which are also thought to be of the same age as Altimira and Lascaux, have definite indications which show that they are forerunners of aboriginal art

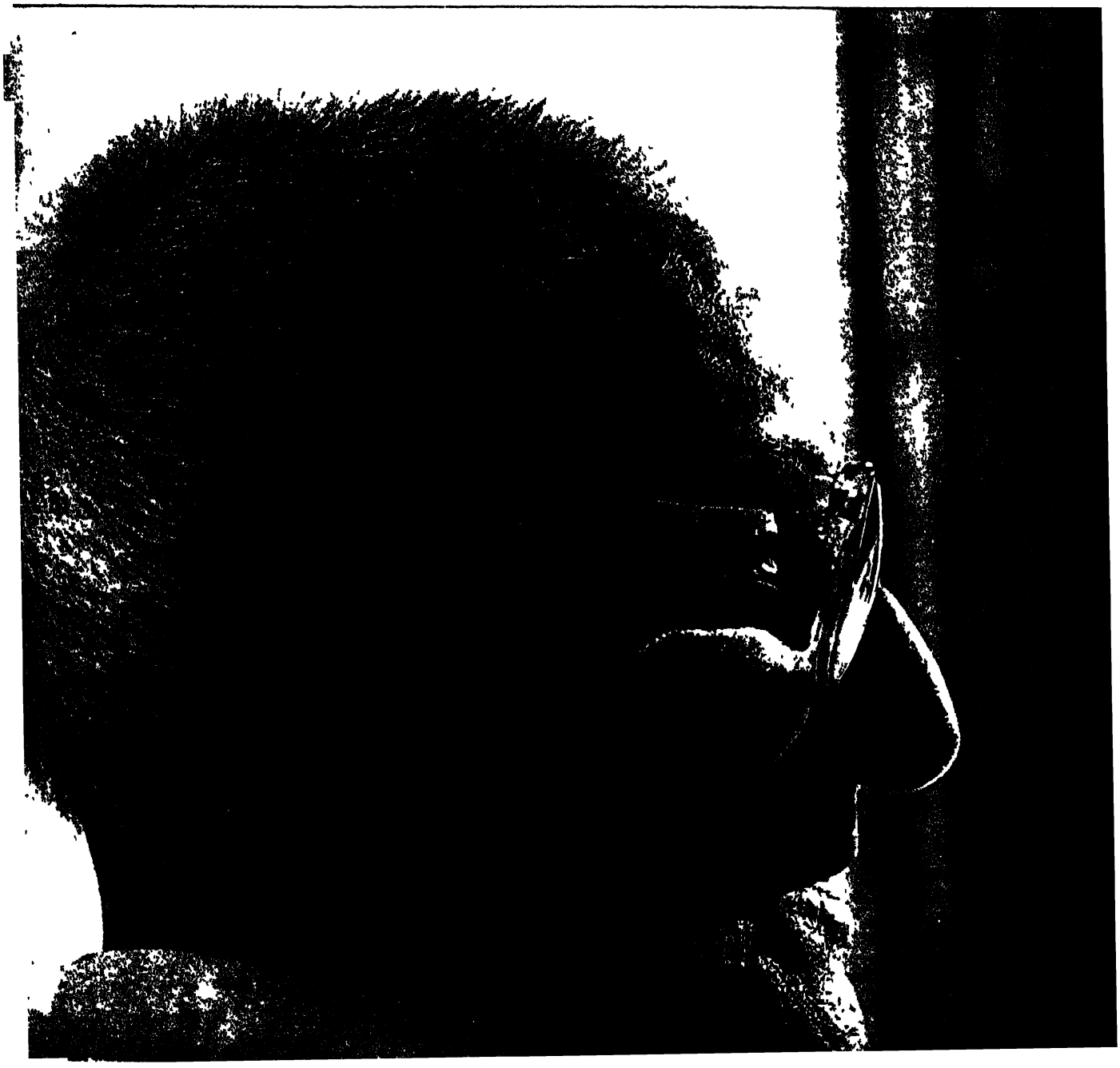
But unfortunately these paintings which offer us a glimpse into the consciousness of our ancestors are being destroyed Experiences have been bitter after Altimira and Lascaux were opened to tourists Negligence on the part of the Indian archaeological authorities is leading to the gradual destructions of rock and cave art in Hazaribagh and Bhimbhetka

Hence, drawing lessons from these experiences the French authorities have re-sealed the Ardeche caves and have decided not to make it a tourist spot

To understand the importance of these invaluable treasures, words of the great anthropologist, Claude Levi Strauss need to be emphasised upon after a little modification 'If sound and meaning, as Saussure has taught us, are the two indissociable halves of linguistic expression, then the work of the cave man speaks countless languages - a discourse always expressed by an unbreakable solidarity between the background chosen and the techniques of execution ' ■

COVER STORY

A GREAT LONG LIFE



Bhavdeep Kang *spent some moving moments with Morarji Desai in Bombay a few months back, when he was nearing his century*

YOU REACH OUT SURREPTITIOUSLY AND BRUSH HIS SLEEVE, ONLY HALF-CERTAIN THAT HE IS there. "Hello," he says, in a whisper from a light-year away

Sthithapragna. Complete detachment. Just before his century, former Prime Minister Morarji Desai was the picture of the dispassionate Gandhian he has striven to be all his life.

He still follows the world's foibles and follies, interested but unmoved. Cloaked in other-worldy stillness, he rests on a divan in the living room of his plush apartment in south Bombay.

The man who as chief minister of Bombay banned liquor, outlawed kissing and drinking scenes in films and ordered all restaurants closed at midnight; the celibate (notwithstanding a baseless scandal over a certain Muslim lady) who reportedly ticked Gandhiji off for using the shoulders of young girls as support while walking, watches with equanimity as fun and frolic become the order of the day

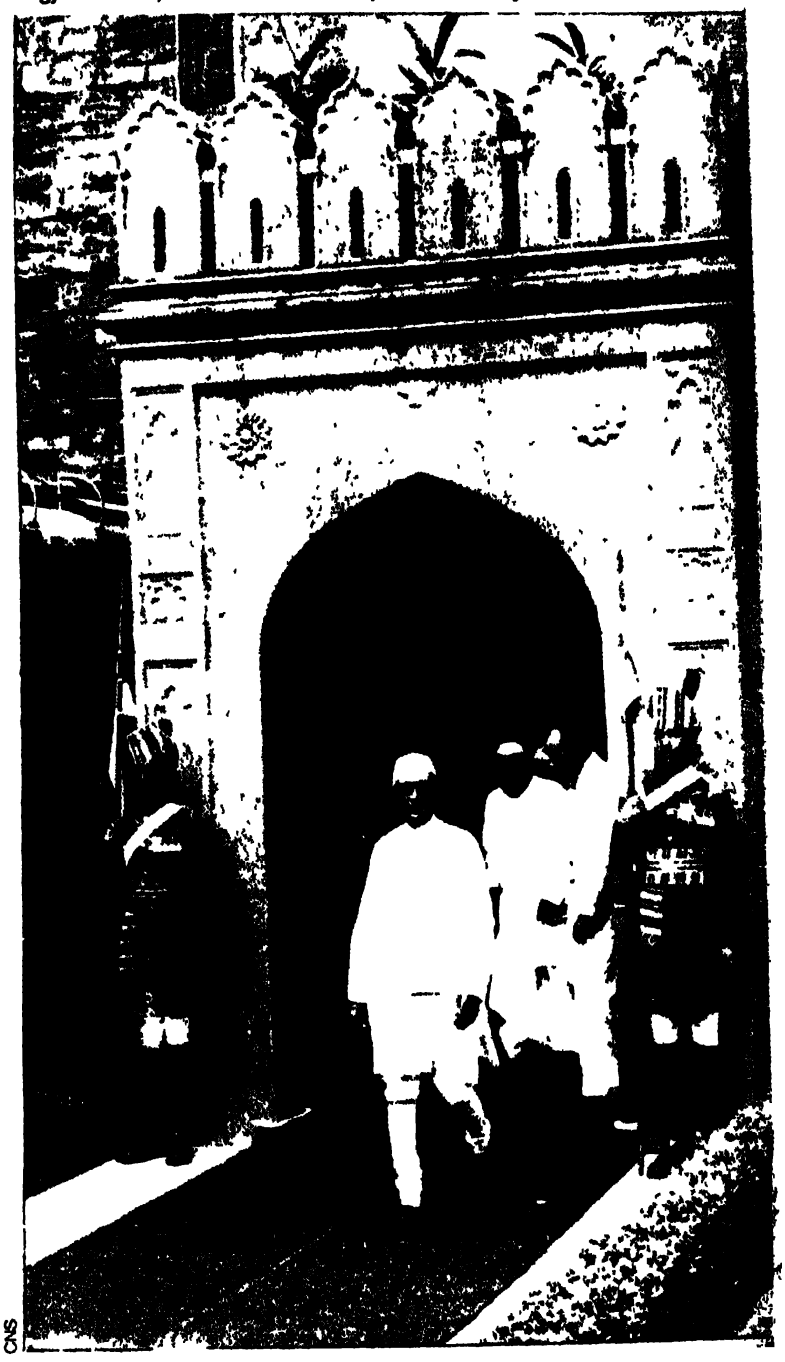
The Union Minister who castigated a woman Member of Parliament for dolling up in expensive clothes and jewellery observes quietly a thriving fashion scene featuring Pierre Cardin, Mezz, Lacoste and Benetton.

The puritan who took grave offence when a journalist accused him of using a "mild after-shave" remains unperturbed at the invasion of Drakkar Noir and L'Oreal.

The Prime Minister who frowned on Coke smiles as he sees it thunder back in the wake of Pepsi. MNCs are being treated as essential "MNTs (amenities)" these days, he quips.

"It is not necessary, quite harmful to the contrary," he says, but that is as far as he will go in criticising government policy.

Morarji Desai, Prime Minister, with the then Defence Minister, Jagjivan Ram, at Red Fort on Independence Day, 1977



Facing page photograph by

Morarji Desai has won his lifelong battle against anger and hatred, made good his boast as Prime Minister that he had rid himself of all negative emotions You search in vain for the self-righteous, rigid, curt, abrasive and dictatorial prig as described by Janardhan Thakur

The inflexible autocrat who "fought so long and hard against human weaknesses that virtue itself became a fetish with him" is long gone

He does not feel "let down" by anybody, he says Not Jawaharlal Nehru who first offended him by dividing the erstwhile state of Bombay, not Indira Gandhi who played a cat-and-mouse game with him when he was Finance Minister, not the members of the Janata club whose shenanigans forced his resignation in 1979

Senility? Perish the thought He reads some 14 newspapers a day, eveningers included, entertains occasional visitors and remains articulate, if hard of hearing It may take him a minute to string together a single sentence, but he makes his point

"It is for others to say what I have achieved But I have no regrets about my life, no changes I would like to have made I lived my life according to my own ideas and was not made to change by anybody," he says firmly

He shuffles from living room to bedroom, spurning the use of walking sticks and ignoring the attendant who hovers solicitously at his side His eyesight (he uses a magnifying glass to read) and hearing are a little impaired, his speech not at all

His face is remarkably unlined — after all, the English calendar puts his age at only 24-plus (he was born on February 29) But for a bout of illness a little over six years ago, he would still be campaigning in Gujarat, declares his son and heir, Kantibhai, proudly What is the secret of his longevity and excellent health? A diet of milk and coconut water, constant medical attention or "the water of life"?

Freedom from tension, the man who will be 100, stresses "I have no worries as I have not done harm to anybody I have never treated difficulties

STILL FEARLESS

Shameem Akhtar had an encounter of the brief kind with Morarjibhai

Journalists are once again treading a path to the home of the former Prime Minister Morarji Desai. Long queues are forming outside the Desai residence for a *darshan* of the man who will be 100 three days from now

But a clucking Kanti Desai, Morarji's son, makes each journalist write out a questionnaire, waves aside most questions as being beyond the pale of the near-century old man and talks nonstop while the father looks on at a world he is no longer interested in, through a pair of thick glasses that distort his eyes

Speaking literally into his ear, one asks him his special list of Gandhians and he wheezes, "The Mahatma"

His message to the youth, also in one word, is to be "fearless" And his core philosophy, again in one word is, "Gandhism"

The interview is over

And child-like, the ex-Prime Minister is led away, his delicate frame almost keeling over the attendant who supports him till his room Other, not-so-lucky journalists, who had fixed up appointments, look on dismayed while Kantibhai tells them *darshan* time is over and they have to try another day.

And the son settles down for a chat, to recapture a fleeting shadow of the glory that was his when his father was among the most powerful men in the country.



Along with his great-grand daughter on his 99th birthday

In a homage to the grand old man, two panels have been formed to supervise the centenary celebrations. One is a government body that is awaiting to be gazetted and

as difficulties It all depends on the mental state it is God's law," he adds

It is his deep-rooted Gandhian belief in live and let live which contributed to the success of his foreign policy, he recalls During his Prime Ministership, with the able services of External Affairs Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, India showed Pakistan that it wanted peace from a position of fearlessness and strength "and they reciprocated"

The son of an Anavil Brahmin school teacher, Desai cut his teeth on the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana* Religious principles can enrich political life, he says, when asked to comment on his former Cabinet colleagues trumpeting Hindutva from the rooftops "The religious path must be properly followed," he adds quickly Kantibhai alertly deflects any "controversial" questions

Himself pushing 70, the former businessman, once described as the "Sanjay Gandhi of the Janata government" and Desai's one blind spot hovers around his father like a mother hen

Although — touchwood — Desai is healthy apart from a minor hernia, the slightest negligence could do a lot of damage, he says Particularly as his father never voices the slightest complaint even if he is unwell

"I have to watch the signs Sometimes I can make out what the doctor cannot," says Kantibhai It is the compulsion of looking after his father that has kept him from active politics, says he

the other a private one organised by the Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan with a galaxy of well-known figures as members — Nani Palkhivala, R. Venkataraman, Prem Chandra Goel and C. Subramaniam.

The year-long centenary celebrations will include cultural and literary programmes the schedule for which will be chalked out by the government body during its first meeting to be held soon. The man of 100 may actually make a rare public appearance for a meeting though the family is unwilling to commit itself on it as yet.

"At his age it is not possible to predict what tomorrow holds for him And he is not in a physical state to attend such functions though we will try to bring him for one, if possible. Also, he has reached a stage in life where he is not interested in such worldly things as celebrations. Even at the height of his power he never paid much lip service to such things as birthdays, which is why he antagonised many people who themselves expected to be wished on their birthdays," explains the son.

The recent femur bone operation on the thigh has further restricted his movements The earlier *padmasan* that Desai used to do religiously everyday has now been stopped completely. His *puja* is now restricted to reciting the Gita, keeping slow time with the rosary beads.

Most of his time is spent in bed while he is out for a brief half-hour break in the evenings, when outsiders are allowed to meet him. His diet — fruits, nuts, milk (*a la* Gandhi) has been the same since the Emergency, when in a fit of asceticism, he renounced cereals forever from his plate

The family has been embarrassed by the sudden flush of media interest in Desai. Some of the requests have been downright awkward, cribs a member, relating how one publication wanted its representative to spend the whole day with the former Prime Minister.

The British Broadcasting Corporation has also asked permission to do a shoot, and the family is still considering if he can endure it

Also in the can are two films on the man. One by Devindra Kandewal who, along with his camera team, spent three days with Desai. Kandewal has prepared a tough questionnaire of 50 queries probing into the life of the man whom he was capturing on film.

Though Kandewal shot most of it at his own expense, he has now secured a sponsor who is willing to buy Doordarshan time, with the possibility of a 15-episode series which covers his entire life, extending right from his childhood to the years of political wilderness now.

Only the childhood sequence remains to be shot, with the search on for a child artiste who resembles the sepia photos of Desai as a toddler.

Another film was created by the Films Division crew and this is expected to be screened as pre-entertainment fare in cinema halls. And as his time with the public continues to shrink by the day, this may be the only way to remember the man who captured, for a short moment in history, the imagination and hope of our people.

MILK AND COCONUT WATER



Gautam Patole

Here is the Morarji Desai longevity diet (in conjunction with a trouble-free mind):

- 2 litres of milk, in seven doses evenly spread over the day.
- Coconut water twice a day, preferably in the morning at a three-hour interval.
- An early lunch (at 9.30 am when most of Bombay is packed, half-asleep, into local trains) consisting of more milk, fruit, home-made cottage cheese, butter from cow's milk, dates and something sweet.
- Dinner is the same, with steamed (not boiled) vegetables substituted for fruit

Once every week, a medical team laden with equipment descends on Sarang apartments to give him a thorough check-up He undergoes a sonography once every four months, to facilitate early detection of any ailment

Desai settles himself comfortably in the living room, under a relatively young portrait of himself and smiles benevolently at his great-grand

children Four generations live in the sprawling apartment It is a long way from Balsar in Gujarat where he was born and brought up in poverty

He was married at 15, just days before his father committed suicide and forced him to bear the burden of a large family Ten members of the Desai family and four servants are comfortably housed in the apartment which most Bombayites would consider a palace

Little Vishal and Aishani, two of the four great-grand children, hop and scramble through the rooms, weaving their way between magnificent crystal vases, ashtrays and statuettes

Desai has a message for today's young people "Live truthfully few people are doing that now," he says However, he believes they are safe from Western cultural imperialism "Nobody can harm our culture They may try, but they will not succeed " So much so for Kentucky Fried Chicken replacing *chana-bhatura*

His thoughts on Jyoti Basu, nearest to him in age "I have always believed communism is futile But it is for them to decide whether it has any meaning

He has no intention of working on a new set of memoirs when he turns 100 and his centenary celebrations, which include an exhibition of photographs depicting his life, get under way

It is past 5 pm and time to wrap up the meeting so that the Original Old Man can take a siesta What is the greatest change he has seen, in the century which has passed before his eyes? Is it cable TV, man on the moon or woman in bikini?

Desai smiles beatifically "I have seen a free India"

MORARJI, ACCORDING TO THEM

Samita Bhatia *talked to people in New Delhi who have known the Gandhian closely or observed him carefully*

Perhaps, the only occasion when Mike Wallace, one of US's intrepid journalists, was flummoxed was during an interview with the former Prime Minister, Morarji Desai

Quizzing Desai about his fad — his belief in the treatment of 'aqua pura' — Wallace was least prepared for Desai's cutting rejoinder "Yes, I drink my own urine, and am not asking *you* to drink mine "

Jairam Ramesh, former advisor to the PM, who was then in the US, recalls feeling a surge of pride at the man who could hold his own — even on the matter of his unorthodox regimen

When the next leap year, 1996 dawns, Morarji Desai will mark his centenary Almost 100, alert and sprightly, subscriber to the Gandhian idiom in politics, a respected administrator, criticised and condemned by his detractors, never depressed by failure or heady with success and unfazed by praise — is how one has known Desai

He is also known as a man who has exercised strict dietary control for the last 50 years — he has not consumed any cereals, but has retained a healthy and simple diet of fruit, milk, honey and some nuts

Those who worked with him closely, like V Y Tonpe and Hashmukh Shah, know Morarjibhai to be self-reliant, as one who hated to be fussed over, a light traveller and a far-sighted individual with a philosophic bent of mind

Others go as far as to say that he was a man born far ahead of his times

Tonpe, his special personal secretary and known to Desai since 1937 says, "He believes in the destiny of India and that social re-structuring will happen As a matter of fact, he wanted to finish and carry on the work of Patel and Nehru "

A man whose political career appears as spotless as the white homespun clothes he wears H D Shourie, well-known social activist and leading lawyer, finds one aspect striking "We

Ready to take on anything



are looking at *the* one person in politics with an eminent stature Not only did he carry himself ramrod straight, so too was he in politics, function, performance and action "

Therefore, it was not surprising that Desai never went out of his way to oblige his strong band of supporters who had stood by him through thick and thin Observes Hasmukh Shah, who was joint secretary in Desai's office for eight years, "Mr Desai never went for a trade-off nor did anything that was less than correct "

But who — on the other hand — as PM unwittingly became the butt of jokes for holding forth on urine therapy A fetish that the world media picked upon and splashed on the front pages But it was no secret that he rarely ever cared what others thought about his thoughts (or actions)

There are few people whose minds remain as clear when they are pushing 100, and "Morarjibhai is one such person," says B N Pande, Congress (I) MP, Rajya Sabha, whose association with Desai dates back to 1930

A strict disciplinarian and intolerant of any manifestation of indiscipline, Desai's brief and crisis-ridden tenure as PM "was dogged by indiscipline in his party, but those who pulled him down could not — ironically — run the government themselves!" says Pande

As the chief minister of Bombay Presidency Morarjibhai was quite popular among both the Gujarati and Marathi speaking people, Pande recalls Responding to public grievances very



Raghu Rai

The Gandhian way

sympathetically, though not giving in to irrational demands

A staunch follower of the Gandhian principles, Pande reiterates that Morarjibhai was "outspoken and sometimes did not mind offending people with his plain speaking" Fully committed to Gandhian ideals, very firm in his beliefs and totally unconcerned with other points of view

As an administrator, he was amongst the ablest, says former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, but adds that "his rigidity and firm beliefs in his own viewpoint created annoyance among his colleagues, earning him much criticism" It was this inflexible approach combined with a somewhat "whimsical and eccentric" attitude, Jairam Ramesh agrees, that overshadowed his positive attributes

Shekhar recalls Desai in the forefront after the elections that made him PM Shekhar remembers Desai as a man who did not make compromises with those his points of view diverged — whether in personal matters or public life

"Even at a time when the party split and the government fell, he never made a compromise with any person whom he thought did not appear to be a person of principles, honesty or integrity," says Shekhar

Undoubtedly a man of impeccable personal integrity, he may have been accused of many things but not of corruption According to Shourie, while the presentday connotation of politics is negative, "no one can point an accusing finger at him, nor any blemish of corruption taint his character" "For he stood by his principles all through his political career"

While Desai's critics may have come down with a heavy hand, Pakistan appears to have been more conscious of his worth "For it conferred upon

Almost 100, alert and sprightly, subscriber to the Gandhian idiom in politics, a respected administrator, criticised and condemned by his detractors, never depressed by failure or heady with success and unfazed by praise — is how one has known Desai



With Chandra Shekhar when the latter called on him

him the highest award — the Nishan-e-Pakistan for his commitment and services to the promotion of better ties between the two countries Indo-Pak relations have never been better than they were during his premiership," emphasises Ramesh

Desai has always accepted events as pre-ordained and therefore untoward occurences did not appear to disturb him His firm faith in Providence and God has seen him through the most trying times

Shekhar recalls, "Even when he relinquished prime ministership I saw him working on the spinning wheel, completely composed So, too, at the time of the air crash in which he had a miraculous escape Though five people were killed and many injured (including his son) Morarjibhai was unperturbed "

But Shah puts the record straight and declares that despite Desai's outward calm, he is "really soft, and intensly human on the inside, though he won't like to show as much" "He cares enough to remember names, and make enquiries of a very personal nature when he meets you," he muses

But today Desai does not want to discuss politics Since his retirement from public life he keeps aloof, is well informed about political developments, but never expresses himself on controversial issues

Chandra Shekhar knows him to be "positive for future developments and convinced that the phase India is passing through is temporary — and that a bright and glorious future lies ahead"

And Pande concludes, "I pray that Morarjibhai celebrates his 125th birthday, as was Gandhiji's desire which unfortunately remained unfulfilled " ■

According to H.D. Shourie, while the presentday connotation of politics is negative, 'no one can point an accusing finger at him, nor any blemish of corruption taint his character'

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

WISDOM OF THE WOMB

It is very dangerous to generalise All too often if something is true, the opposite is also true It is commonly thought that 50 to 60 years ago, people had large families and now they have family planning But Ayodhya, or rather Ayodhya Neta, put me right about that

Ayodhya is not just the name of a pilgrim town on the banks of the Saryu river, it is also the name of an 80-year-old who lives in the Kurmi *tola* of the small village of Bariasanpur in the Chiraigaon block of Varanasi district

Now Chiraigaon is a fascinating place and perhaps I shall write of it later And Ayodhya is an engaging character Despite his title *neta*, he is not a politician — not at least since 1942 He is a *neta* through the sheer force of his character

From his *charpoy*, outside his loom shed where two or three men are constantly turning Japanese yarn into Banarasi saris, he can see the local shrine A tree hung with pieces of red cloth and festooned with bells It is here that women come to pray for children For surely it is a curse to be childless and son-less

Ayodhya is 80 and smiles at such superstition He thinks God sent him into this world and what he made of himself after that was his own responsibility

It is about children that I had come to see him I was accompanied by a doctor who had nominated him as an example of a grandfather figure with many children, whose own children had been deeply influenced by modern wisdom

One of his sons, I knew, had become the village health minister for perhaps one of the most successful family planning programment in the district and had spent a number of years handing out condoms and oral contraceptives I needed to find such a model family for a television documentary 'documenting' changes in attitudes over this century

"Sixty years ago, people must have had a lot of children?" I asked, to back up my simplistic assumption

"Oh indeed "

"And you must have found it difficult coping with a large family?"

"No, I didn't have one "

So I was misinformed I gave the doctor a straight look but before I could say anything, Ayodhya Neta continued, "I looked . around at all the people with big families and I could see they weren't happy "

"When a man gets married," he beamed at me through thick glasses and two days' white stubble, "he only thinks of *manoranjan* — pleasure — and he forgets everything else but that Then after two or three children he begins to realise what society is about, his social responsibilities Why should I lie to you? That's what happened to me "

Ayodhya's wife didn't hear this part of the conversation as she was just approaching, having harvested a crop of unexpectedly diseased rice

"After that," continued her husband, "I thought, we don't have much land and what we have can't stretch like rubber and so I thought I went to Varanasi and bought a book by a *Pandit* called the *Kokh Shastra* It was what the sages used to use and is very old Not that we were so successful," he concluded, "what shame is there in saying it? We had three children by design and one by accident I regret that very much Really, to have more than two children is a crime "

"And what did you think about this?" I asked his wife who was concerned with the loss of the rice than the conversation But to please her guest she turned her large, bright eyes on me and answered, "We decided together, just us two My mother and father-in-law were dead, so there was no one to oppose us "

"Have tea," said Ayodhya Neta, pushing a steel cup in my direction, "you see a cart has two wheels They have to go in the same direction If one goes east and the other goes west there's disaster It has to be a joint decision "

This couple had three sons and one daughter, all of whom had learned from their parent's example All three daughters-in-law and the daughter had been sterilised after two or at the most three children

Sterilisation is popular with women as it frees them from all further *jhanjhat* and *jhagra* over contraception Sterilisation of women is also popular with men Vasectomy has been in the doldrums since the Emergency

As I left, I promised to return Ayodhya Neta smiled again, "In the old days," he said, "I never saw an Englishman in this village You had to go to a lot of effort to see them I am now happy that they came to see me "

My companion, the doctor, was amazed to hear about the *Kokh Shastra* Despite being an expert on community medicine and population control, he had never heard of it He immediately dropped in my opinion Obviously he was cut off from his roots and was unacquainted with the ancient traditions of India where an answer for every problem has already been evolved

On my return to Delhi, I sought out the *Kokh Shastra* and after some effort discovered it in an Unwin paperback in English But surely this couldn't be the book This was not the plain guide to family planning through restraint as I had imagined This was the Kama Sutra of medieval India Birth control was certainly not the first objective of the author In fact there seemed no mention of it at all

Had Ayodhya Neta read a different book? Or had his heritage of the ancient traditions of India just left him with a highly evolved sense of humour

(Sanctuary Features)

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0710	3 6	IC-742	0940	3, 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
M9-304/109	0855	1 3, 5	M9-110/301	1900	1 3 5
[illegible]					
PF-705	0730	2, 4, 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2, 4 6 7
[illegible]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-721	1300	1, 3, 5	IC-722	1540	1, 3 5
[illegible]					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
[illegible]					
IC-544	1115	2, 7	IC-543	1035	2, 7
IC-769	1525	1, 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3, 5
[illegible]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
9W-202	0920	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	9W-201	0840	1, 2 3 4 5, 6
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-306	1840	5
9W-212	1945	daily	IC-274	1850	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
AI-309	2035	6	D2-103	1935	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
[illegible]					
			IC-262	0815	2, 4, 7
IC-263	0700	daily	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	AI-682	0950	1
IC-812	1515	1, 3, 5	4S-806	1115	1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1745	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	M9-301	1900	daily
IC-261	1900	2, 4, 7	S2 005	1900	1, 2 3 4 5, 6
M9-302	1930	daily	IC 811	1930	1 3, 5
S2 006	1940	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	IC-264	2210	daily
[illegible]					
PF-737	0730	3, 5	IC-704	1430	3, 5
IC-703	0800	3, 5	D2-181	1620	1, 3 5, 7
D2-181	1135	1, 3, 5, 7	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	IC-702	1630	2, 4, 6 7
4S-815	1145	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4S-816	1705	1 2, 3 4 5 6
IC-701	1240	2, 4, 6, 7	PF-738	1740	3 5
[illegible]					
IC-257	1150	4, 7	IC-258	1650	4 7
GUWAHATI					
PF-735	0730	1	IC-712	1410	2, 6
PF-737	0730	3, 5	IC-704	1430	3 5
PF-705	0730	2, 4 6 7	IC-708	1430	1 4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC-703	0800	3, 5	PF-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
IC-707	0800	1, 4, 7	D2-181	1620	1 3, 5, 7
IC-711	0800	2, 6	D2-183	1620	2, 4 6
D2-181	1135	1, 3, 5, 7	IC-230	1650	daily
D2-183	1135	2, 4 6	4S-811	1705	1 2, 3 4 5 6
4S-812	1145	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	PF-736	1730	1
IC-257	1150	4 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-211	1240	4, 6	IC-258	1740	4, 7
IC-229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4, 6
HYDERABAD					
IC-777	1500	2, 4 7	IC-778	2005	2 4 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
IMPHAL					
IC-707	0715	1 4 6	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-255	0830	3, 5	IC-708	1345	1 4 6
IC-253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2 6
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
LUCKNOW					
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2-171	1045	daily
D2 172	1740	daily	IC-766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
PATNA					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
IC-812	1515	1, 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC-286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF-705	0730	2 2 6 7	PF-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
SILCHAR					
IC-255	0830	3, 5	IC 260	1110	1 7
IC 259	0830	1 7	IC 256	1320	3 5
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2, 6
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC-212	1740	4 6
TEZPUR					
IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
TEZU					
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1, 3, 5

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

[illegible]					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4
[illegible]					
BANGKOK					
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 6, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1 3 6			

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RO-076	2040	5, 7	RO-075	1035	5, 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
DHAKA					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1, 2, 3 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1 2, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2 3 5 6 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5
KATHMANDU					
IC-747	1115	1 3, 5	IC-748	1455	1 3, 5
RA-214	1400	4 7	RA-213	1315	4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
LONDON					
BA-142	2050	3, 7	BA-143	1525	3, 7
MOSCOW					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
PARIS					
KB-106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2, 6
KB-106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ-415	2200	2, 5	SQ-416	2040	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI-306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 [illegible]	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 30	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tue & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tue & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6321	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway trains please dial 2203545-54 for in coming trains 2203535 44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway trains dial 2203496 3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

KUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THE MIST, THE MILDEW

Fog, mist, cloud, rain and mildew — these were the things the British must have looked for while selecting suitable sites for the hill stations they set up in the Himalayan foothills 150 years ago Shimla, Mussoorie, Darjeeling, Dalhousie, Naini Tal, all soggy with monsoon or winter mist and dripping oaks and deodars

The climate must have reminded them of their homes on the English moors or the Scottish highlands Mistakenly called 'health resorts' these towns, situated at 7,000 ft or over, were guaranteed to send people with weak hearts or lungs to an early grave Look up the old burial registers if you want confirmation!

Being quite sound in the chest, I have survived all that the mountain monsoon can throw at me and having gone through the annual ritual of wiping the mildew away from my books and a certain green fungi from my one and only suit I decided to leave cloud country behind for a few days and be the guest of Cyril Raphael, an old friend who left these misty regions years ago and now administers the Bhuvaneshwari Mahila Ashram (a social service organisation) at Anjani Sain in Tehri-Garhwal

Pine country this, dry and bracing, with the scent of pine resin in the air, I have always thought 5,000 to 6,000 ft a healthier altitude to live at but perhaps I'm prejudiced, having been



I decided to leave cloud country behind for a few days and be the guest of Cyril Raphael, an old friend who left these misty regions years ago and now administers the Bhuvaneshwari Mahila Ashram at Anjani Sain in Tehri-Garhwal. Pine country this, dry and bracing, with the scent of pine resin in the air, I have always thought 5,000 to 6,000 ft a healthier altitude to live at but perhaps I'm prejudiced, having been born in Kasauli, which is pine rather than deodar country

born in Kasauli, which is pine rather than deodar country

Anjani Sain is about the same height and gets the sun all day Given adequate food and pure water, it's a healthy place to live in Contrary to what most people think, Garhwal is not a poverty-stricken area Almost everyone has a bit of land and does at least have the traditional *do roti* for sustenance, which is more than can be said for the urban unemployment in other parts of northern India

This area has always been known as *khas-pati*, probably because it was special in several ways — climate-wise and probably economy-wise, too Down in the flat valley there are green fields and even mango trees, the descent to lower altitude being quite sudden in these parts

The small Anjani Sain bazaar, with its single bank, post office and chemists shop, shimmers in the noonday sun It looks like a set for the gunfight at OK corral But this is, generally, a peaceful area and the small Muslim population lives in harmony with its Hindu neighbours

At the ashram, I am in time for early lunch — thick *rotis* made from *mandwa* (millets) — two of these are more than enough for me! Endless glasses of milky tea will see me through till supper time

Towering over Anjani Sain and blessing all those who live or pass beneath, is the Chanderbadni temple, dedicated to one of the incarnations of Goddess Parvati As this is not one of the main pilgrim routes, the temple does not get many visitors as some of the other sacred shrines in the hills The image here represents the body of the Goddess The feet are worshipped at Kunjpura (near Narendra Nagar), the head at Sirkhunda (near Dhanolti)

Below the Chanderbadni peak is a Garhwal Mandal rest house, for those who wish to break their journey here

Anjani Saini lies midway between Tehri and Devprayag — a two-hour bus ride from each place — I came via Tehri, the road climbing steeply above the hot dusty town that is destined to be submerged by the waters of the Tehri dam

The dam should have been ready by now, but having been the subject of a great deal of controversy, work on it has progressed in fits and starts I am told that this entire region is 'ecologically fragile', one of those words bandied around at seminars all over the world

Well, I'm not an expert in these matters, but I should think most of our earth is ecologically fragile having had to put up with hundreds of thousands of years of human civilisation

Old Tehri was no beauty spot, and New Tehri growing rapidly above it is even uglier From a distance it looks like a giant cemetery When the architecture of suburban Delhi or Modinagar is brought to the hills, what is there to say? You just look the other way

Fortunately, the defaced mountain is soon left behind and as it slips out of sight and we ascend into the pine regions, the eye is soothed by the pretty slate-covered houses of the villagers and their little gardens ablaze with marigolds and yellow and bronze chrysanthemums Chrysanthemums love this climate Down in the fields there are patches of crimson amarnath (cholai) interspersed with the fresh green of young wheat

And here be leopards! My companion tells me of one that strolls down the motor road every evening, forcing the local bus to go round him His presence also accounts for the absence of stray dogs

Suddenly in the distance, I see what at first glance seems to be a cloud or a large white sailing ship On approaching, it turns out to be the freshly whitewashed buildings of the Bhuvaneshwari Mahila Ashram, clinging to the steep slopes of the mountain

Here, for two or three days, I find rest and sustenance The manifold activities of the ashram (directed mainly towards the welfare of widows and small children) are there for all to see and I recall the splendid relief work undertaken by its young field workers after the Uttarkashi earthquake — they had rushed to the spot before the government agencies could swing into action

However, as a social worker, I am somewhat inept I am just a frazzled old writer who never quite made it to the top and who now seeks refuge from the all-pervasive clutter of tourism that makes ordinary life almost impossible in our hill stations

I hope the land grabbers and the real estate 'developers' never get this far They are welcome to their malls and artificial lakes and Dhaba parks Just so long as I am free to escape from it all, to sit here at Anjani Sain contemplating a large white rose in Cyril's garden, while the rest of the world watches video

(Sanctuary Features)

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INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21 -April 20



Your ability to communicate and reach for new goals, will come in most handy now It is time to move forward, emotionally, mentally and physically, as you will seek new avenues, openings and ventures Ganesha says, good for you Expect visitors and friends to be of help

Taurus

April 21—May 20



It would be best to take the bull by the horns and get it out, be it a difference of opinion, an honest mistake, or a genuine misunderstanding Once again, finances will be of utmost importance There is a slight danger of ill health, accidents, or a feeling of unease which can be overcome

Gemini

May 21—June 20



The moon conjuncts Mercury now, dear Geminis, and this will give you the imagination, vigour and daring to love and be loved, open a factory, start any sort of important partnerships, be it marriage, collaboration, or a business association Journey is more than possible

Cancer

June 21 -July 20



While expenses will be heavy, people will be quite co-operative and willing to work A trip will be more important than you do foresee Many Cancerians will be busy working their heart out and the rewards will be quite attractive, too A jobswitch is in the cards for you, or a promotion

Leo

July 21—August 21



Time to marshal your resources, go in for group activities and a lot of socialising Pay heed to the other person's point of view, as, that will enhance your popularity and rake in the profits, too Birth of children, a round of love, happy creative pursuits, are the other salient features for Leons

Virgo

August 22 -September 22



For you folks the going will be slightly tough in the sense that you will have to attend to too many things and details at the same time, as demands will keep on piling up Around February 30 you will be able to cope with them So gear up and get going An eye for detail and a flair for order will help

Libra

September 23 -October 22



It's the right time to use your diplomatic skills and talent for pleasing people to your advantage Throw a party, socialise, take a trip or take others on a tour Promotion and perks will be yours if you go about it the right way Calls, correspondence and publicity will have an extra edge to it

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



The slant will be on your work, your friends and your finances This trio will keep you busy right upto July 1995 Therefore, this is not a fleeting trend You will have to live with it Property affairs and taxes too will have an undue importance now Be discreet

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Venus, the luxury planet is well placed with Jupiter the money planet, and therefore you will be in a position and in a mood to enjoy the good things of life and the definition of a good thing, will obviously vary from person to person But good times and happiness await you!

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



Your work will claim you almost totally Yet, you will have time for fun and games, rearing children, cooing and wooing as the poets say! Ganesha feels you will use the time wisely and well, get much done, and thus feel good February 27-30 may offer an interesting proposal in your life

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



You will feel the clouds lifting, sunshine filtering through, and that means, in practical terms, money, contracts, friendships, offers, travel and collaboration If in for an interview, an important appointment or meet, the chances are, you will come through splendidly

Pisces

February 19—March 20



The full moon activates your home front That means renovation, decoration, buying and selling, and it applies to the office as well Any property, right from a car to jewellery is included in this ambit A home away from home is another possibility Loans, funds and capital will be available now

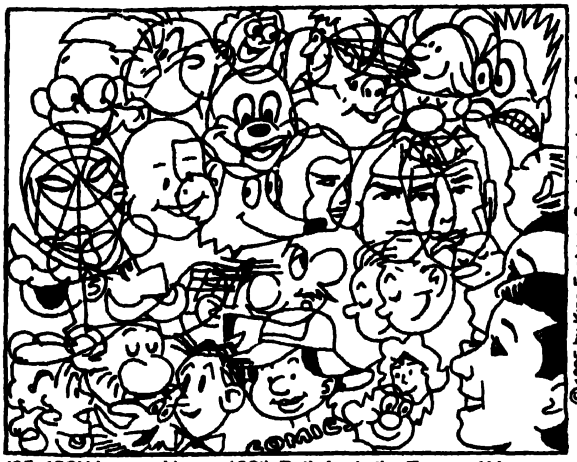
B I R T H D A Y S

February 26: Moon-Venus conjunction assures you of riches and comforts, says Ganesha and that's wonderful going! Promotion and perks are probable. Progress is certain.
February 27: Moon-Mercury conjunction leads to news and behind the scene activity, which turns highly favourable for you Friends and well-wishers will help
February 28: Moon square Pluto: This transition may not be easy Mysterious events are clearly foretold A journey is possible
March 1: The new moon could cause disturbances and upsets but this is not a horoscopic reading and therefore do not loose your cool. By May, matters should go right.
March 2: Mercury sextiles Jupiter leading to opportunities, right timing, good connections, and consequent success. The luck of the draw will be with you.

March 3: Venus sextile Pluto shows an upsurge in confidence and ability to lead from the front. Ganesha says, your work will be done, however difficult it might be.
March 4: Moon trines good luck planet Jupiter and that means the world will smile upon you and you will bask in your own glory! Be bold.

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



'95, 100! Hear ye, Happy 100th Birthday to the Funnies! How many cartoon stars, old and new, can you find above?

SLAM CLUNK! One letter has gone astray in the name of each of these pro basketball teams 1 Miami Beat 2 Phoenix Huns 3 Houston Rockers 4 Indiana Racers 5 L A Flippers How quickly can you set them straight?

1 Heat 2 Suns 3 Rockets 4 Pacers 5 Clippers

1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				

WORD SQUARE CHALLENGE

FIVE five-letter words are required to complete a word square above That is, words will read the same both across and down

Definitions of words are as follows

1 Weather word that causes concern
2 Indian shelter
3 Unseals a letter
4 Monies collected by landlords
5 Brother or sister's room at times?

Remember, word square words read the same both across and down Insert each word both ways

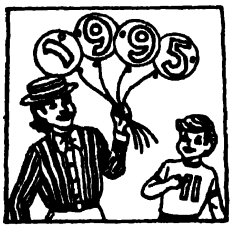
Time limit Two minutes

1 Storm 2 Tepee 3 Opens 4 Rents 5 Messy

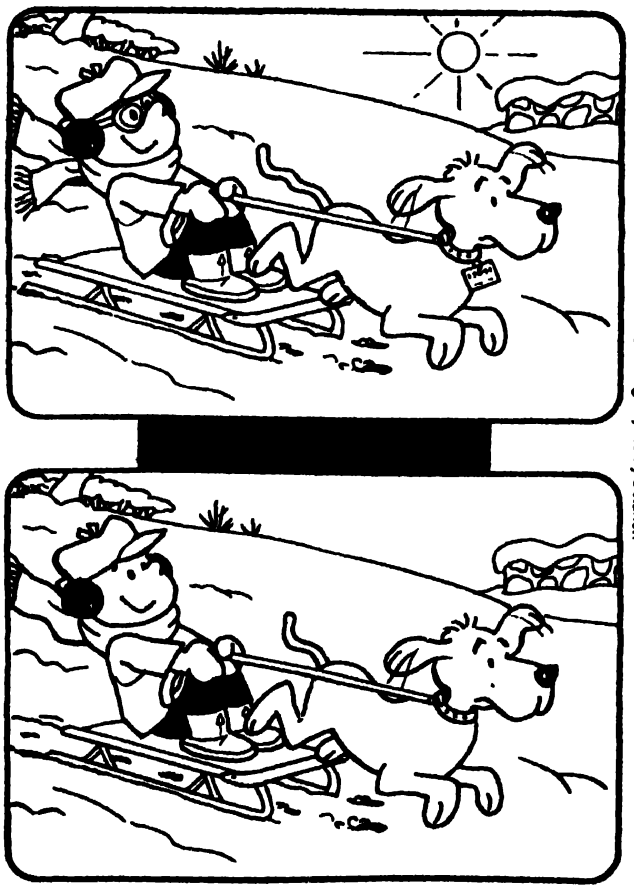
FUN YEAR! You can have some fun converting digits of the new year, 1995, into lucky number 11, like so Add the first digit, 1, to the next three digits, 995, for a total of 996 Turn 996 upside down and get 966 Divide 966 by last digit, 6, and get 161

Now turn 161 upside down and add resulting digits

Presto-alakazam, if you've done topsy-turvy calculating correctly, your final result is the lucky number 11



HOCUS-FOCUS

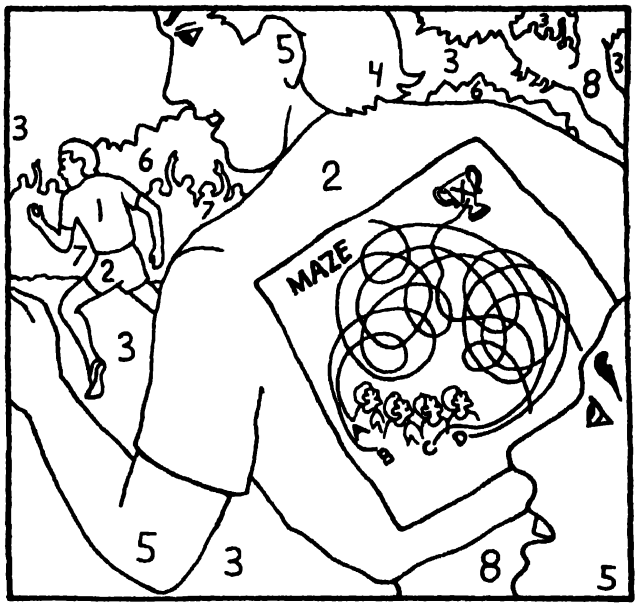


Drawings by Henry Boltinoff

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Goggles are missing 2 Board end is missing 3 Sled is shorter 4 Tail is different 5 Sun is missing 6 Dog's tag is missing

FUNSPOT



SHIRT CIRCUIT! And the winner is . Add the following colors neatly by the numbers. 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

STURDIER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome Rude elk

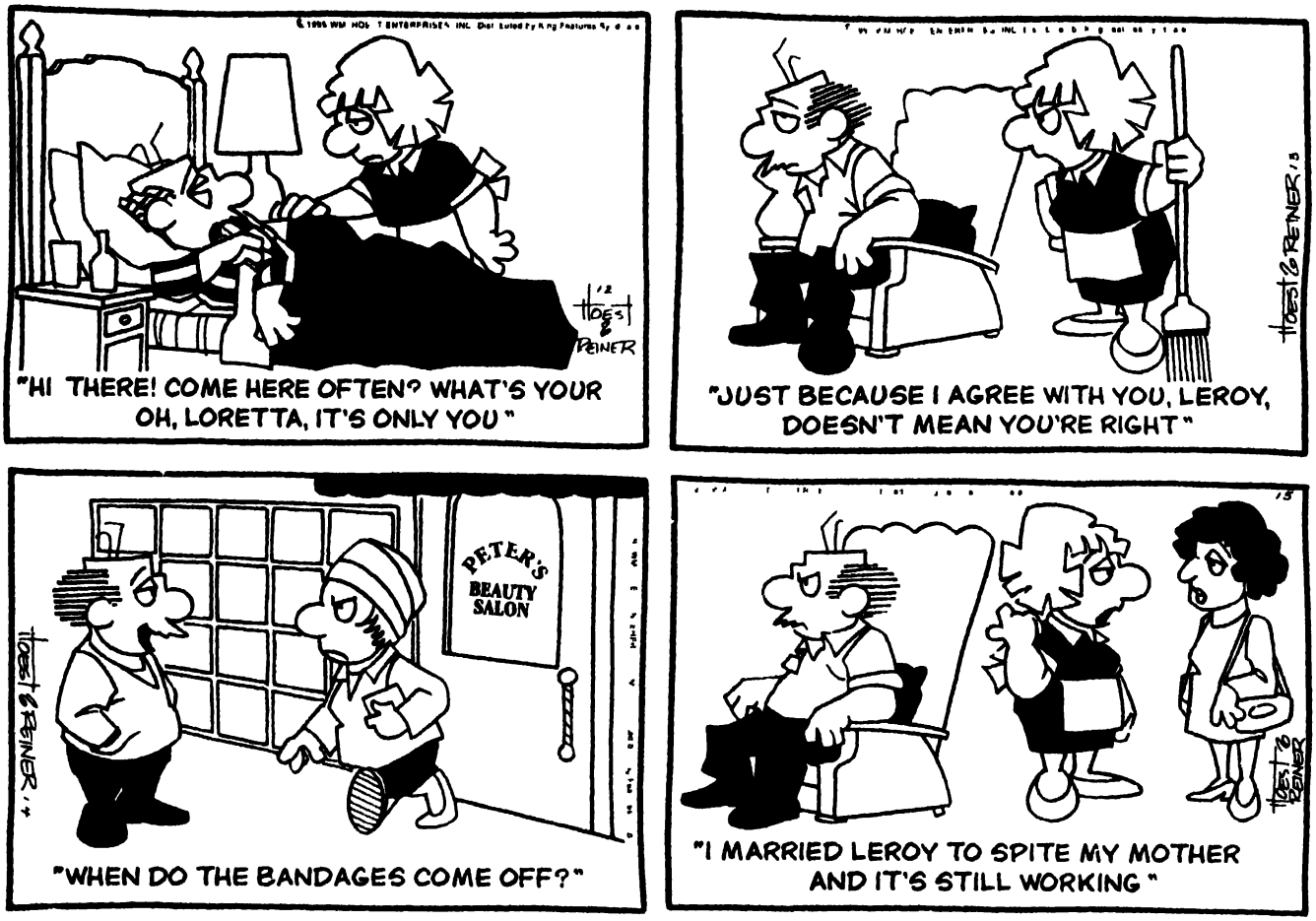
ARCHIE



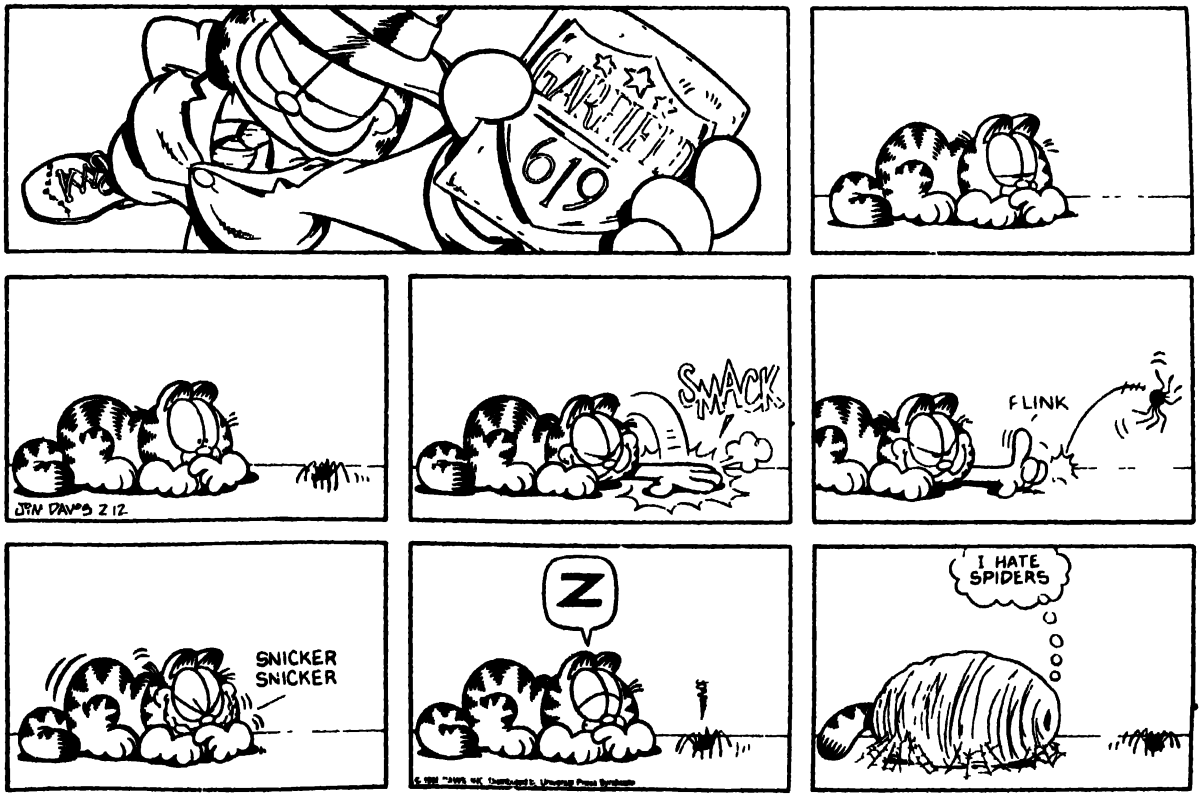
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

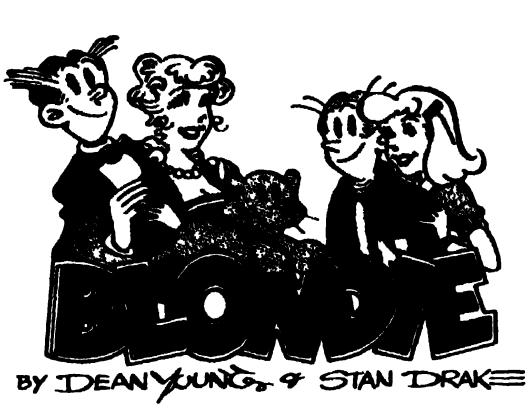


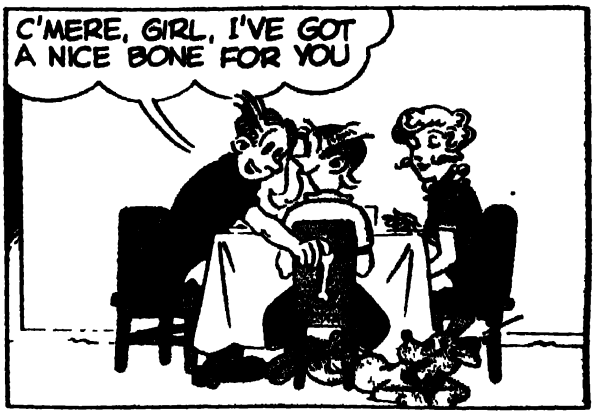
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

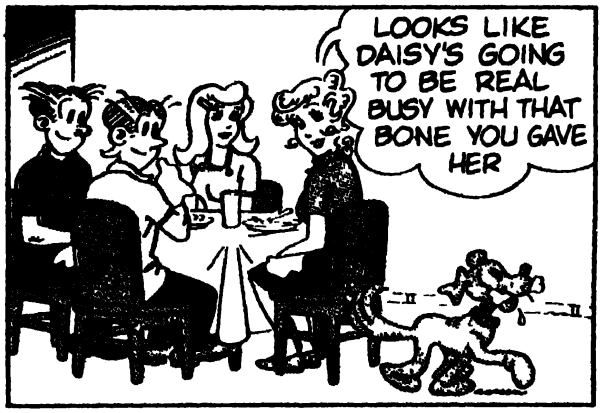


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP









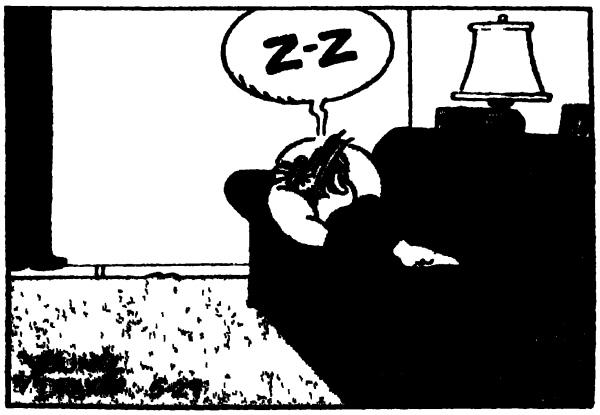








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Madhuri Dixit gets a pat on the back by B.R. Chopra

EVENT

TIME TO PREEN

The Bombay film industry earned itself a prestigious honour· the Screen-Panasonic Awards

It was a star-studded night all right A night to rejoice and celebrate A night to dance and sing as winners took all For the losers there was a consolation the next time This was, after all, the inaugural Screen-Panasonic Awards for cinema, television and music, in Bombay

End January, the Indian film industry, perhaps the largest in the world, was given recognition and judged for the very best they had to offer in the past year

The process of nomination and final selection was left to titans like Dilip Kumar, B R Chopra, Gulzar, Khayyam, Ramesh Sippy, A K Bir, Kiran Shantaram and others

After the invocation dance by the shapely actress Gauthami, came the roll call of winners Nana Patekar added one more feather to his already loaded cap when he bagged the Best Actor Award for the film, *Krantiveer*

For the beautiful *belle* Madhuri Dixit the Best Actress award for her role in the film, *Hum Aapke Hain Koun !* was just another way to say she's still the best. And at the top The 28-year-old Sooraj Kumar Barjatya, whose *Maine Pyar Kiya* proved to be a runaway success some years ago, won the maximum number of awards for the Madhuri-Salman starrer, *Hum Aapke Hain Koun !*— Best Director, Best Film, Best Playback Singer (Female), Best Screenplay, Best Editing and what not With the success of two films behind him, Barjatya is a happy man today and has plenty of reason to be

The cultural magazine, *Surabhi*, on DD-1 is soon to present its 150th episode! A

Gauthami: A good way to start





Ramanand Sagar presents the TV award to Siddharth Kak



Ashok Kumar and Nana Patekar: The old and the young

travelogue of sorts, with quizzes, lessons in history and culture all rolled into one, *Surabhi*, was adjudged the Best TV Production for 1994 And walking away with the trophy was a beaming Siddharth Kak, the programme's host

There was a special Lifetime Achievement Award for veteran actor Ashok Kumar who has been in the film industry for six long decades

National Panasonic, the international giant in consumer electronics and entertainment, initiated two exclusive awards on the occasion — one was the Panasonic Outstanding Musical Debut of the Year (M Mahesh) and the Panasonic Discovery of the Year (Sonali Bendre)

Some of the other winners: Kumar Sanu (Best Male Playback Singer for *1942 A Love Story*), Javed Akhtar (Best Lyricist for *1942*), Nitin Desai (Best Art Director for *1942*), Anupam Kher (Best Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role in *1942*), R D Burman (Best Music Director for *1942*), and of course, the queen of melody, Lata Mangeshkar (Best Female Playback Singer in *Hum Aapke Hain Koun !*)

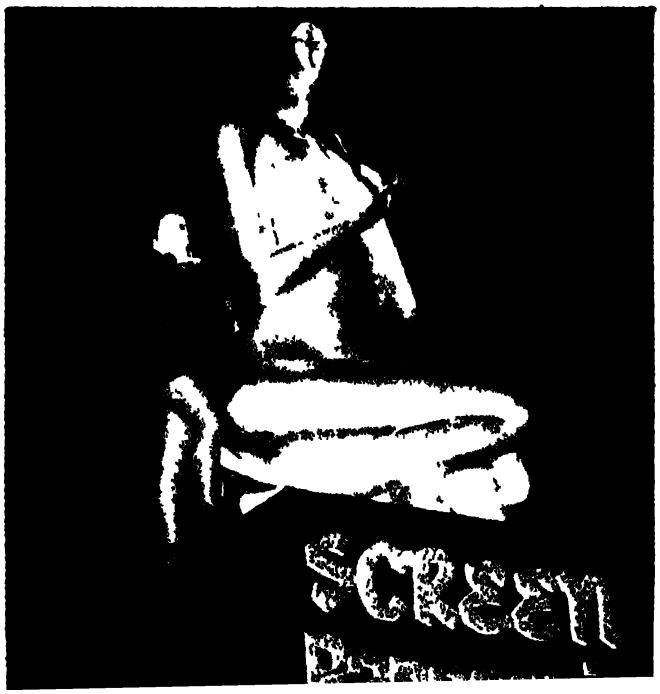
Her niece, Radhika Mangeshkar, collected the trophies on behalf of both Lata and R D

It was a night to remember, maybe a little too long drawn-out and not the greatest, by *Screen*'s own modest admission, but worth it nevertheless.

Susmita Banerjee
Photographs:
Courtesy, *Screen*

Sharon Prabhakar giving voice to the model of the trophy





RASOI

JIGGS KALRA



We conclude this series on Balti cooking with three recipes which belie the stereotype image of *kadhai* cooking as a strictly lamb and chicken fare

According to authoress Shehzad Husain, the technique—which is both "convenient and speedy"—can be applied to a whole range of wonderful dishes You can, like her, let your imagination play around with wonderful and attractive new ideas and combinations of ingredients to create—and put a personal stamp—on any number of delicacies

In the meanwhile, three more recipes from the Subhash Arora published *Balti Cookbook*

BALTI FRIED FISH

INGREDIENTS
675 g / 1 1/2 lb Sole* or any other firm white fish
1 Onion (medium)
15 ml / 1 tbs Lemon juice
Salt
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
3 g / 1 tsp crushed dried Red Chillies
4 5 g / 1 1/2 tsp *Garam masala*
6 5 g / 2 tbs Coriander
2 Tomatoes (medium)
12 5 g / 2 tbs Cornflour
Corn oil to deep fry

Serves: 4-6
Preparation Time: 45 minutes
Cooking Time: 5 minutes for each lot

PREPARATION
The fish: Clean, remove the skin, cut into small cubes, wash, pat dry and refrigerate to chill
The vegetables: Peel, wash and slice onion, remove eyes and skin tomatoes, blanch for a few seconds, drain and roughly chop Clean, wash and chop coriander

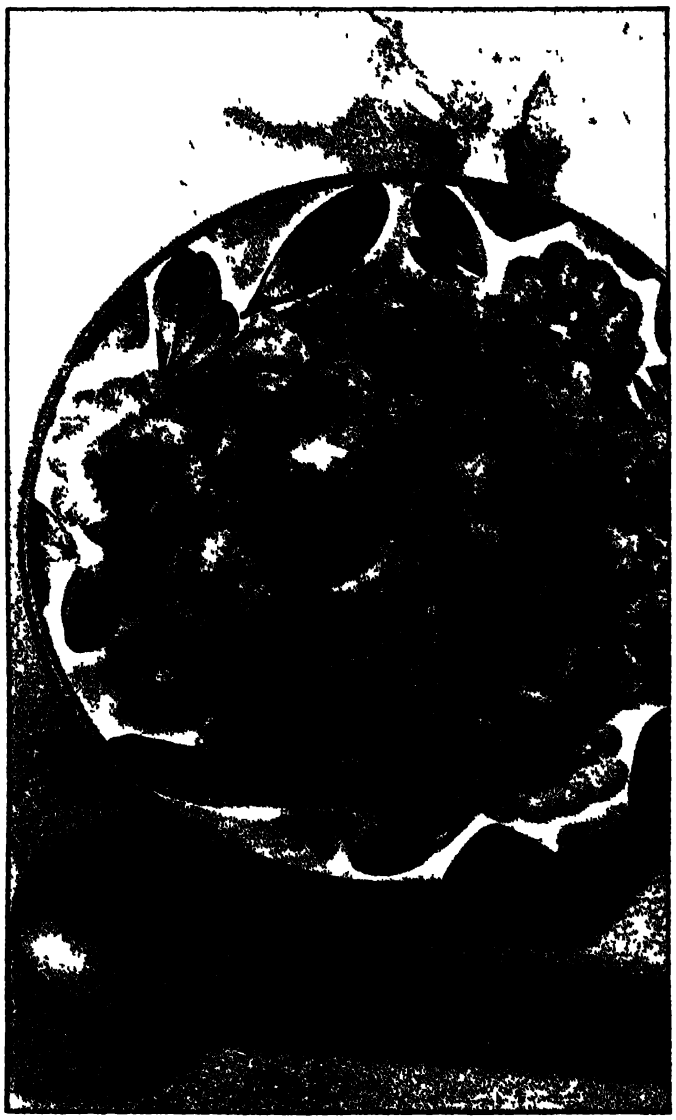
The masala: Put onions in a bowl, add lemon juice, salt, garlic paste, red chillies, *garam masala* and coriander, mix well, add tomatoes, mix, transfer to a food processor and blend for 30 seconds Remove the fish from the refrigerator and pour the blended *masala* over the fish and mix well Add the cornflour and mix again until the fish is evenly and well coated

COOKING
Heat oil in a *kadhai* or deep round-bottomed frying pan, lower the heat slightly, add the fish pieces, a few at a time, and deep fry, turning carefully with a slotted spoon (they tend to break easily) for approximately 5 minutes or until the fish is lightly browned Drain and remove to absorbent paper to drain excess fat

TO SERVE
Transfer to a service platter and serve with *parotha* and apricot *chutney*

* The author recommends cod

Balti Fried Fish



SPICY BALTI POTATOES

INGREDIENTS
6 Potatoes (new, medium)
2 Onions (medium)
45 ml / 3 tbs Corn oil
1 g / 1/2 tsp Cumin seeds
1 25 g / 1/2 tsp Fennel seeds
A pinch of *kalonji* (onion seeds)
A pinch of Mustard seeds
A pinch of Fenugreek seeds
3 g / 1 tsp crushed dried Red Chillies
3 flakes Garlic
2 5 g / 1/4" piece Ginger
4 Curry leaves
Salt
3 25 g / 1 tbs Coriander
1 fresh Red chilli
1 Green chilli

Serves: 4
Preparation Time: 15 minutes
Cooking Time: 20 minutes

PREPARATION
The potatoes: Peel, wash and cut into 1/4"/5 mm thick roundels
The remaining vegetables: Peel, wash and slice onion Peel garlic flakes Scrape, wash and shred ginger Clean, wash and chop coriander Remove stems, wash, slit, deseed and slice fresh red and green chillies

COOKING
Heat oil in a *kadhai* or deep round-bottomed frying pan, lower the heat slightly, add cumin, fennel, *kalonji*, mustard and fenugreek seeds, garlic, ginger, red chillies and curry leaves, *bhunno*/stir-fry for a minute Then add onions, *bhunno*/stir-fry until onions are golden, add potatoes and salt, stir, add coriander, fresh red and green chillies, stir until well mixed Reduce to very low heat, cover tightly with a lid or foil, ensuring that the foil does not touch the food, and cook for 7 minutes or until the potatoes are tender Remove, uncover and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE
Transfer to a serving platter and serve hot



Spicy Balti Potatoes and Okra with Raw Mango and Lentils

OKRA [illegible] RAW MANGO [illegible] LENTILS

[illegible]IENTS

450 g / [illegible]kra
115 g / 4 oz *Toor Dal*
45 ml / 3 tbs Corn oil
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp *Kalonji* (onion seeds)
2 Onions (medium)
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
4 5 g / 1 1/2 tsp Red chilli powder
3 g / 1 tsp Coriander powder
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Fenugreek powder
0 75 g / 1/4 tsp Turmeric powder
1 raw Mango
salt
6 5 g / 1 tbs Coriander
2 fresh Red chillies
1 Tomato (medium)

Serves: 4
Preparation Time: 45 minutes
Cooking Time: 10 minutes

PREPARATION
The okra: Wash, pat dry, remove caps and tips, cut into 1/2"/1 cm pieces
The lentils: Pick, wash in running water, drain, put in a saucepan with enough water to cover, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat and simmer until cooked but not mushy Drain and keep aside
The mango: Peel, halve, remove the stone and slice
The remaining vegetables: Peel, wash and slice onion Clean, wash and chop coriander Remove stems, wash, slit, deseed and slice fresh red chillies Remove eye, wash, quarter, remove the pulp and slice tomatoes

COOKING
Heat oil in a *kadhai* or deep round-bottomed frying pan, lower the heat slightly, add *kalonji*, stir, add onions, saute until onions are translucent and glossy, add the ginger and garlic pastes, *bhunno*/stir-fry until onions are golden brown Then add the coriander, red chilli, fenugreek and turmeric powders— all dissolved in 2 tbs / 30 ml of water— *bhunno*/stir-fry until the moisture has evaporated, add okra, mangoes and salt, stir Now add coriander and fresh red chillies, *bhunno*/stir-fry for 3 minutes or until the okra is well cooked Finally, add the cooked lentils and tomatoes, and cook for a further 3 minutes Remove and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE
Transfer to a service platter and serve hot

NOTE: All weights are nett, that is post preparation, and not gross ■

SHIAMAK DAVAR, *the trend-setting dancer-singer, has scaled the pinnacle of popularity and is a must item nowadays at almost every high-profile fashion show, musical extravaganza, not to leave out* Cinema Cinema 100 *or the Miss India shows. Not one to rest on his laurels, Shiamak joined the television bandwagon some time ago with an excellently produced series on dance,* Body 2 Body, Soul 2 Sole. *He has also come up with an audio cassette,* Survive. *The last ace up his sleeve was* Roshni, *a musical inspired by the Miss India contest*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Peace of mind, love and success in my work and personal life
What is your greatest fear?
Lizards
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My parents and the Bhavnagris, Vispi and Ratoo
What do you dislike most in others?
Inquisitiveness, lying and slimeballs
What do you dislike most in yourself?
I cannot be a nasty son of a ***** People thus take advantage of me I give in too easily (Actually, not anymore)
What is your most precious possession?
My God-given talent! I hope I can be successful in my mission
What objects do you always carry?
Nothing
What makes you most depressed?
Someone I love, getting hurt
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My nose!
What is your favourite word?
Really?
What is your favourite journey?
Life
What is your favourite dream?
Me on a tree-house with my loved ones and lots of animals
What is your nightmare?
Nature reacting adversely because we tamper with it too much
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
God and my family
What is your source of sustenance?
Faith and patience
On what occasions do you lie?
When I'm fooling around! All of us lie, but I would not get into those mean, vicious ones



What is your favourite dream?

Me on a tree-house with my loved ones and lots of animals

What is your greatest regret?
Nothing
What has been your happiest moment?
No idea
What brings tears to your eyes?
Animals, specially pups playing
How do you relax?
Singing, listening to music and watching old movies
What do you envy most in others?
Nothing Why should I?
How would you like to be remembered?
As talented and warm
How would you like to die?
Any way God has chosen for me

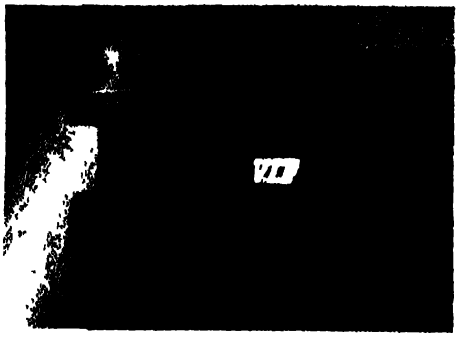
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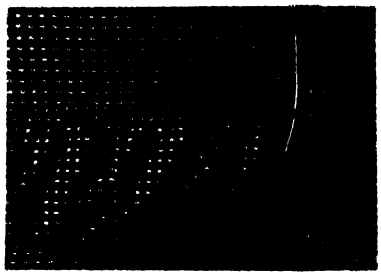


SUITABLE TRAVEL WEAR FOR A PALACE-ON-WHEELS HOLIDAY

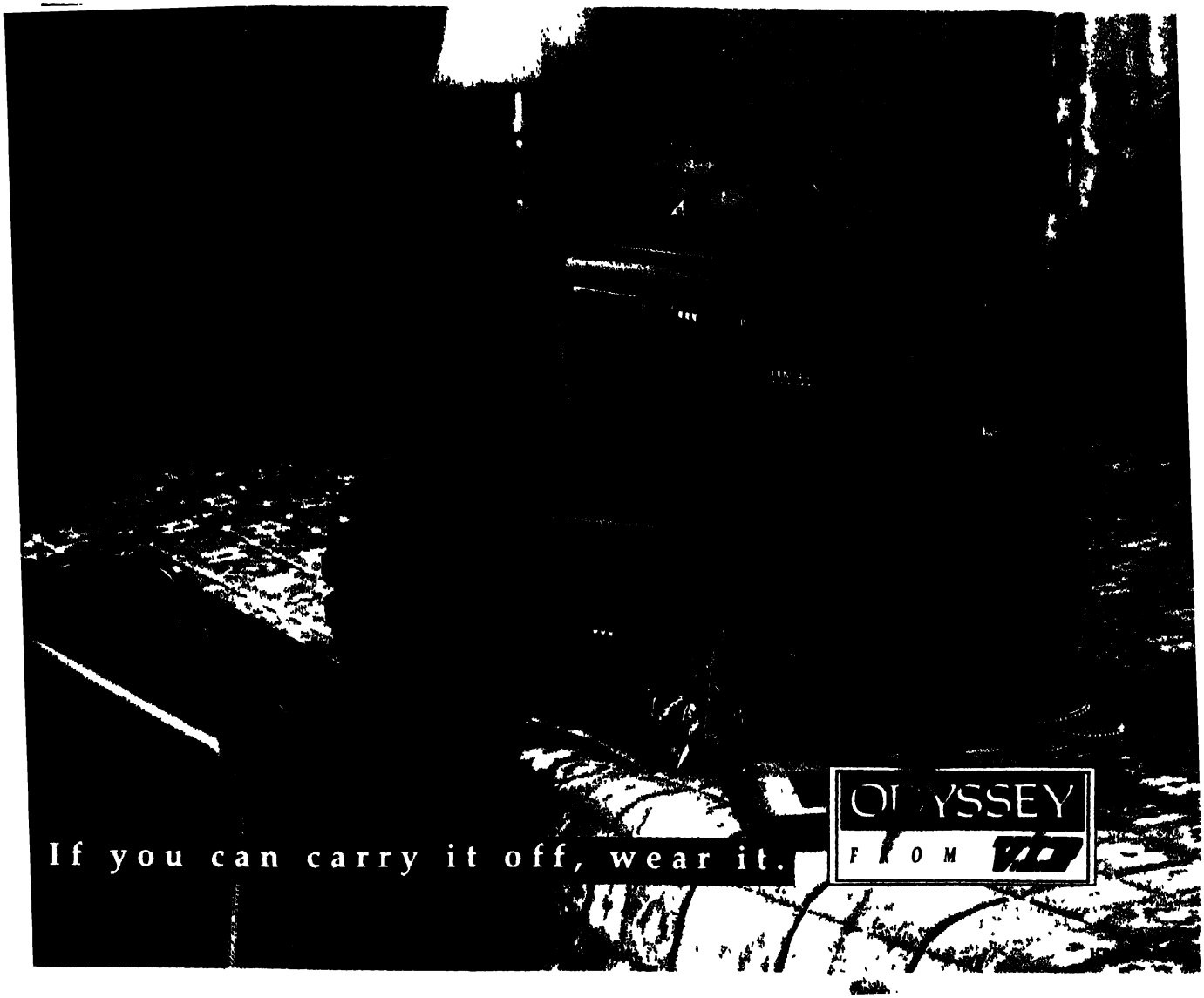
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The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Khan Saheb

■ It was delightful reading about the heart and mind of Imran Khan, one of the greatest cricketers Southeast Asia has produced ('King Khan', February 5).

Imran's criticism of Pakistani politicians and the wealthy upper class is a futile attempt to usher in a social change in a theocratic and feudalistic set-up

Imran will be remembered by his countrymen for the cancer hospital he is building This is no less an achievement than his colourful cricketing records He has splurged much of his personal wealth on the project The Rs 45 lakh he earned from the World Cup 1992 all went into the hospital Are any of our cricketers watching?

Politics is not Imran's forte If he wants to remain honest and serve the people he should steer clear of it Instead, he can cash in on his popularity in social service

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

■ What Imran says about Pakistani politics is true of India, too Political corruption is rampant, whether in Pakistan or India Imran lambasts the system of parliamentary democracy as the party in power is never criticised

He feels pained that the capitalists of Pakistan do not feel for the poor What about our capitalists? Do their hearts bleed for the poor?

Prasanta Kumar Ghosh,
Barasat (W B)

■ I was impressed by Imran's views on politics, the West, women and Islam I agree with him that without self-respect no one can attain success in life

Imran's latest passion to uplift the poor and the downtrodden is very noble Imran loves the limelight, too

He wants to live life to the full He's not just a brilliant cricketer, there's more to his personality — and the most noticeable trait is his philanthropic nature

His mission to help the poor will help Pakistan greatly I wish the king success

Md. Anwar Hussain
Calcutta



Imran Khan: Noble in deed

■ To Pakistanis, Imran is a political messiah His views on politics and Islam are quite intrepid The only apprehension that remains about him is, will he, like others before him, make India the scapegoat for the adversities suffered by Pakistan?

Devraj Singh Kalsi,
Kanchrapara (W B)

■ There is little doubt the Sultan of Swing has charisma and an aura which have catapulted him to the pinnacle of popularity

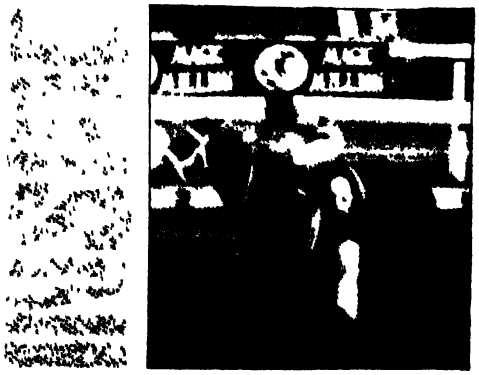
I do appreciate his concern for the wretched of the earth, but I hope he's not just paying lip service to a cause for we all know the cancer hospital is Imran's biggest hobby horse

Bharat Jalan,
Calcutta

■ I really like the way the Magazine tells us about Imran Khan and his cancer hospital, and now, his political thoughts

How about giving us his views on why the earth is not flat?

Shobhit Sinha,
Hindmotor (W B)



Anil Grover

PAGE 4

THE INDIAN Turf Invitation Cup returns to Calcutta after five years this afternoon A report on what this most prestigious race of the year means to the city

PAGE 28

THINGS ARE getting steamier with the KS ad, even though they have opted for lesser known models

Calcutta racing

SECTIONS

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21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 RASOI

Cover Anil Grover



Desert Warrior hits the wire first (Invitation Cup, Calcutta, 1990)

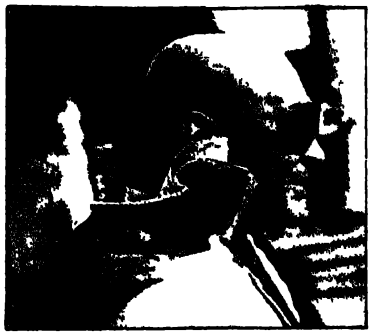
Taste the THUNDER!



Pesi Shroff astride Desert Warrior with (l-r) owners Mrs and Mr R.B Jain, Dr Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Mrs Villoo C. Poonawalla and trainer Altaf Hussain

The Invitation Cup weekend will be topped with the Derby of Derbys' this afternoon. ***Rohit Bose*** *gives the Calcutta slant to the most prestigious event in the racing calendar, held in the city this year*

Photographs by Anil Grover



THE CLASSIC INDIAN TURF INVITATION CUP MAY BE CONSIDERED the crown which rests atop the crest of the Indian racing season It is a rich race run over the Derby distance of 2,400 metres

To comprehend just how difficult it is to conquer the peak, one would have to have a little understanding of the system of nomination

A good three-year-old performer is normally entered to run in the classic races which are considered the ultimate test of speed and stamina for a thoroughbred.

The five classic races run at the five major racing centres in India help in picking out the *creme de la creme* Of these five classics, it is the Oaks (commonly known as the Ladies' Derby) and the Derby, considered to be the blue riband at every centre, to which the most importance is attached. The five or so nominees from each racing centre are more often than not horses which have performed well in these two classics

As a horse is four years old when it competes in the Derby, the Invitation Cup is restricted to the same age group

ITC chairman J.N Sapru welcomes Jyoti Basu, 1990

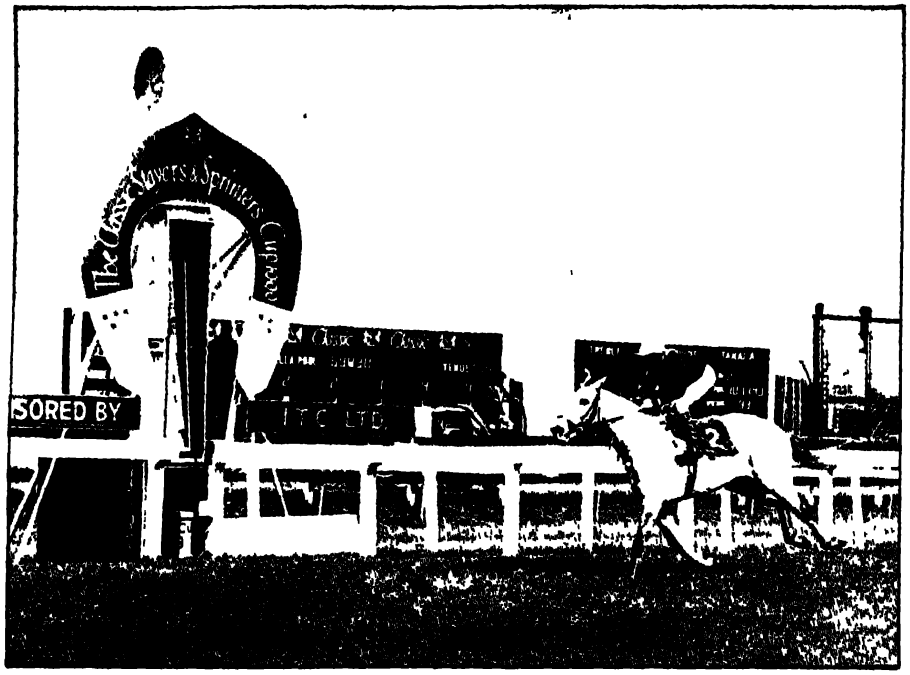


The nominees from each centre are invited by the host city to participate in this, the most glamorous and prestigious event in the racing calendar The race could be termed 'the Derby of Derbys'

Each of the five major racing centres in the country — Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Bombay and Calcutta — host the Invitation Cup annually by rotation. Thus, today, it is the turn of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club to host this great race after five years.

Between 1983 and 1988, the Indian Turf Invitation Cup was sponsored by Charminar cigarettes. Subsequently, ITC Ltd has been the sponsor of this premier event Accordingly, it is called the Classic Indian Turf Invitation Cup.

Just about everybody who is anybody in the world of Indian racing will ensure



Brave Dancer (Robin Corner up) outlasts the others in the Stayers' Cup, Calcutta, 1990

THE CHAMPS IN CALCUTTA

Year	Winner	Trainer	Rider	Owner
1964	Hovercraft (2 mins 36 secs)	M Galstaun	Faggotter	Rani P K Devi Rana
1967	Prince Regent (2 mins 39 6 secs)	McPherson	Faggotter	Mrs C K Mahtab
1971	Bright Hanovar (2 mins 36 6 secs)	S M Shah	McGarth	Mr M D Mehta and Mrs Laxmi P Lala
1975	Midnight Cowboy (2 mins 36 6 secs)	Capt Fownes	R Alford	Maharani Gina Narayan of Cooch Behar
1980	Everynsky (2 mins 34 4 secs)	Byramji	A Barclay	Mr and Mrs S C Khatau C M Khatau and K C Khatau
1985	Revelation (2 mins 34 2 secs)	Chenoy	P Shroff	Mrs Zeenia S Lawyer, Mrs B B Chenoy, Maj P K Mehra and the Estate of Late N M Irani
1990	Desert Warnor (2 mins 40 9 secs)	A Hussain	P Shroff	Mr and Mrs R B Jain, Dr Cyrus S Poonawalla and Mrs Villoo C Poonawalla

Year	Winner	Trainer	Rider	Owner
1980	Guindy Girl (1 min 13 4 secs)	Sajjad	Nasir Baig	S Satyamurti and S Badrinath
1985	Bergamo (1 min 11 secs) Record	Todywalla	Antia	Sardar H S Brar, Miss Bubli Brar and Mr and Mrs A K S Brar
1990	Star Style Girl (1 min 14 secs)	Byramji	V Shinde	Mr Suresh Mahindra
1985	Aztec (3 mins 13 3 secs) Record	Byramji	P Cook	Mr J P Goenka
1990	Brave Dancer (3 mins 22 4 secs)	Vijay Singh	R Corner	Mr Ranjit Nobis

he or she is present at the Calcutta racecourse whether or not he has a runner in the 'great race'

Apart from the leading professionals, the VIPs who are likely to be spotted at the Calcutta racecourse this afternoon are south India's barons of the turf Dr M A M Ramaswamy, who features in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the only man to win over 100 classics, and Vijay Mallya who needs no introduction in the corporate world

Mallya's companies sponsor some of the biggest classics and Mallya has also etched his name in the history of the Indian Turf Invitation Cup by doing a hattrick with Delage (1991), Bugs Bunny (1992) and Adler (1993)

The only other owner to have done it in the Invitation Cup is Ranjit V Bhat with Commanche, Squanderer

The nominees from each centre are invited by the host city to participate in this [Invitation Cup], the most glamorous and prestigious event in the racing calendar. The race could be termed 'the Derby of Derbys'

and Manitou between the years 1976 and 1978

Also seen at the racecourse will be the Poonawallas at whose immaculate stud farm stand the three most successful sires of contemporary classic crops in India – Malvado, Riyahi and Sovereign Silver

Media magnate S Rangarajan (of *Hindu* fame), a sporting owner and a keen racing enthusiast may also be seen

Last but not the least, Calcutta's very own Deepak Khaitan, whose enormous investments in quality horseflesh in recent years has left the racing fraternity awestruck

Khaitan is certain to make his presence felt in more ways than one. Khaitan's wonder colt, Elusive Pimpernel, has yet to lose a race after eight starts and this progeny of Wattlefield out of Right Step is certain to close as the piping hot on-money public choice for the

Invitation Cup this afternoon

Though Khaitan relished his maiden triumph in the Invitation Cup at Bombay last year with Super Brave, he greets the thought of an Invitation Cup victory in Calcutta with more than a gleam in his eye "The thrill of winning at Calcutta is always much greater," says Khaitan, displaying sentimental attachment to this metropolis

According to Mukund Mahadeshwar, who was a senior official with the RCTC for three decades before his retirement last year, the finest horse to win the Invitation Cup in Calcutta was Midnight Cowboy The Cowboy was also the winner of two Queen Elizabeth Cups The fact that he was a horse owned by Maharani Gina Narayan of

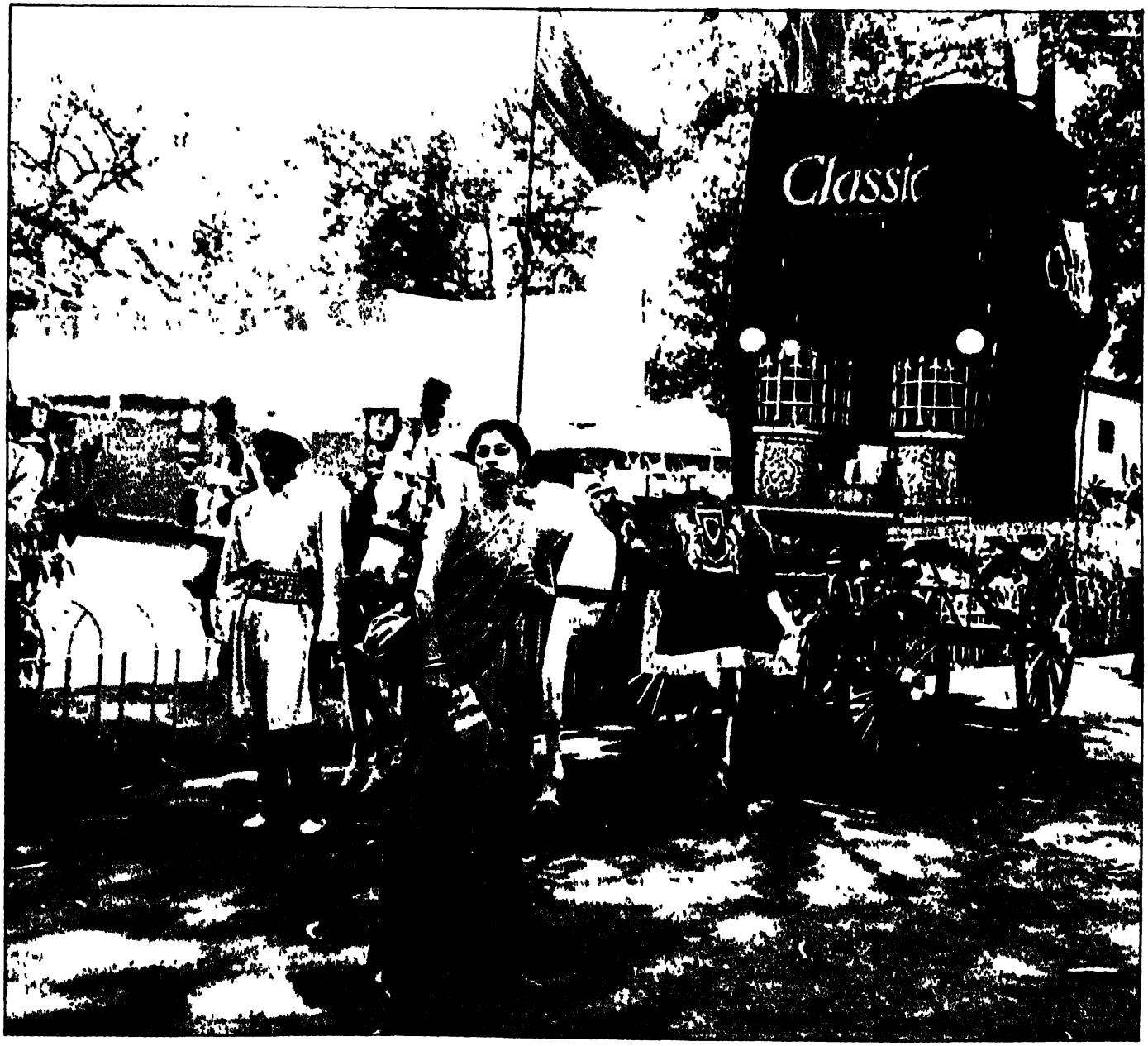
Though popular local rider Robin Corner has yet to win this *piece de resistance*, he has a staggering count in the Stayers' Cup/Classic, having won the marathon run over 3,000 metres on the eve of the Invitation Cup, a record six times

Cooch Behar, trained by Captain Fownes and ridden by Richard Alford — all from Calcutta — obviously made his triumph that much sweeter to local turfites

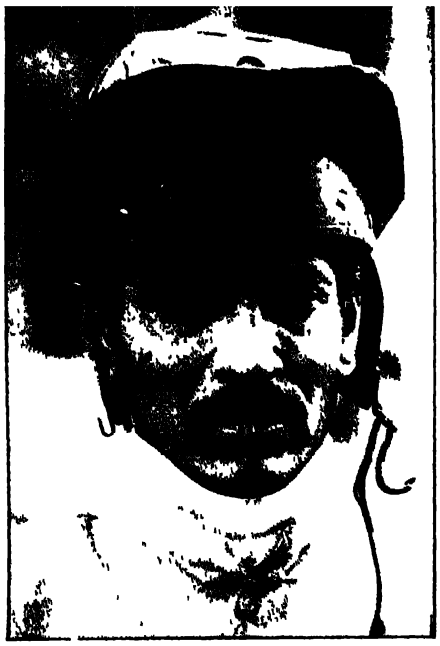
Perhaps, the most dramatic of all Invitation Cup victories at Calcutta was that of a dark bay filly called Hovercraft in 1964 In the 10-horse field that was to face the starter that year was one of the greatest front-running machines of all times — a colt from Bombay called Prince Pradeep His tearaway tactics fetched him many a glory

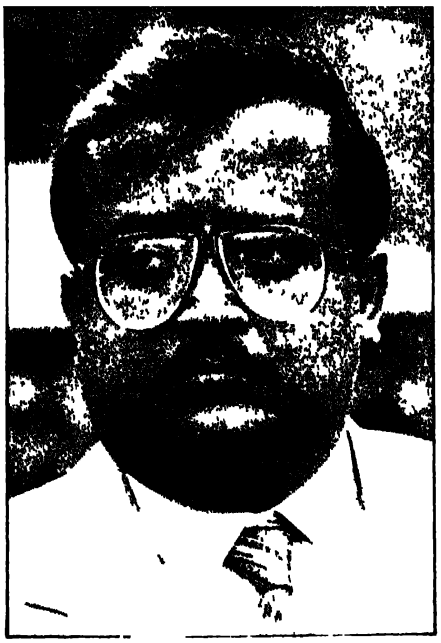
Backed to the exclusion of all other runners, Prince Pradeep shot away into a commanding lead but with his

The RCTC All dressed up for the occasion









Byramji (with Star Style Girl) Aslam Kader and Deepak Khaitan Banking on Elusive Pimpernel

RASHID BYRAMJI: TURF MIDAS

Year	Winner	Racing centre	Rider	Owner
1972	Prince Khartoum	Madras	Wally Swinburn	Mr and Mrs Sanjay Khan
1974	Topmost	Bombay	N Reuben	Mr D K Das
1976	Commanche	Madras	Jagdish	Ranjit V Bhat and Yogesh M Shah
1977	Squanderer	Bangalore	V Shinde	Ranjit V Bhat and I S Mirchandani
1978	Manitou	Hyderabad	V Shinde	Ranjit V Bhat and Yogesh M Shah
1980	Everynsky	Calcutta	A Barclay	Mr and Mrs S C Khatau, C M Khatau and K C Khatau
1981	Track Lightning	Madras	A Barclay	Mr and Mrs S C Khatau, C M Khatau and K C Khatau
1982	Almanac	Bangalore	P Cook	Mr J P Goenka
1991	Delage	Madras	L Piggott	Mr Vijay Mallya and Z.S Poonawalla
1992	Bugs Bunny	Bangalore	P Shroff	Mr Vijay Mallya, Kr Raghuvendra Singh and Kr Yadvendra Singh
1993	Adler	Hyderabad	P Shroff	Mr Vijay Mallya

PESI SHROFF: BLAZING SADDLES

Year	Winner	Racing centre	Trainer	Owner
1985	Revelation	Calcutta	Chenoy	Mrs Zeenia S Lawyer, Mrs B B Chenoy and the Estate of Late N M Irani
1986	Amorous Knight	Madras	S S Shah	Mrs A L J Talib, A A Ahmedbhoy, Abbas V Jasdanwalla and J F Tapia
1989	Exhilaration	Bombay	I Sait	Dr Cyrus S Poonawalla, Dr M A M Ramaswamy, Z.S Poonawalla and Solomon F Sopher
1990	Desert Warrior	Calcutta	A Hussain	Mr and Mrs R B Jain, Dr Cyrus S Poonawalla and Mrs Villoo C Poonawalla
1992	Bugs Bunny	Bangalore	Byramji	Mr Vijay Mallya, Kr Raghuvendra Singh and Kr Yadvendra Singh
1993	Adler	Hyderabad	Byramji	Mr Vijay Mallya

Byramji has notched up 11 Invitation Cup triumphs in a little over two decades and looks all set for a 12th this year with his unbeaten colt, Elusive Pimpernel. Crack rider Aslam Kader, who is retained by Deepak Khaitan, will be astride this big-made chestnut colt

hapless jockey, Raghunath, finding one foot out of the stirrup iron Faggotter on the Mac Galstaun-trained Hovercraft watched Raghunath's plight as he gradually improved his mount's position

With his rider having lost control on him, the Prince' began to drift out in the straight while Faggotter and Hovercraft made a beeline for the finish The winner was available in the ring at eight-to-one and only those close associates of Mac Galstaun in whom the latter had confided about the filly's potential had dared to stake their money on her

SOME MARKERS IN HISTORY

While racing began to be organised in England as early as the first quarter of the 17th century, it was not until over a 100 years later that Calcutta witnessed its first horse race. Given below is a brief history of racing in the city in chronological order.

1769: Racing first took place at Akra farm towards the southern part of Garden Reach.

1788: Racing took place intermittently at Barasat. The most important race was the Barasat Welter, a forerunner of the Calcutta Welter, which was the most prestigious race of the early Calcutta programmes and continued till 1847

1803: The Bengal Jockey Club was formed. This put an end to irregular racing which had taken place hitherto

1806: Racing was first held in Barrrackpore which, as the name implies, was a cantonment of Calcutta It was also the country residence of the Governor General. The last Barrackpore meeting was held as late as in 1948

1809: The course was shifted from Akra to its present site at the Maidan under Bengal Jockey Club rules

1820: A stand was erected approximately where the present 1,000-metre marker stands. The newly erected stand backed on to the jail which was situated where Victoria Memorial now stands

1842: An event of considerable importance took place, namely the institution of the Calcutta Derby It was confined to Maiden Arabs and carried a winners purse of Rs 5,000. The race was run over two miles

1847: The year which saw the formation of the Calcutta Turf Club

1856: The Viceroy's Cup replaces the Calcutta Derby This race is currently known as the Queen Elizabeth II Cup Great names like Myall King, Mayfowl, Orange William and Baqlava won the Viceroy's Cup in the years to follow

1869: J.C. Galstaun lands on Indian soil He was destined to become one of the biggest owners of his time and one of the most fearless punters that the Bookmakers Ring has known

1871: The steeplechasing started in Calcutta

1880: The racecourse was turned around (as it is now) and a new stand built between the present Members and Grand enclosures

1960: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II makes the presentation of the Queen Elizabeth II Cup to Mrs Billimoria owner of the winner Pa Bear.

1966: Fifth Asian Racing Conference held in Calcutta

1975: Inter-venue betting introduced at Calcutta covering races at Bombay Bangalore Hyderabad and Madras

1993: Totalisator at Calcutta is computerised

Only one other filly has won the Invitation Cup at Calcutta till date She is Revelation, sired by the highly successful prolific sire of the mid-Eighties, Grey Gaston Revelation was out of Monica who happens to be a daughter of Prince Pradeep Thus, it appears that breeding inevitably has a large say in all classic races

While local turfites hailed the Calcutta Derby winner of 1985, Robin Hood, as that year's winner of the Invitation Cup, Naresh Engineer on the latter had no answer as Pesi Shroff smoothly slipped Revelation along the rails to win in record time

Shroff's exploits in the Invitation Cup arena are not unknown to racegoers all over the country This young and dashing rider from Bombay has won this classic race no less than a record six times

Equally astounding is the record of maestro Rashid Byramji, a schooler *par excellence* The wizard has notched up 11 Invitation Cup triumphs in a little over two decades and looks all set for a 12th this year with his unbeaten colt, Elusive Pimpernel

Crack rider Aslam Kader, who is retained by Deepak Khaitan, will be astride this big-made chestnut colt

Till date Byramji has tasted success in the Invitation Cup only once at Calcutta This was in 1980 with a dark colt called Everynsky Known to come with a late burst of speed, Everynsky was ridden to perfection by that master of pace, Sandy Barclay Everynsky collared runaway Aristocrat after the distance post



Hovercraft, owned by Rani P K Devi Rana, being led in by trainer Mac Galstaun, Faggotter up

Though popular local rider, Robin Corner, has yet to win this *piece de resistance*, he has a staggering count in the Stayers' Cup/Classic, having won the marathon run over 3,000 metres on the eve of the Invitation Cup, a record six times

Corner's triumphs have been achieved astride Calibre (1986), Ardiles (1987 and 1988), Brave Dancer (1990), Star Contender (1992) and Flirting Vision (1993)

Calcutta witnessed a great stayer in Aztec in 1985 The horse by Jandaar out of Purita won in record timing The same year saw another great horse in Bergamo who won the Spinsters' Cup and the Super Mile Stakes *the following day* — both in record timing

One can only speculate whether the likes of Elusive Pimpernel will make 1995 a memorable year for Calcutta's racing fraternity Known to possess a amazing turn of foot much in the mould of his predecessor, Squanderer, from the same stable, Aslam Kader is certain to ride the colt for eventual speed

All he has to be wary about is Calcutta's notorious final hairpin bend and the short straight which has caught many a rider napping ■

EXTRACT

Fire and BRIMSTONE

There was a lot of talk about [Warren] Beatty and Madonna, and whether their affair was just a stunt to promote *Dick Tracy*. It was and it wasn't. Aides in the Madonna camp would report a continuing and steamy relationship. But the intent of the hype was deep and calculated, and the extent of it — especially on Madonna's part — would only emerge in the months leading up to the release of the movie. It was extraordinary.

Madonna threw herself into a sensational worldwide orgy of self-expression that left Beatty himself breathless. It was a slow-burn build-up that began in the dying weeks of 1989 and gathered pace early in the new year, when gossip writers were analysing their relationship. They were a curious pairing. Madonna was always frank and loud and controversial about her men. She admitted to looking at the bulge in their pants before wasting any time on potential lovers and she liked them strong and butch, young and virile. Beatty's adventurous love making was hardly in the S and M category that Madonna flirted with in her stage acts. She, on the other hand, was the absolute bumping and grinding opposite to some of the women who had populated his life, who were genteel in comparison.



Neither did Beatty seem put off by the regular presence of Madonna's closest friend, Sandra Bernhard, who was always somewhere close, and often travelled with her. They used to taunt him by disappearing into the powder room and returning having swapped clothes.

It was a disjointed romance, he was still engaged on the editing of *Dick Tracy*, working day and night through the early months of 1990 to prepare for a June release, while she was putting the final touches to plans for her Blond Ambition world tour. In the weeks before she left, they made a point of being seen around Hollywood and New York.

The affair was no stunt, but that did not stop them from turning it into one. The hype was all that mattered, and they pursued that aim as if the whole relationship had been carefully and meticulously planned for the purpose. Some nights they would dine in two places, taking a main course in one and a dessert in another. Actress, author and television presenter Elisa Celli, wife of Hollywood-based British producer Trevor Wallace, said "They were the talk of the town for weeks. It seemed everywhere you went Warren and Madonna were there — Spago, Adriano's, La Scala, the Citrus — and they weren't sinking away in some dark corner. They were there for all to see."

And everyone saw. Beatty and Madonna made sure of that. She attracted attention with her sexy clothes, adorned with lots of black lace and high skirts, and her playful teasing, sitting on Beatty's lap. Then they would dash off to one of the Sunset Boulevard night spots, where they might find Jack Nicholson nightclubbing while Rebecca Broussard was at home waiting for the birth of their baby, which arrived in April.

Jack was languishing in the success of *Batman*, which brought him personally upwards of $50 million. Nicholson, who had achieved massive publicity and acclaim for his portrayal of the Joker, was a hard act to follow. *Dick Tracy* was a different kind of film, but it was still being viewed as in the same mould, and would be judged as such.

Beatty knew better than anyone by now that if he hadn't got it right, then *Dick Tracy* could face a massacre by the critics and he personally would be crucified. *Batman*, which Disney executives had taken a great interest in as a precursor to their own movie, was a stunning commercial success. It quick-

***Extracted from Warren Beatty: The Last Great Lover of Hollywood* by John Parker, Headline, distributed by IBD, £6.99**

BY JOHN PARKER

ly zoomed into the realms of blockbuster status, taking $200 million in domestic grosses in the first four weeks alone, and the merchandising operation round the world was being talked of in terms of producing a $1 billion bonanza, from which Nicholson would benefit by tens of millions

So he could justifiably smile that killer smile when he saw Beatty at the Roxberry night spot — it was a grin that said, "Hey, Warren, follow that!" They gathered some companionship and retired for a party at Jack's place But Jack knew that Warren had a secret weapon in his armoury of promotional activity for *Dick Tracy* It was Madonna herself, at her most sexy, shockingly outrageous best (or worst) Beatty had seen a preview of the new stage act for her world tour and he was amazed by it He had seen her final rehearsal in Los Angeles for the Blond Ambition show, which was to open in Tokyo on 13 April, the first leg of the sell-out world tour Nine concerts in Japan alone secured ticket sales in excess of $4 million, without the merchandising that was part of the circus

At the first gig, 35,000 screaming, shouting, ecstatic fans gave a foretaste of what was to follow Newsreels picked up on her stage performance in Tokyo as she burst on to the stage in her ivory corset with its gold conical breasts and dangling suspender belt and performed an act which simulated every sexual possibility She tantalised her audiences with references to sado-masochism, with lines like "When I hurt people, I feel better — know what I mean?" and following her rendition of the *Dick Tracy* number, *Hanky Panky* she added, "You all know the pleasures of a good spanking."

The promotion of *Dick Tracy* was a built-in facet of the tour She performed three numbers from the movie, which was also linked to her new album entitled, *I'm Breathless* Beatty was there in spirt, if not in person, when she performed a duet with a tape of his voice in the number, *Now I'm following you*, and her team of male dancers were adorned in Dick Tracy-style yellow overcoats A specially prepared movie trailer was flashed on to big screens in the auditorium and the audience went into raptures when they heard her reciting the gems, "Dick that's an interesting name" and "My body hurts just thinking about it"

Around the world and back again, Madonna was promoting the movie. At her first concert in America, on 4 May, at the Summit Arena, in Houston, Texas, Beatty should have been in the wings Madonna had even sent a private jet to collect him When start time came and he hadn't arrived, she was pacing around, angry and screaming at anyone who got in her way "Jeez, where's that m____t____? Where is he?" She delayed the start for 20 minutes before going on

He telephoned afterwards and apologised He explained he was busy with the final arrangements for the release of *Dick Tracy* There were a thousand last-minute details to attend to, and he hoped she was not angry Madonna hung up and let out a loud scream She made only a brief visit to a party thrown in her honour and then went back to her hotel room, locked herself in and refused all calls

She ploughed on with the tour, city after city, until Beatty finally caught up with her on the opening night in Los Angeles She was still angry "M____f____!" she bawled as she came off after the first set "Who put those a__h___s in the front rows? All I've got is three rows of fat f ____s leering up at me" She was moaning that the front seats appeared to have been commandeered for some corporate outing of ageing, balding,

The most talked-about duo in showbiz for a while



ogling males.

Then she spotted Beatty, who was standing at the back of the wings and she yelled, "Don't stand back there, Warren Come over here See this, this crap can you believe it, what I have to do every f _ ing night of my life? Are you going to be nicer to me now, Warren?"

Who was she doing it for? It was principally for Madonna Beatty's movie was a vehicle for her She badly wanted a success in a major movie, but it was just a small part of one massive commercial operation which was now swamping Beatty's own position Her spin-offs were immense The world tour was netting millions of dollars, the ablum, *I'm Breathless*, which had been acclaimed as the best she had produced, had been kept out of the deal she struck with Beatty and Disney studios. She had the songs produced on her own label for Time Warner, and the album stood to make her well in excess of $12 million She had also hammered a tight percentages deal with Disney on box-office receipts,



And everyone saw. Beatty and Madonna made sure of that. She attracted attention with her sexy clothes, adorned with lots of black lace and high skirts, and her playful

Beatty's lap

merchandising and video sales Even before the picture came out, she was looking at potentially $20 million It was little wonder she had agreed to make the picture for union scale of $1,440 a week

On her own admission, she was hyping the movie for all she was worth, and she was doing it of her own volition In her usual frank style, she said, "Disney did not ask me to market the movie Let's say I'm killing 12 birds with one stone it's a two-way street I'm pushing everything Sure I have to Most people don't associate me with movies but then, I also have a much bigger following than Warren does A lot of my audience have never heard of him"

Prompted by his own need to talk about the picture — and the absolute certainty of being overshadowed by Madonna — Beatty came out of his shell for the first time in almost a decade Apart from a few modest interviews he gave for *Ishtar* before retreating back into his self-imposed seclusion, Beatty had said nothing of note to the press since the late 1980s. In May, while Madonna was attracting huge publicity from the tour, he went on the *Barbara Walters Show* It was classic Beatty — apparently shy, and blinking without his glasses, he was slow in answering and often gave the air of mystery

Next, he agreed to one of those long and searching *Rolling Stone* interviews which had been compared variously by subjects to having teeth pulled or spending half a day on a psychiatrist's couch It would be virtually impossible for him to stick to his normal routine of saying nothing in particular In fact writer Bill Zehme admitted in his preamble to the piece that to "interview Warren Beatty is to want to kill him"

The long pauses between his monosyllabic replies were recorded and it was easy to imagine the interviewer shuffling in his seat waiting for the reply to come or was it Beatty who was shuffling?

Zehme OK, you and Madonna the truth?

Beatty Art is truth

Zehme That's all You want to go with that?

Beatty OK by me

Zehme Describe the qualities she possesses that convinced you to cast her as the sexpot temptress, Breathless Mahoney How does she qualify?

Beatty Madonna is (21 seconds pause) simultaneously touching and more fun than a barrel of monkeys (11 seconds) She's funny and she's (21 seconds) gifted in so many areas and has a kind of energy as a performer that can't help but make you engaged

Zehme You mean sexual energy?

Beatty (47-second pause) Um, she has it all

But the man from *Rolling Stone* had heard that it was over between Beatty and Madonna Beatty would not answer on the record He had retained the right to go off the record when he felt so inclined It was a favourite trick that he had injected into newspaper interviews years ago to get out of answering questions of a personal nature This was one of them, and the question of his continuing relationship with Madonna was fudged, though the interviewer drew the conclusion that it was still on

By and large reviewers enjoyed the film, although several tempered their comments with the observations that Beatty had turned in a sweet-natured picture that gave his *Dick Tracy* an aesthetic look and which low-keyed Madonna to the extent that none of her electrifying stage presence came across Such comments were wholly deserved It was an excellent movie technically, with the superb photography and set designs of two Beatty stalwarts, Vittorio Storaro and Dick Sylbert, respectively The music was excellent, the whole presentation was rich in colour and ideas, but the dead hand of Disney-fication lay over it, so that there was a serious lack of excitement

Madonna, too, had moved on after some heated exchanges She found a new boyfriend whom she met at her birthday party, given by her brother in mid-July, and had a role with Beatty over his seeing other women but he not expecting her to see other men Bang! The phone went down and so did her relationship When the movie was over so was the single most important bond Love? There surely was none As one of her close associates described it, Madonna "screwed his brains out" and left

She did not want maturity in a man and made that abundantly clear when she went public with a new man, a handsome male model named Tony Ward, five years her junior, who had appeared in pin-up poses in male gay magazines The message to Beatty was as effective as a punch in the face

Also her own sharp business acumen had creamed off millions from the whole *Dick Tracy* exercise, which she had wrapped up and incorporated into her own worldwide marketing operation of concerts, videos and albums Madonna danced off into the sunset ready to make her next killing, which would include the release of her own documentary of exhibitionism, initially titled, *Truth or Dare On the Road, Behind the Scenes and in Bed with Madonna*, which was filled during her Blond Ambition tour.■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

A Season of Homecoming

The season of rains has set out for distant lands
The canopy of the sky looks like the face of my mother

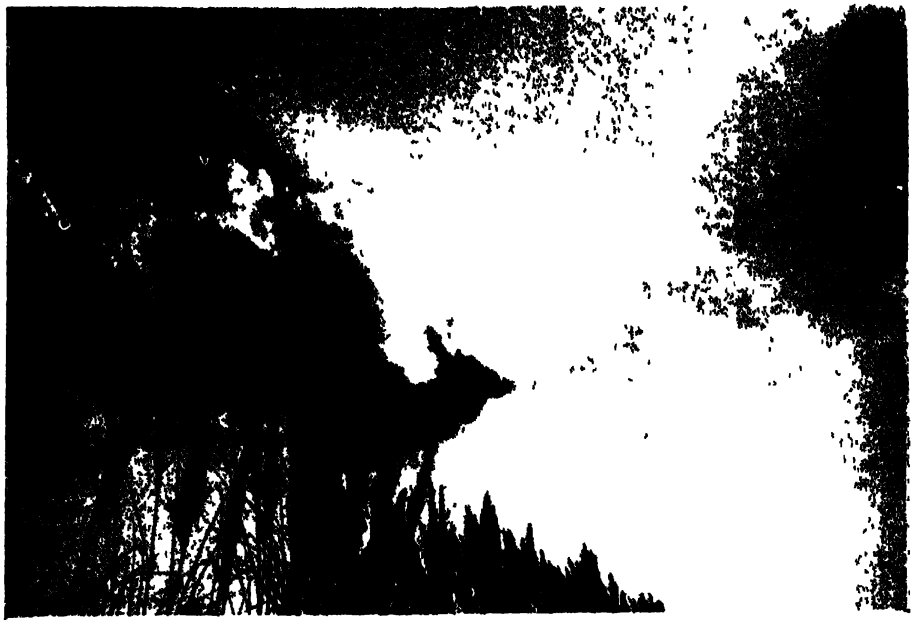
I see a woman of seventy
seated on the porch of her cottage.
A child crying on her lap

The guava tree in the yard has broken into delicate blossoms

This is the season of homecoming

Years back I was born And
I will celebrate that birthday now

Bhagya Mondal



Flashback

After all these days,
those times rise clear,
straight-ironed, smooth,
no knots nor creases,
the picture of a past

The crowd of faces,
voices that mingled
in a deep-toned murmur
Air carried melodies
of laughter and giggles,
and wrinkled walls blushed
at teenage jargon
Yet each was different
Each had eyes that watched,
met other eyes,

Ears which listened,
A tongue that gave
Worth to a voice,
yet each had a face

Through clouds and rainbows,
tears and smiles,
Over pages of calendars
—I rest my eyes—
while the album nestles
on my lap

Annapurna Dutta

And Then — Words Only Words — And Then?

Setting words in order, year after year,
thousands of words, what good does it do?
When the words at last run out — in the end —
your question will still be there,
'And then?'

What will I give you for Puja this year?
What can I give you? Cracked earth, water
with a briny taste, heavy marks of weeping
What will you give me for Puja this year?
Will it be golden dreams of lights?
Colours fade with waiting Whenever I look
I see faces, shadowy faces drifting

Give me dreams of light this year,
lots and lots of dreams of light
For life in its wholeness has fled
from the breast of the sun scorched plain

Turn me in some other direction this year
lead me away else where, away, away —
There is a long way to go yet, a long way

As I measure the distance with my steps
I hear autumn calling in the colours of a mynah's breast feathers and I inhale
the sweet-scent of light, breathing deeply
A golden hawk shrills the news in my ears.

No words There are no words.
We have none
Words are stored away, pushed aside for thousands of years

The shephalika flowers fall softly now
Gently the rain flows down
Here and there a half spoken word is
partly heard in somebody's breast.

All are still A hush envelop us

The shephalika flowers fall softly now

Softly Slowly

Abhijit Ghose

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

WILD GARDEN

As with many who love gardens, I have never really had enough space in which to create a garden of my own A few square feet of rocky hillside has been the largest patch at my disposal All that I managed to grow in it were daisies — and they'd probably have grown there anyway

Still, they made for a charmingly dappled hillside throughout the summer, specially on full-moon

I like a garden to be a little untidy, unplanned and full of surprises, rather like my own muddled mind, which gives me a few surprises at times

nights, when the flowers were at their most radiant

For the past few years, here in Mussoorie I have had to live in two small rooms on the third floor of a tumbledown building which has no garden space at all

All the same, it has a number of ever-widening cracks in which wild sorrel, dandelions, thorn apples and nettles, all take root and thrive You could, I suppose, call it a wild wall garden

Not that I am deprived of flowers I am better off than most city dwellers because I have only to walk a short way out of the hillstation to see (or discover) a variety of flowers in their wild state, and wild flowers are rewarding because the best ones are often the most difficult to find

But I have always had this dream of possessing a garden of my own Not a very formal garden — certainly not the stately home type, with its pools and fountains and neat hedges as described in such detail by Bacon in his essay, *Of Gardens*

Bacon had a methodical mind and he wanted a methodical garden I like a garden to be a little untidy, unplanned and full of surprises — rather like my own muddled mind, which gives me a few surprises at times

My grandparent's garden in Dehra, in north India, for example, Grandmother liked flowers, and she didn't waste space on lawns and hedges There was plenty of space at the back of the house for shrubs and fruit trees but in the front garden was a maze of flower beds of all shapes and sizes and everything that could grow in Dehra (a fertile valley) was grown in them — masses of sweet peas, petunias, antirrhinum, poppies, phlox and larkspur

Scarlet poinsettia leaves draped the garden walls while purple and red bougainvillea climbed the porch, geraniums of many hues mounted the verandah steps and indoors, vases full of cut flowers gave the rooms a heady fragrance

I suppose it was this garden of my childhood that implanted in my mind a permanent vision of a perfect garden so that, whenever I am worried and down in the dumps, I close my eyes and conjure up a picture of this lovely place, where I am wandering through forests of cosmos and banks of rambling roses It does help to soothe an agitated mind I wouldn't call it meditation Contemplation rather

I remember an aunt who sometimes came to stay with my grandmother, and who had an obsession about watering the flowers She would be at it morning and evening, an old and rather lop-sided watering can in her frail hands

To everyone's amazement she would water the garden in all weathers, even during the rains

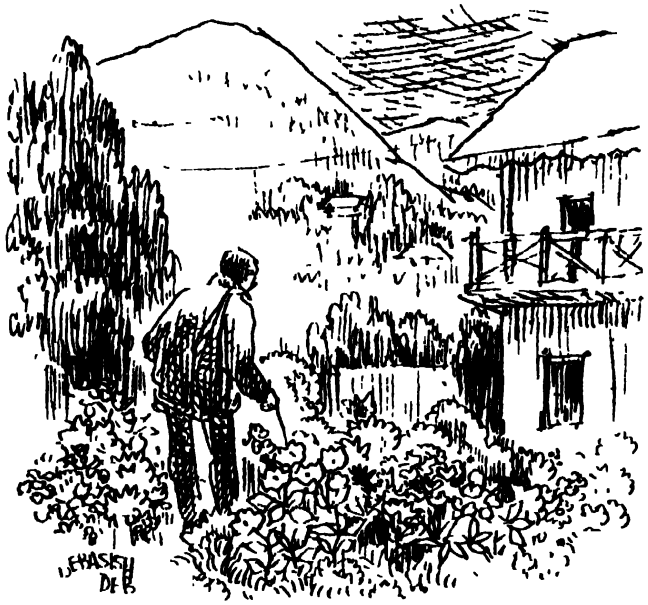
"But, it's just been raining, aunt," I would remonstrate "Why are you watering the garden?"

"The rain comes from above," she replied "This is from me They expect me at this time you know"

Grandmother died when I was still a boy and the garden soon passed into other hands I've never done well enough to acquire anything like it and there's no point in getting sentimental about the past

Yes, I'd love to have a garden of my own — spacious and gracious and full of everything that's fragrant and flowering But if I don't succeed, never mind — I've still got the dream

Yes, I'd love to have a garden of my own — spacious and gracious and full of everything that's fragrant and flowering. But if I don't succeed, never mind — I've still got the dream



(*Santuary Features*)

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21 - April 20



Introspection and a reaching out to people and places, are exact opposites but both will find a place in your mental makeup A trip or a journey is very likely, so get your travel-kit ready March 7-9 are favourable for getting work done, so give it your best shot

Taurus

April 21 —May 20



True, there will be pressures on the emotional and material frontiers But you will be able to cope with them It will be a tight squeeze, nevertheless March 5-6 will be rather crucial for you Tuesday through Thursday will be important for buying/selling/socialising and so on

Gemini

May 21 - June 20



You will be forced to pull out all the stops if you want to succeed, says Ganesha This holds particularly true for March 8-10 Many of you could be changing horses mid-stream and this change appears almost inevitable and necessary You will have the energy to go ahead

Cancer

June 21 - July 20



You will have to move fast, very fast to get the goodies, as competition will be tremendous Two things are evident Finances, inclusive of loans, funds, joint-finances and investment play a vital part Foreign ties, inspirational moves and a certain sadness constitute the second part

Leo

July 21--August 21



The Sun-Jupiter aspect/formation could make life a bit difficult healthwise Otherwise, your success in putting your message across will be simply phenomenal Many Leons must have made a fesh start in the last six months and now is the time to renew that pledge

Virgo

August 22--September 22



While there could be opposition to plans and even a falling out, it could be temporary and a patching up is possible Employment opportunities and house or property development schemes keep you active Pay particular heed to your personal appearance March 8-10 is best for work

Libra

September 23 -October 22



Once again, changes and overhauling on the job sector are indicated Health could call for special care and attention In matters regarding children, research, creative pursuits, film-making, painting, TV commercials, writing and teaching, your luck holds well

Scorpio

October 23--November 22



It would be best to distance yourself a little and not be totally involved, says Ganesha Renovation/alteration decoration of house, office or shop is foretold For funding, loaning and investment, Tuesday through Thursday will be of vital importatnce

Sagittarius

November 23--December 20



The health and well-being of family members is suspect it could cause tensions Many Sagittarians will be communicating at, literally, break-neck speed Contracts should be on the anvil Visits, interviews and tests seem ordained for you Prepare for a trip, or even a long-distance journey

Capricorn

December 21 - January 19



You have a chance to really grow and be praised for it The going may be tough which is undeniable But it will be well worth it and that's most important Letters, calls, posters and other modes of communiacation will entice you Read all contracts and letters twice

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18



Keep a leash on family and finances, as both could get out of hand The trick is to know when and where to draw the line Despite difficulties, you will have the nerve and the verve to do what you have to It would be best to put across your ideas clearly and briefly without overdoing it

Pisces

February 19--March 20



Avoid depression and melancholia and be sure your mood will change for the better shortly Help from strange places, secret powers, friends and God will be there for you Prepare for a trip or even a long-distance journey It is best for you to be diplomatic

BIRTHDAYS

March 5: **Moon squares Uranus and that means there could be unpleasant changes in your lifestyle and people could be a bit overbearing.**

March 6: **A year of mixed blessings. Your tears and laughter will both come from large organisations. A major move, be it in matters of house, office or work, is likely.**

March 7: **Pay heed to legal complications, notices and news Perks and promotions are possible for you. You will be signing leases and contracts.**

March 8: **Moon-Venus excellent juxtaposition leads to lucky situations, comforts and riches Those in arts and crafts do extremely well**

March 9: **Mars-Jupiter fine formation could lead to good luck, energy and a lot of publicity A change in the nature and scope of your work is possible.**

March 10: **You will be heading towards a lot of happiness. Family matters will be unusually important Children, romance and journeys are foretold.**

March 11: **For you too, children, romance and journey form a triumvirate. Thanks to Saturn, whatever you accumulate will be lasting and permanent**

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ● MONDAY ● TUESDAY ● WEDNESDAY ● THURSDAY ● FRIDAY ● SATURDAY ● SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC-741	0710	3 5	IC-742	0940	3, 5
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3, 5, 7
AHMEDABAD					
M9304109	0855	1 3, 5	M9110301	1900	1, 3, 5
AIZAWL					
PF-705	0730	2 4, 6 7	PF-706	1510	2, 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC 721	1300	1 3, 5	IC-722	1540	1 3, 5
BHUBANESWAR					
IC-771	0800	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
9W-202	0920	1, 2 3, 4 5, 6	9W 201	0840	1 2 3 4, 5 6
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W 212	1945	daily	IC 274	1850	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
AI-309	2035	6	D2 103	1935	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
DELHI					
			IC 262	0815	2, 4 7
IC 263	0700	daily	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	AI 682	0950	1
IC 812	1515	1, 3 5	4S-806	1115	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S-805	1745	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9-301	1900	daily
IC-261	1900	2 4 7	S2 005	1900	1, 2, 3, 4 5, 6
M9-302	1930	daily	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
S2 006	1940	1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	IC-264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC-704	1430	3 5
IC-703	0800	3 5	D2-181	1620	1 3 5 7
D2-181	1135	1 3 5, 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	IC 702	1630	2 4 6 7
4S 815	1145	1 2 3 4 5 6	4S-816	1705	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-701	1240	2 4 6 7	PF-738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
C 257	1150	4 7	IC 258	1650	4 7
GUWAHATI					
PF 735	0730	1	IC 712	1410	2 6
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 708	1430	1 4 7
IC 703	0800	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
IC 707	0800	1 4 7	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
IC 711	0800	2 6	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2-181	1135	1 3 5 7	IC 230	1650	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S-811	1705	1 2 3 4 5 6
HYDERABAD					
IC-777	1600	2, 4, 7	IC-778	2100	2, 4 7
IC 769	1525	1, 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
IMPHAL					
IC-707	0800	1, 4 7	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-255	0830	3, 5	IC-708	1430	1 4 7
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2 6
JORHAT					
IC-213	0910	2, 4, 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
KHAJURAHO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
KHOWAI					
IC-812	1515	1, 3, 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2 172	1740	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
PATNA					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RAIPUR					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF-705	0730	2, 2 6 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0830	3, 5	IC 260	1110	1 7
IC 259	0830	1 7	IC 256	1320	3 5
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2 6
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC 212	1740	4 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC 213	1315	2 4 7
TEZU					
PF 735	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VISAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZERO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
4S-812	1145	1 2, 3, 4 5 6	PF 736	1730	1
IC 257	1150	4 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC-258	1740	4, 7
IC-229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4 6

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

KATHMANDU					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
KUALA LUMPUR					
KL-876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7
SINGAPORE					
IC 731	0855	2, 4, 6, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-108	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 6, 7
AI 306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RO-076	2040	5, 7	RO-075	1035	5, 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG 697	1655	2, 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2 3, 6 7	BG-091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 2, 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1, 2, 3, 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG-093	1825	1 2, 3, 5 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5
[illegible]					
IC-747	1115	1 3, 5	IC-748	1455	1 3, 5
RA-214	1400	4 7	RA-213	1315	4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA-143	1525	3, 7
MOSCOW					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	
PARO					
KB 106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2 6
KB 106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ-415	2200	2 5	SQ 416	2040	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16-15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16-15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat, Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16-05	**Gorakhpur Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5-00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5-50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182

Up	Time	Sealdah	Time	Dn
3141	13 40	**Teesta-Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues, Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11-45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	16 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	3104
5185	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4-25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20-40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	19 40	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6-15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8-25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday	16 10	—
—	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	–
–	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	-
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13-45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
—	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

LONELY CRUSADER

Life as a sanitary inspector is not generally thought to be exciting But it is employment, and government employment at that So Zafar Hussain was proud to have passed his middle school exams and to have entered, about the end of World War II, what was then called the Royal Sanitary Institute in Bombay

It wasn't a long course and perhaps not too demanding By 1946 he had returned to Bhopal state, and was grappling with the problems of controlling public health in the cities and towns of Madhya Bharat

Very much away from any public gaze he saw plenty of plague and cholera It was his job to control it, as it is still the job of junior government employees to control dangerous diseases today But for years now they have not had the chance to participate in any great succes — to wipe out a whole disease

Plague, or rather what masquerades as plague, cholera, malaria, polio — even polio — are still with us But we musn't forget what can be done, what Zafar and his colleagues did

In 1962, Zafar began to specialise in a way that was going to change his life completely and put enormous strains on his marriage, leaving his wife to bring up their children for many years more or less singlehanded Specially now, when he sees his sons grown up and doing well, he makes sure to say, "It is all her tolerance and hard work that has made this family, and let me do all that I did "

What he did was to oppose a remarkable mother — *Bari Mata* in fact, otherwise known as *variola major* or smallpox It was endemic and epidemic Spread by face-to-face contact it particularly affected children, A chart produced by the WHO shows its progress By the third day of high fever the spots or pustules are bursting out from under the skin, by the fifth, full of liquid and white like maggots, they have expanded and are joined one to another, making the face a swollen mask By the tenth, they are a mass of black scabs and nearly four weeks after the fever starts, the last scab falls

It is a common saying that money given to a miser and an eye taken by smallpox never come back Pustules would cover the eyelids and take the sight of one or two eyes, some children never lived to open their eyes again, and at the very least they are scarred for life

Zafar became very well acquainted with *Bari Mata* He participated with thousands of others in a huge national and international exercise in failure — mass vaccination The more they vaccinated, the more cases of smallpox there were The virus always escaped and there were always some unvaccinated places for it to go It was only in the Seventies when Zafar turned into a detective and jailor that *Bari Mata* was finally put on the run

"Search and contain," says Zafar, "search and contain " This was his *mantra* and he believes in it with a passion From 1973 Zafar was deputed to work with WHO in the last great effort against *Bari Mata* Smallpox was tracked down case by case, senior epidemiologists working side by side with paramedics and vaccinators walked miles down muddy paths to villages deep in the countryside

Zafar enjoyed working with senior

From 1973 Zafar was deputed to work with WHO in the last great effort against *Bari Mata*. Smallpox was tracked down case by case, senior epidemiologists working side by side with paramedics and vaccinators walked miles down muddy paths to villages deep in the countryside



Indian and foreign doctors — many of whom he was introducing to real cases of smallpox for the first time "Then there were real team-work, no high, no low, and we could work day and night"

The team was always on the move Once they surrounded a *mela* in Amarkantak, standing at the roadsides with small pictures of an infected child and asking, "Have you seen a child like this?" The rumours of the disease were entered in a book and checked out one by one Zafar is very proud that his team was the first to introduce a reward — Rs 10 for the person who reported smallpox It was a victory of money over faith The reward was instituted to overcome the natural fear of *Bari Mata*'s anger For many, the pustules were the Goddess and it was unnatural and risky to come in Her way

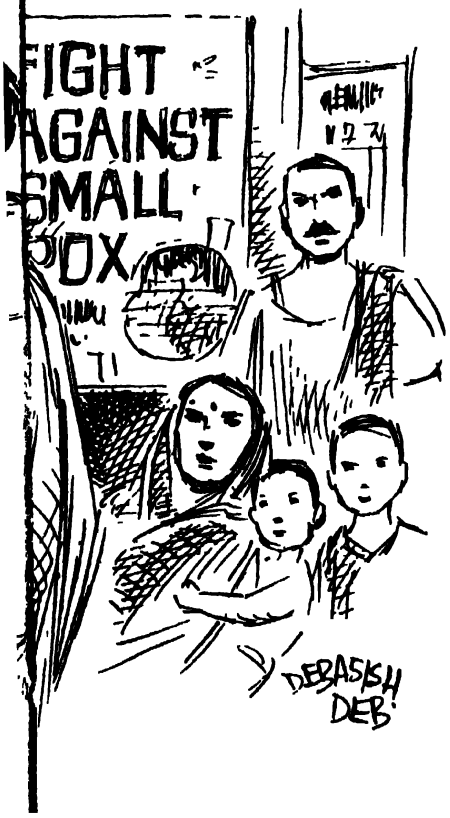
"You had to break the chain," says Zafar Breaking the chain meant sitting guard on the victim's door and stopping anyone coming in unless they were vaccinated It meant noting in a register the nearest 500 people and vaccinating them It meant tracing all those who had been in contact with the patient — young children, young sisters-in-law from neighbouring villages — and vaccinating them

"Once a woman spat on my face when I vaccinated her," said Zafar "But I didn't mind Until then no one in that village would be vaccinated, but that one woman's bad behaviour shamed them all into coming forward

"But the worst was Bihar, the last epidemic in 1974 Around Jamshedpur I couldn't find children to vaccinate Practically everyone I saw had already had, or was having, smallpox There were many deaths No searching had been done properly Then the doctor I was working with, Dr Larry Brilliant, went and told Tatas that they were the main exporters of smallpox to the rest of India Then they decided to help And then we worked without stopping"

Hundreds of volunteers — Tata staff, medical students — had to be trained for eradicating the disease In

'Once a woman spat on my face when I vaccinated her,' said Zafar. 'But I didn't mind. Until then no one in that village would be vaccinated, but that one woman's bad behaviour shamed them all into coming forward'



Jamshedpur and Ranchi, the main centre of the 1974 epidemic, Zafar trained all of them — taking them to the field to demonstrate how to deal with outbreaks These were the grandest and most rewarding moments of his life He was at the heart of something very exciting, very big and very successful

In 1974 there were some two lakh smallpox outbreaks in India India had 86 per cent of the world's smallpox cases By the end of 1975 there was no smallpox Zafar himself slept for 15 nights on a pile of straw outside the door of the house of a young boy called Manju in a village of Balrampur block in Katihar District This was the last indigenous case of smallpox in India and, after 12 years of effort, Zafar at last saw victory as Manju's last scab fell

"I knew then that no child would ever be scarred, or blinded, or killed by this disease again Still I can't believe how it was done, it must be the greatest medical miracle of this century"

(Sanctuary Features)

poems regularly.

JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and **not** to The Telegraph Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned.** All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates No enquiries will be solicited.

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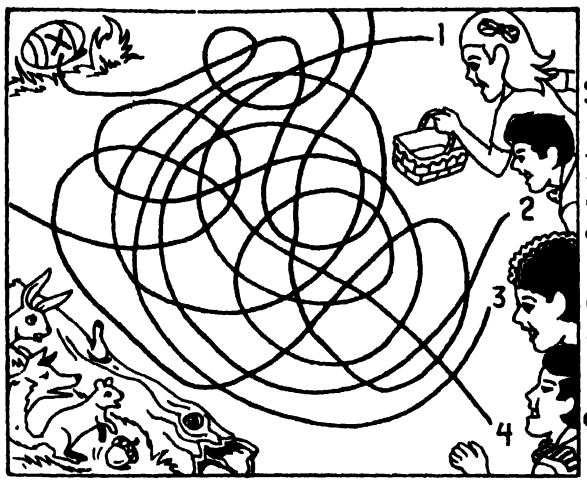
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ADMISSION OPEN

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



ON THE RUN! Who will be first to reach the hidden egg? Take a guess, then trace through lines to check answer

LEGGING IT! Bet someone that you can go out of the room with two legs and come back with six To win simply pick up a chair and carry it with you when you return to the room Or return with a cat or dog



PACK-IT-IN EXERCISE

YOU can be a leader of the PACK in this word square exercise Object is to find three words to be used in conjunction with letters in the word PACK so that all four words read the same both across and down

Definitions

1 Fill that suitcase (PACK, in place)
2 Automobile part
3 A fingerprint, perhaps
4 Castle's inner tower

Time limit 1 minute

After you've finished, see if you can make up another PACK based word square There are numerous possible variations

1 Pack 2 Axle 3 Clue 4 Keep

FOUR OUT! Four numbers that complete the sequence from 1-16 are missing from the diagram below You are asked to insert these numbers so that amounts therein add up to 34 in all directions That is, horizontally, vertically, and diagonally

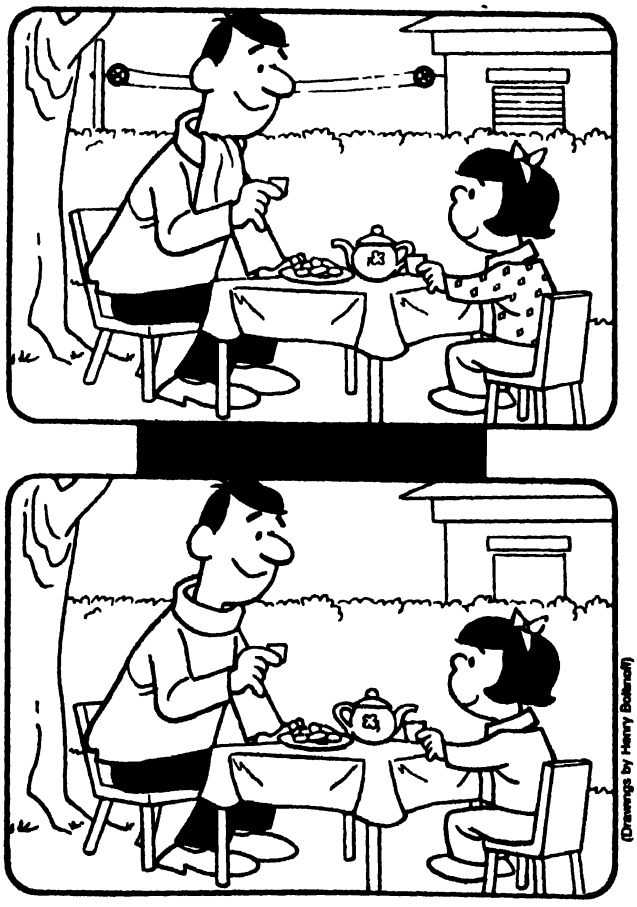
How quickly can you discover the four numbers and position them correctly in the blanks?

It may take some patience Remember, the total is 34

Top two answers 7 and 10 bottom two — 2 an 15

9	11	8	6
5			12
4			13
16	14	1	3

HOCUS-FOCUS

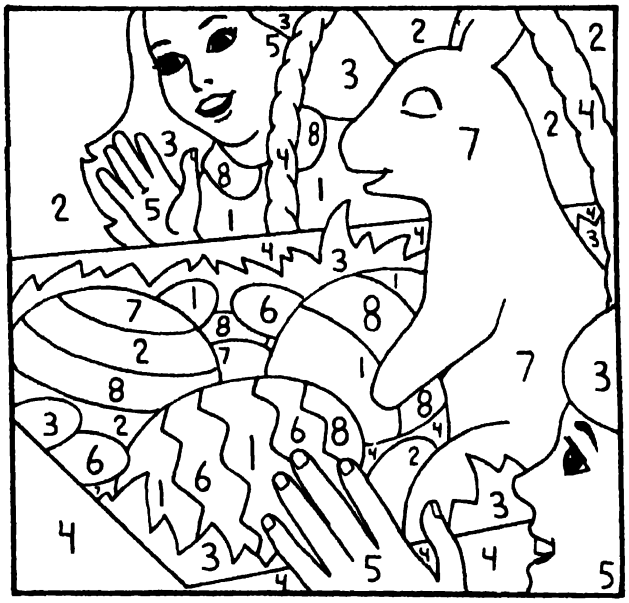


(Drawings by Henry Boltinoff)

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Clothesline is missing 2 Chair is lower 3 Napkin is missing 4 Teapot is reversed 5 Blind is missing 6 Sweater design is missing

FUNSPOT



BUNNY STUFF! Well, what have we here —a bunny surprise! Add these colors by number 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

SEARCHER

- - - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

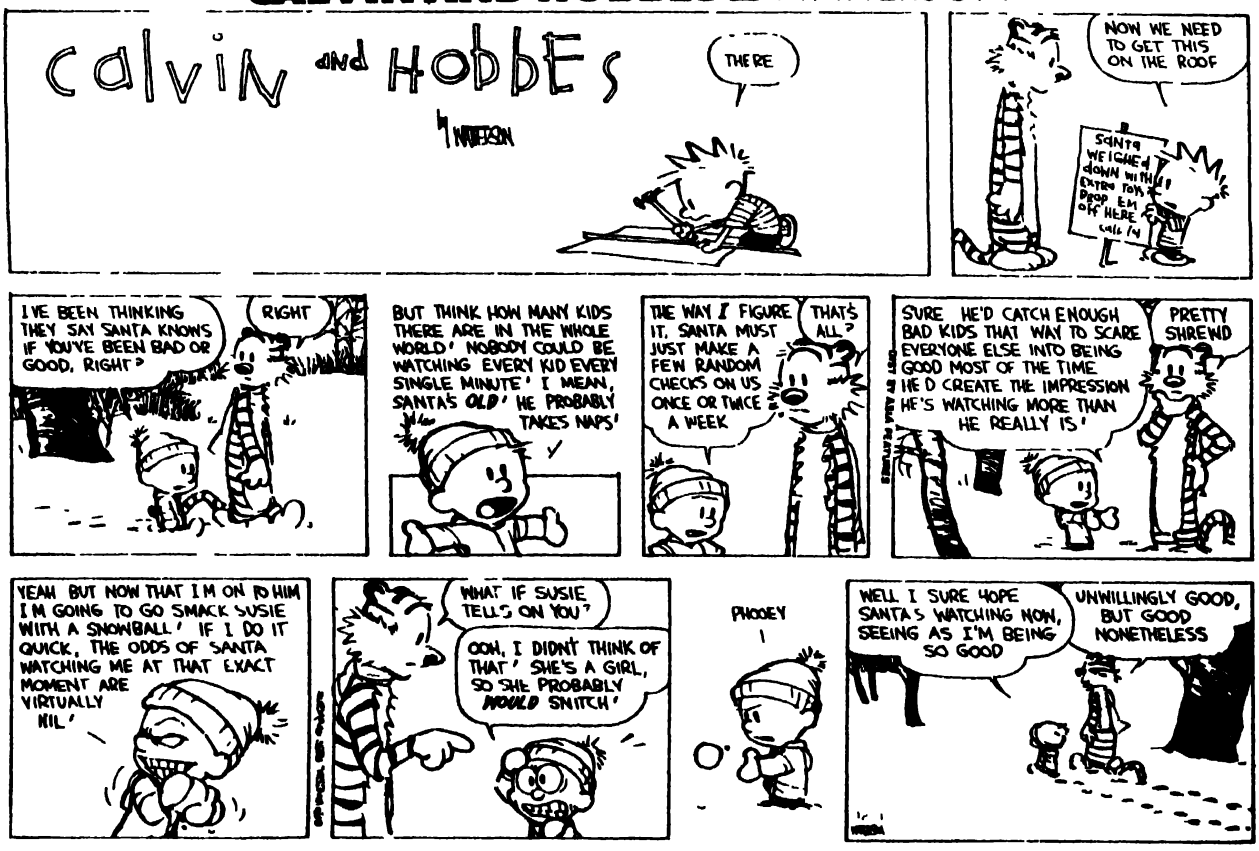
Possible twosome Arch seer

COMICS

ARCHIE

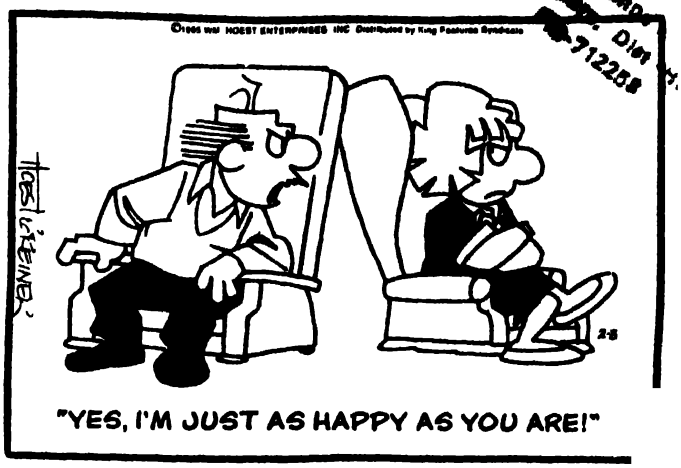


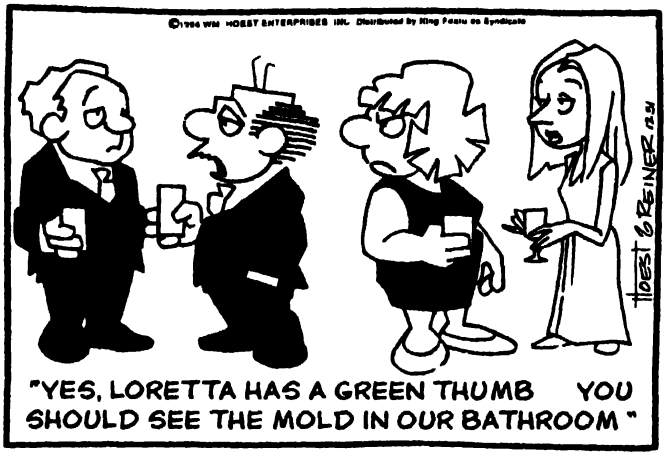
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

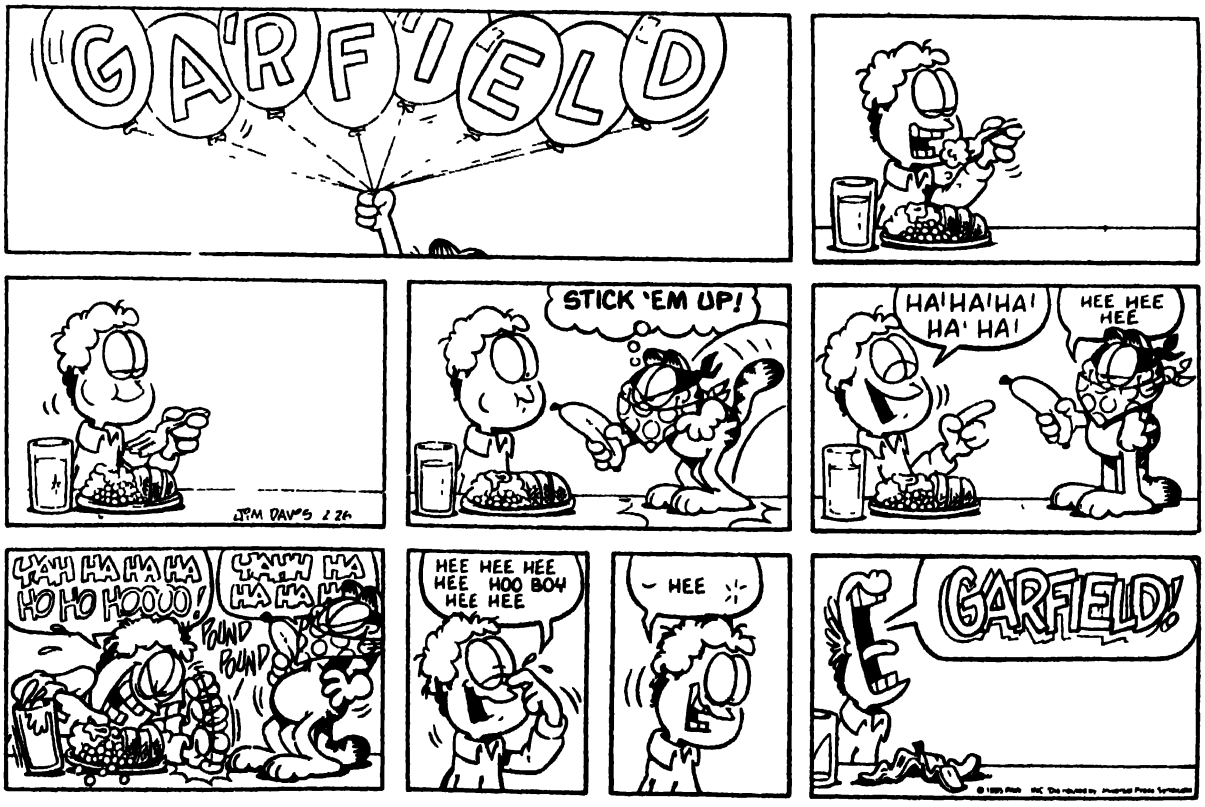




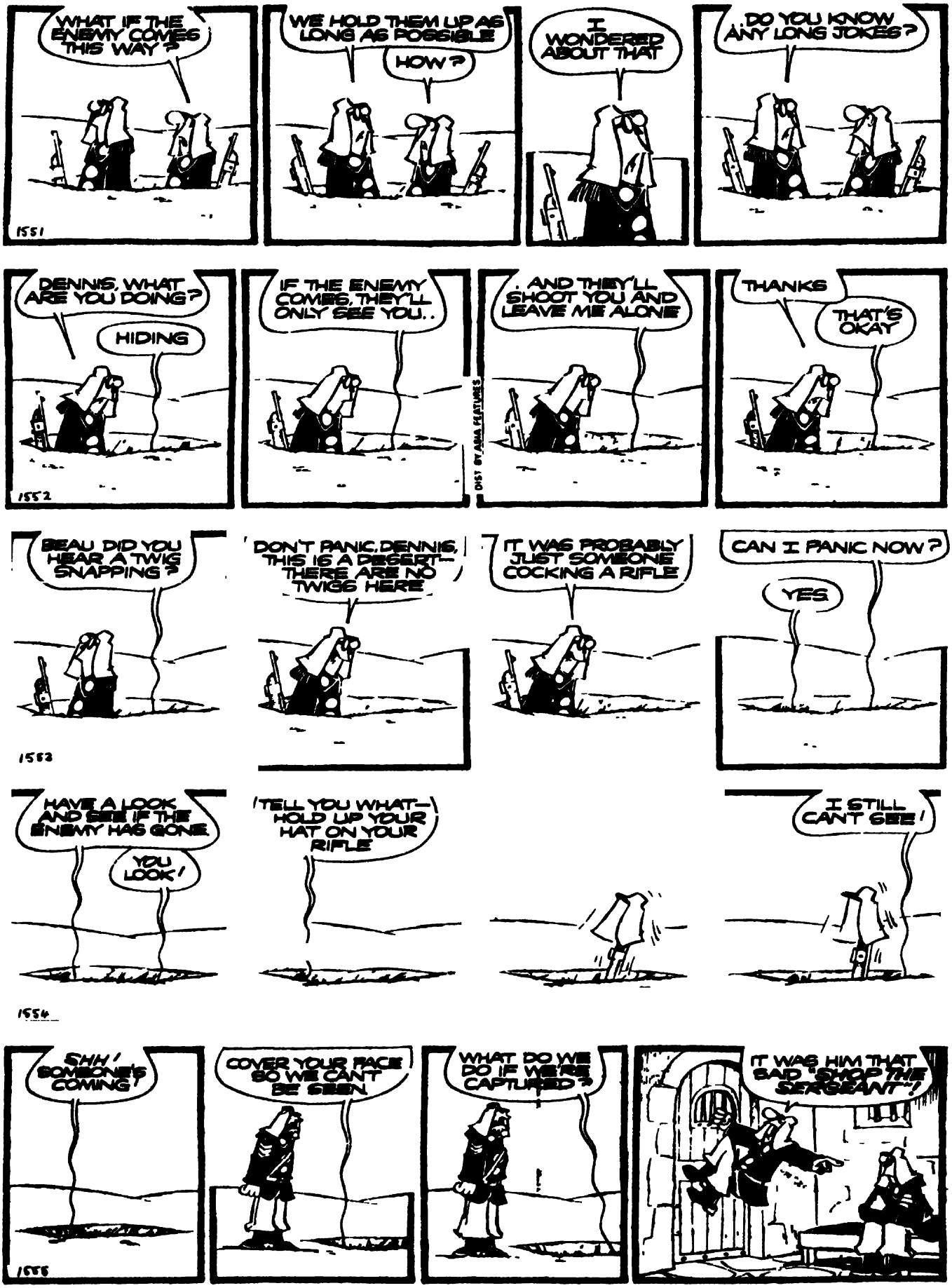


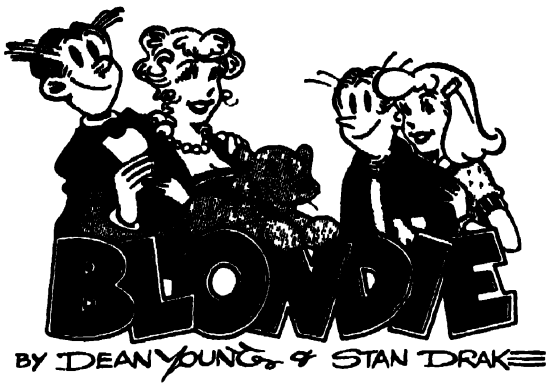


GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



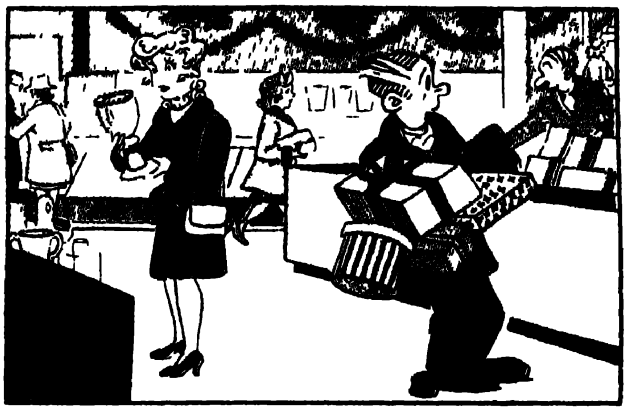
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

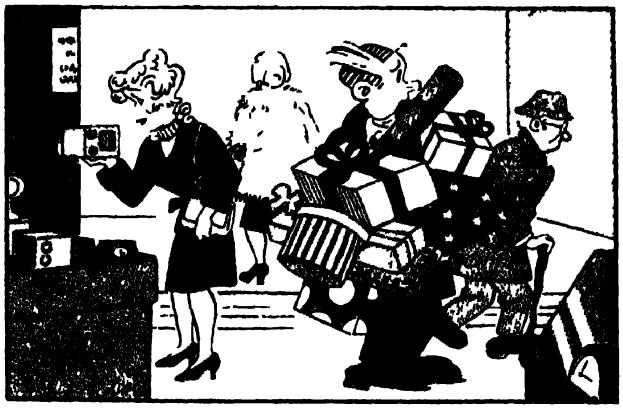


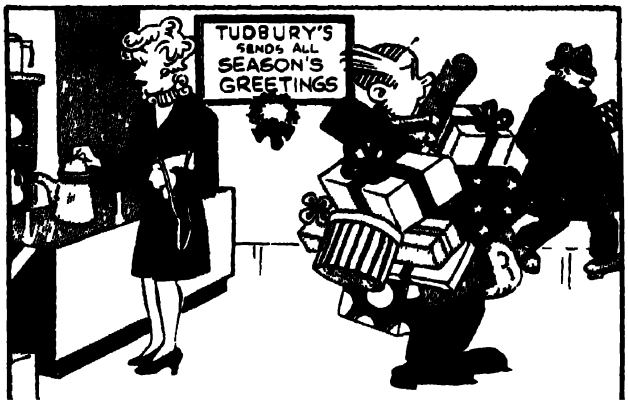

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

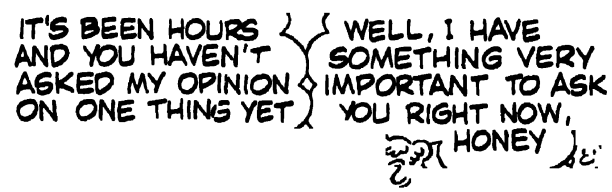

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN
OH NO! YOU'RE TAKING ME CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

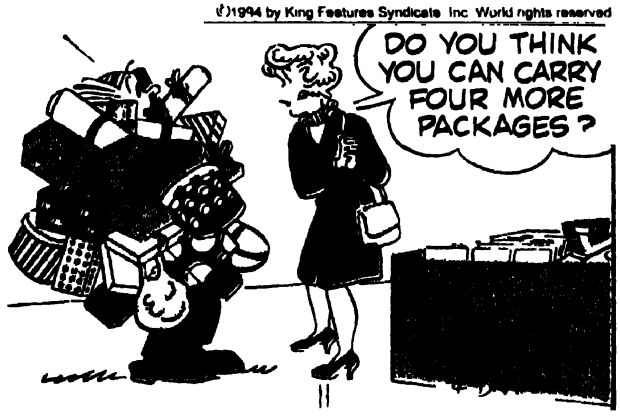

I DON'T SEE WHY I HAVE TO GO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH YOU!
BECAUSE I NEED YOUR OPINION ON SOME VERY IMPORTANT DECISIONS






TUDBURY'S SENDS ALL SEASON'S GREETINGS


IT'S BEEN HOURS AND YOU HAVEN'T ASKED MY OPINION ON ONE THING YET
WELL, I HAVE SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO ASK YOU RIGHT NOW, HONEY


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DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CARRY FOUR MORE PACKAGES?

RASOI



JIGGS KALRA



'Ingenuity' and 'innovation' are key words in the evolution of cuisine This is especially true of the food of the Subcontinent Here there are two kinds of cooks Those who live in the past — their mantra authentic and traditional And those who use the words in quotes as licence to distort the very basis of Indian cuisine There are masters, like Imtiaz Qureshi, who have created a number of wonderful delicacies including the prawn dish — this one for Dum Pukht at the Maurya Sheraton — below Rasoi has taken some liberties with the Dum Anaari Gone are some of the vegetables which we felt were detracting from the flavour of the 'foiled' treat and in comes a homemade tarragon vinegar

There are also youngsters like Raminder Malhotra — he runs a successful barbeque, Swaad, on Delhi's Shankar Road — who have no blinkers He worked with Team Rasoi on the chicken dish, which is a creation based on our interaction with Hakeem Satdar Nawab of Lucknow

JHEENGA DUM ANAARI

INGREDIENTS
4 Jumbo prawns
Cooking oil to grease tray

The Marination
30 ml / 2 tbs White wine (dry)
30 ml / 2 tbs Vinegar
15 g / 1 tbs Tarragon
30 ml / 2 tbs Lemon juice
5 g / 1 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
5 gms / 1 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Red chilli powder
Salt

The Filling
60 g / 2 oz Pomegranate (fresh)

30 g / 1 oz Tomatoes
5 g / 1/2" piece Ginger
2 Green chillies
1 5 g / 1 1/2 tsp Coriander
15 ml / 1 tbs Lemon juice
15 ml / 1 tbs Cream
2 5 g / 1 tsp *Shahi jeera*
A few Dill leaves
Salt

Serves 4
Preparation time 1 20 hours
Cooking time 12-15 minutes

PREPARATION
The prawns With a sharp knife, carefully make a deep cut in the prawn (without removing the shell), spread like a butterfly, wash in running water to devein and pat dry
The marination Reserve the tarragon in a sealed bottle of vinegar for at least a week Then decant into a bowl, add the remaining ingredients, mix well, evenly rub the prawn meat with this marinade and

Jheenga Dum Anaari



reserve for an hour
The filling: Remove the eyes, wash tomatoes, quarter, remove the pulp and cut into tiny dices Scrape, wash and cut ginger into tiny dices Wash green chillies, slit, deseed, cut into fine juliennes, and discard the stems Clean, wash and finely chop coriander Put these and the remaining ingredients in a bowl and mix well Divide the filling into 4 equal portions
The stuffing: Spread a portion of the filling on each of the marinated prawns, wrap in individual pieces of foil and arrange on a greased roasting tray
The oven Pre-heat to 275° F

COOKING
Put the tray in the pre-heated oven and roast for 12-15 minutes Remove and keep aside

TO SERVE
Remove to a platter, unwrap at the table and serve as a platter

MURGH TANGRHI QORMA



Murgh Tangrhi Qorma

INGREDIENTS
12 Chicken Drumsticks
180 g / 3/4 cup Yoghurt cheese
60 g / 2 oz Fried onion paste
30 g / 1 oz Fried garlic paste
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Red chilli powder
90 ml / 6 tbs Cream

The Marination
20 g / 3 1/2 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
20 g / 3 1/2 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
30 ml / 2 tbs White wine (dry)
30 ml / 2 tbs White vinegar
1 5 g / 1 tbs Marjoram (dried)
Salt

The Paste
30 g / 1 oz Almonds
20 g / 2/3 oz Poppy seeds

The *Masala*
10 g / 5 tsp Coriander seeds
5 pods Green cardamom
3 Cloves
2 sticks Cinnamon (1")
24 Black peppercorns
4 blades Mace
1/8 Nutmeg
1 5 g / 1 tbs Marjoram (dried)
12 dried Rose petals

Serves 4
Preparation time 1 30 hours
Cooking time 25 minutes

PREPARATION
The chicken Clean, wash and trim the drumsticks
The marination Reserve the marjoram in a sealed bottle of vinegar for at least a week Then decant into a bowl, add the remaining ingredients, mix well, evenly rub the drumsticks with this marinade and reserve for 20 minutes
The almond paste. Blanch almonds in boiling water for 2 minutes, cool and peel Soak poppy seeds in lukewarm water for 10 minutes Put both the ingredients in a blender, add 180 ml / 3/4 cup of water and make a smooth paste Remove and keep aside
The *masala* Put all the spices in a grinder and make a fine powder Sift and reserve
The *qorma* paste Mix yoghurt cheese, the fried onion and garlic pastes, the prepared paste, four-fifths of the *masala*, red chilli powder and salt Hold aloft the chicken drumsticks to drain the excess marinade, rub the drumsticks with this paste, arrange in a large *handi*/pan with a suitable gap between each drumstick and pour on the excess paste Then evenly spread the cream on top
The oven: Pre-heat to 300°F
COOKING
Put the *handi*/pan on the stove and cook over medium heat for 5 minutes, stir for a minute, cover, seal with *atta*/wholewheat dough, transfer to the pre-heated oven and cook on *dum* for 15 minutes

Remove, break the seal, remove the drumsticks and keep aside Return the gravy to heat, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, until of sauce consistency Sprinkle the remaining *masala* and stir Remove and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE
Arrange 3 drumsticks on each of 4 individual plates, pour on equal quantities of gravy and serve with accompaniments and a bread of your choice

NOTE All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross ■

LIFESTYLE

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

From using a popular face to a new one, from the sensational to the really steamy, the KS campaigners have been using harder sell than ever before ***Shameem Akhtar*** *tries to get to the root of the controversy*

From courtship to consummation From ennui to arousal, and finally, to ecstasy

Orgasmic words? But, yes For Jayant Bakshi these have become an everyday mantra After having been so long associated with the KamaSutra ads, he couples and interweaves his sentences with like words with unflappable equanimity

Interspersing these are the more staid and stock management phrases such as "the market pulse" and the "true value of brand signals" — phrases which he smoothly uses to explain the transition that the blue-tinted, oomph-full KS campaigns have undergone since their launch that provoked a lot of hoopla

The nation's conscience keepers beat their breasts over the provocative ads Well, and they are continuing to beat their breasts as the latest ad enters the realm of the truly risque with the relatively unknown model, Malavika Singh, turns on more heat than even her predecessors, Pooja Bedi and Anu Aggarwal

Why was Aggarwal whisked off the campaign? And why was she replaced by a rank newcomer at that? Did the young and small ad agency, Heartbeat, headed by Bakshi suddenly wise up to the fact

Malavika Singh: Coming on strong



Jayesh Sheth

THE BLUE TINT GIRL



The label has stuck. The KS girl is finding it difficult to shake off the 'sexy siren' tag that came along with the ad campaign.

Malavika Singh wouldn't mind shooting for a toothpaste for a change.

But everybody takes one look at her portfolio and keeps her aside for glamorous and sizzling products "Consumer products is where the moolah is," says this waif-like, dusky beauty, whose first major campaign was for the Kama-Sutra condoms

Nobody will believe that among the less known ones by her is the Max Pharma healthcare campaign where she actually played a mother, holding a wriggling, struggling babe in arms

On the KS ad itself, she says that it was among the most comfortable shoots in her short, but event-filled career. "Even the spot boys were hand-picked and acted like perfect gentlemen Whenever I had to change, they would move 25 kms away so that I was never made to feel uncomfortable," she recalls.

What also helped was her comfortable relationship with her ad partner Rahul Dev. "The modelling community in Delhi is a tight-knit group, so I was constantly bumping into Rahul during shoots Then we were paired together for many shoots. I suppose we two just looked great together Maybe, that is why we were paired for the KS, too

'The KS people also wanted a pair who were acquainted with each other so that there was no stiffness during the sessions,' she [Malavika] explains. The whole mood on the set was comfy, family-like

"The KS people also wanted a pair who were acquainted with each other so that there was no stiffness during the sessions," she explains. The whole mood on the set was comfy, family-like. Rasna Behl, Malavika's coordinator, hovered around protectively.

The Heartbeat agency headman's wife, Suman Bakshi, was also around. Mickey Contractor, the makeup wizard, knew Mallavika's bone structure well enough to inspire confidence.

Malavika also knew that the blue tint in the photographs would give her a modicum of protection from roadside Romeos. "Just imagine if these kids know that I am the KS girl — they will run after me making all sorts of catcalls," says the model, with a delicate shudder.

But, in a way, the tints have also hidden the actual potential of her face. Whenever people compare her colour portfolios with her KS shot they find it difficult to connect the two. Convincing her parents that the campaign was really harmless demanded the best in her arsenal of arguments.

But it worked All is hunky-dory with her parents again "When you are into modelling you have to wear all sorts of clothes on the ramp. So, why not for shoots, too? After all, it is all part of the profession," says this wise little girl who still cannot understand what the media hype over the ad is all about.

that known faces (even has-beens) cost a lot of moolah?

And why was the locale changed — from the sanitised beach of Mauritius to a somewhere-in-India site?

Bakshi waves off these questions and takes refuge behind the argument that the 'transition stage' of KS is a product allowed him to experiment with a new face, a new site and a new expression

If a Garden Vareli can create new models who shoot into the limelight and storm the ramp, why not KS try a similar stunt, too? Also, he explains, the product was new when Bedi was used to titillate consumer interest

"Condom was still associated with family planning when KS was launched, and we needed to get out of that association We needed a known face With Anu, too, the product was trying to beat that stereotype But now the product is seen not as a pregnancy-stopper, but as a pleasure-giver We can afford to use a newcomer In fact, a fresh face livens up the campaign and prevents it from becoming stale"

The combination of a known face and a known product would be a real no-go situation It would dull the impact "And," continues Bakshi relentlessly, with his reasoning that would make a prude blush, "we have also moved the campaign from the courtship stage to a true love-making experience

"When the launch campaign was planned, we had to keep in mind the Indian sexual ethos — that the woman was passive and the man, the selfish one

"From here we have had to move on Even marriages can get stale, no? So, we shifted focus from a relationship to a sensual, pleasure-giving experience"

And Bakshi has been satisfied with the response that the latest campaign



Rahul Dev on the ramp (with Pooja Batra)

'When the launch campaign was planned, we had to keep in mind the Indian sexual ethos — that the woman was passive and the man, the selfish one'

with Malavika Singh and Rahul Dev evoked At one end the moral-keepers continuedwith their ineffectual cacophony while the "market response continued to show that the campaign is a success" (Bakshi's words)

And people continue to "just ask for KS"

Anu Aggarwal loyalists will be happy to hear that the lady is not out o. the KS ad At least not yet, not the way the Channel [V] blinked her off the *BPL Oye* show "Anu will continue to be our contracted model She will continue on the packaging But our campaign girls will change," Bakshi promises the KS watchers

The basic concept will also remain unchanged as long as the 'market pulse' remains sturdy So will the brand signals — the blue tint, the red background, the KS symbol impersonated by squiggles which, Bakshi observes, have been equated with squirming spermatozoa(!) and, of course, the look of utter concentration on the faces of the lead models in the campaign

The KS account had changed hands a few times — though it started with Bakshi and ends with him now Initially, it was a Lintas team, under Bakshi which took on the campaign The second campaign was with Lintas, though with a different head And finally, it is with Heartbeat, with Bakshi in the lead again

"Initially, model Marc Robinson was photographed with both Pooja and Anu But you see (and never mind, if you don't), it was thought that it was unfair to Anu that the male model continued when the female lead changed So we switched to Rahul"

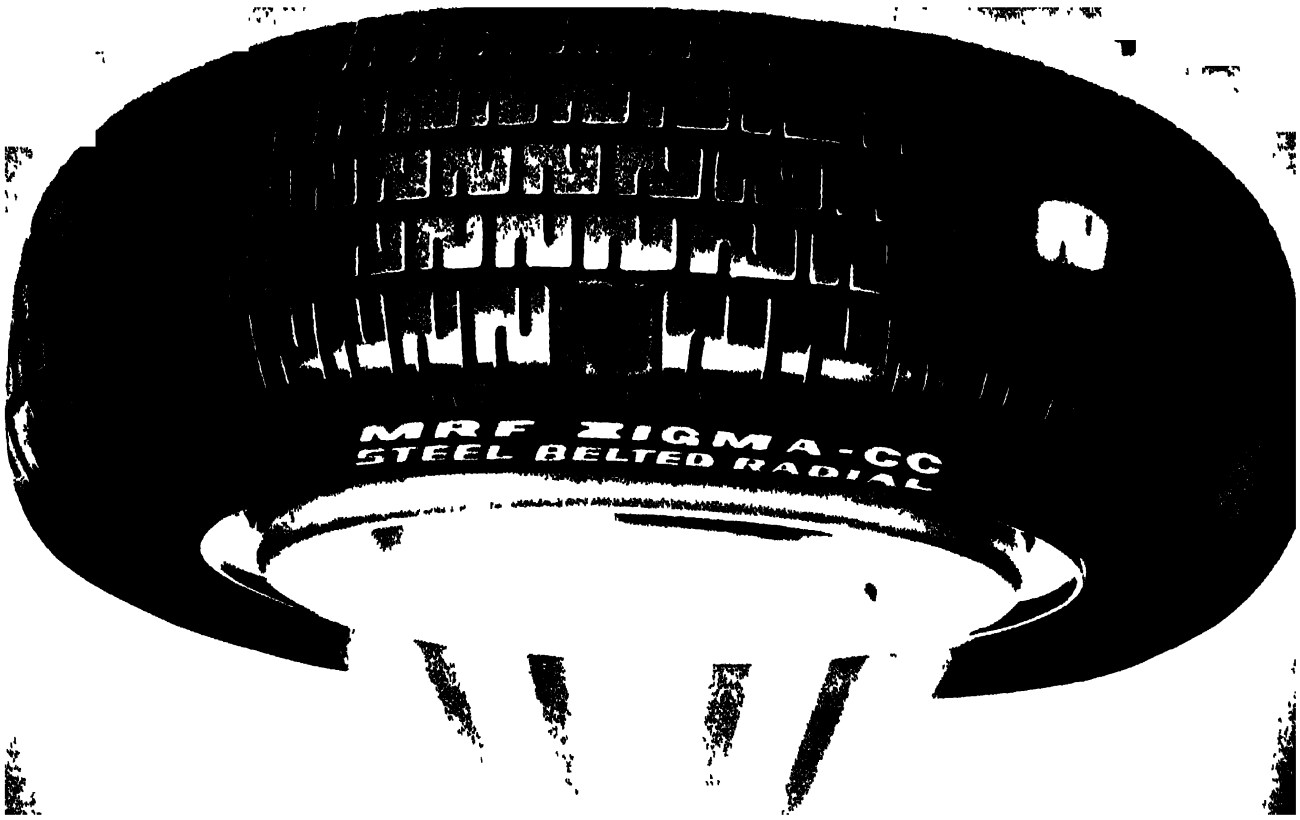
And now, if the male model changed, it is unfair to him if the female model remains the same So, there is Singh in Anu's shoes (or should we say, whatever they individually wore — or didn't) And so on And so forth

And though Bakshi is quite forthcoming about his models, when it comes to the new locale it is still all hush-hush He is only willing to disclose that it was not Sun City (the South African Mecca for new shoots since the Miss World contest) "For one, we thought that it was a real sin to fly to Mauritius for a shoot After all, all along India's coastline there are exquisite, clean beaches"

And with the emphasis in the latest campaign being on moisture and more moisture they could have settled for a pool, instead, no?

'Actually, one of our options was to try to shoot at the poolside But then we could not have ensured total privacy" So, a beach it had to be And ace photographer Atul Kasbekar outdid himself in re-focusing the campaign from the dryness of the previous shots to the moisture in the current one Or, didn't you notice?

After all the ballyhoo that the campaign raised, the pretty Singh has gone into hiding Or so Bakshi will have you believe But, he promises with the aplomb of a true maestro, there will be other KS girls to look forward to ■



MRF ZIGMA STEEL

THE SPACE AGE RADIAL

MRF ZIGMA STEEL *The Space Age Radial The tyre with muscles Of steel And the rage of the Maruti owner Slide into the driver's seat Start the car Hit the road Race away And feel the strength of MRF Zigma Steel As it takes control like no tyre has ever done before* **Accelerate** *. You'll discover that taking off was never so smooth* **Manoeuvre** *The unique 'Z' old tread pattern unravels a new force in road-hugging* **Brake** *· Feel the broad tyre base hold the road in a tight grip* **Park** *· The tough, wide tyre base and the sensational raised lettering announce your arrival-in style!* **MRF ZIGMA STEEL** *It's an out-of-the-world driving experience*

NOW ALSO AVAILABLE FOR YOUR MARUTI 1000cc

FOR SOME COMPANIES, IT IS A SIGN OF CELEBRATION. TO US, IT IS THE BEGINNING OF PHASE II.

For some companies, annual report time is the time to celebrate It is the time when you declare dividends, and announce the achievements of the past year

Colour-Chem, however, believes in a different occasion for celebration It is not just when we achieve goals set in the past, but when we identify new challenges for the future Because we are not a Company content to rest on our laurels

When Colour-Chem records a substantial increase in earnings from exports, it is satisfying And when our concerted efforts in indenting result in an increase in Company profits – it is gratifying

But it is projects that are still on the anvil that hold out the real promise at Colour-Chem Such as the manufacture of speciality chemicals and intermediates for local markets and exports to affiliates of Hoechst AG, Germany New business opportunities that will help Colour-Chem contribute to the country's economy by creating capacities and generating wealth through added value

These plans symbolise our commitment to the service of Indian industry And represent the new, emerging future They are the real cause for celebration in Colour-Chem



Colour-Chem

Subsidiary of Hoechst AG
194 Churchgate Reclamation, Bombay 400 020

Hoechst

HTA 2482 95

12 MARCH 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Another Ace: Beauty

■ It has been boom time for Indian beauties ('Beauty Tall, Dark and Asian', February 12)

Of course, it would be wrong to say Sushmita Sen and Aishwarya Rai were the first two Indians to be recognised abroad in beauty pageants Reita Faria won the world beauty title in 1966

But the period 1992-94 saw the emergence of Indian beauties who could challenge Western looks, style and fashion Madhu Sapre laid the foundation with her Miss Universe III title in 1992

Her intelligence coupled with her very Western looks helped her to edge past her competitors

In 1993 Namrata Shirodkar came close to winning the title But it was Sushmita and Aishwarya, a year later, who made history with their Oriental charm and grace

Shome Mukherjee,
Calcutta

■ The story rightly talks about the changing concepts of beauty and the fact that a country's economic prosperity often becomes a deciding factor for winning international titles



Mehr Jesia: Boom time

■ Have things come to such a pass that our country has to be introduced to the world as Sushmita's or Aishwarya's India?

Rajib Chatterjee,
Asansol (W B)

More should have been said about Reita Faria, one of the shining examples of high achievers in international beauty contests

She was a third year medical student when she won her title in 1966 She went on to complete both her graduate and post-graduate medical degree courses and since then has been successfully practising as a child specialist in Dublin, Ireland

In fact, a couple of years ago, during a world medical congress, I met a renowned specialist from Dublin who spoke very highly of this former Miss World

What a unique combination of beauty and brain

Maitrayee Mitra,
Jamshedpur

■ Please do not print photographs of semi-nude beauties in the Magazine

You can launch another magazine, if you so desire, on fashion so that lovers of beauty are not deprived of their right to voyeurism

Utpal Ray,
Kalna (W B)

■ The concept of beauty cannot be defined by a few judges Beauty is not simply physical — what international models lay emphasis on

Can a set formula be applied to 'measure' beauty internationally? The desire of Indian girls to have oval faces or Chinese girls to have small feet are notions of beauty confined to particular regions

Manoj K. Jain,
Shyamnagar (W B)

INSIDE



Ranjit Lal

PAGE 10

ON THE occasion of his 75th birth anniversary, a look at the man, Sahir Ludhianvi, and his 'magical' poetry

PAGE 4

AN EXTRACT from the eminently readable book by Ramachandra Guha on the great Indian tradition of spin bowlers

Indian spinners

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
20 GILLIAN WRIGHT
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 FOCUS
28 RASOI
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Anup Ray

EXTRACT

Taking TURNS



Jayanta Sett

Venkatraghavan
Possibly the greatest

Extracted from** Spin and Other Turns Indian Cricket's Coming of Age **by** **Ramachandra Guha, Penguin India; Rs 100

BY RAMACHANDRA GUHA

While they presented a sharp contrast to the pace-dominated attacks of other countries, in the context of Indian cricket the Holy Trinity were torchbearers of a long, almost unbroken line of artful slow bowlers Spin is truly the Great Tradition of Indian criket, a tradition astonishing in its depth, persistence and richness of individual variation

The Australian cricket writer Ray Robinson once joked that the googly should have been invented in India, for the very word rhymed with 'Hooghly', while the popular term for that delivery, 'bosie', might as well have commemorated Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as it does B J T Bosanquet Writing in the Fifties, Robinson was perhaps the first to highlight the elective affinity between Indians and slow bowling, an affinity that has since been the subject of much speculation The England fast bowler Bob Willis, a contemporary of the Holy Trinity, believes that the subcontinent's hot climate helps foster the patience and philosophical detachment so crucial to the slow bowler For the scholar and cultural critic, T G Vaidyanathan, it is their proclivity towards the feminine that predisposes Indians in favour of spin, a quintessentially nonviolent form of attack And anthropologists of India, looking (as is their wont) for a caste-based explanation, have interpreted spin bowling as the expression on the cricket field of the craftiness of the Brahmin and the cunning of the Bania

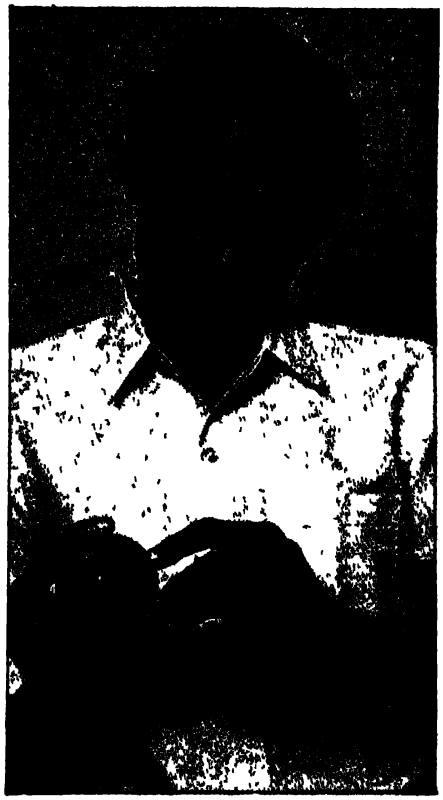
The first great Indian spinner — Mahatma Gandhi excepted — was in fact an Untouchable, Palwankar Baloo Born in the town of Dharwad in 1875, as a boy Baloo moved up the Deccan to settle in Poona His first job was with the ground staff at the Poona Gymkhana, where the English members sometimes allowed him to bowl at the nets Baloo took as his model one Major Barton, a slow left-armer with a graceful, smooth action Another member of the Poona Gymkhana was the well-known Hampshire batsman, J G ('Jungly') Greig, who offered the ground boy eight annas for each time he got him out, an arrangement which must have maintained Baloo and his family for the eight months of the year when it was too hot or too wet to play cricket Word of his prowess got around, and a strong movement arose for his inclusion in the Hindu team for the annual Quadrangular, played in Bombay and at the time the premier cricket tournament in India (the other participating teams were the Muslims, the Parsis, and the Europeans) But his selection was at first resisted by the conservative members of the P J Hindu Gymkhana of Bombay, the club which selected the community's cricket team But class will out, and the Hindus did want to beat the Europeans and the Parsis, not to speak of the Muslims After a protracted controversy Baloo was finally picked, with the Gymkhana members who chose him risking expulsion from their own, high caste councils The slow bowler led the Hindu attack for years, leading them to some famous victories in the Quadrangular In time he was joined by his younger brothers Vithal, Shivram and Ganpat, all of whom played with distinction for the Hindus

Following his performances in the

Quadrangular, Baloo was chosen for the All India team that toured England in the summer of 1911 This side, captained by the Maharaja of Patiala, was in effect the first truly representative cricket team to leave Indian shores In England, the All India side lost over half its matches, but for Baloo the tour was 'one long success' In the opinion of a leading critic, E H D Sewell, most English counties would have been glad to have Baloo in their eleven Despite a persistent back strain, he took 114 wickets (at an average of 18 86 runs per wicket) on the tour and according to Sewell, "With better management and better fielding would perhaps have taken 150 wickets and might even have headed the first-class averages "

I recently came across the scorecards of that 1911 tour Three early matches were played against Oxford University at The Parks, the MCC at Lord's, and Cambridge University at Fenner's Lord's is of course the most famous of cricket grounds, while at the time of which I write Oxford and Cambridge were the great nurseries of English cricket, producing Test cricketers and Test captains by the bagful On these three great grounds, redolent with cricket history, came an Untouchable from Poona, who knew only two words of English ("How's that!") and who in terms of social background was as far removed from the High Table as one could possibly be But he could play cricket In these two-day, two-inning matches Baloo got to bowl only once, for throughout the summer All India's opponents rarely needed to bat a second time Against Oxford Baloo took 5 wickets for 87 runs, against the MCC he took 4 for 96 (his wickets including G N Foster and J Daniells, both county captains, as well as the England Test cricketer, J T Hearne), while at Cambridge he had the exceptional figures of 8 for 103 in a University score of 424 all out

Later in the tour All India played Staffordshire, where Baloo was pitted against Sydney (S F) Barnes, who is generally regarded as the greatest bowler in cricket history The scores tell their own story All India, 74 all out (Barnes' figures being 15/9/14/5) and 57 all out (Barnes, 12 3/6/15/9), lost to Staffordshire, 77 all out (Baloo's figures being 19 4/3/35/6) and 55 for 5 (Baloo, 13/1/23/2), by five wickets This is a story, of Indian bowlers being let down by Indian batsmen, that we have come to know all too well On behalf of the Holy Trinity, Bishen Bedi recalls begging his batsmen to get 200



Chandrasekhar Unmatched nip

to 225 runs — a total he reckoned would be enough for them to work with (the batsmen most infrequently obliged) Baloo's expectations were more modest still, for he apparently was satisfied with a hundred runs to his side's credit before he began to bowl Even these he would not get that summer of 1911

Baloo's presence on the tour was itself an extraordinary occurrence, for this was a time when the movement for the emancipation of Untouchables had scarcely begun That he was the first great Indian slow bowler is beyond dispute, but Palwankar Baloo also has claims to being the first Untouchable public figure Proof of his status, in his own community and in Indian society as a whole, is provided by his membership of the three-member committee of the Depressed Classes, which negotiated the famous Poona Pact with Mahatma Gandhi in September 1932 The other members of that delegation were M C Rajah, a leader of the Depressed Classes in the Madras Presidency, and, of course, Dr B R Ambedkar But where Rajah and Ambedkar had come to prominence on account of their social work for the community, Baloo could represent the Untouchables in the public arena solely on account of his record on the cricket field

Palwankar Baloo must indeed have been an exceptional cricketer The Parsi all-rounder, Dr M E. Pavri, who often batted against him, said Baloo "possessed both breaks, a curl in the air, and a lot of spin on the ball," adding that he was "the most deadly bowler on a sticky wicket" As with Bishen Bedi, there was a beguiling innocence about his bowling, at least when viewed from the boundary — thus a Calcutta writer wrote of a Baloo over that it contained "six deliveries — each a different menace — yet looking as harmless as the morning dew on a grass blade" Another Bengali critic's description of his methods reads almost like a compendium of the cardinal virtues of slow bowling Baloo, wrote H C Muckerjee in his book on the 1911 tour, was

A fine left-hand bowler, who possesses marvellous stamina Breaks from both sides Has the easiest of deliveries Seldom tires Can bowl all day long Keeps an excellent length Never sends down a loose delivery Understands the game thoroughly Paces the field to a nicety, catches come to [the fielders]), they have not to go in for them Decidedly a 'head' bowler

Baloo's last years as a player in the Bombay Quadrangular overlapped with the early career of R J Jamshedji, a Parsi from the other end of the social hierarchy who also bowled slow left-arm, and was the foremost spinner of his generation A little man who turned the ball a mile, Jamshedji was once told by the prince of slow bowlers, Wilfred Rhodes, that "if I had your power of spin, no side would get a hundred" (Jamshedji could well have answered "If I had your powers of flight, Wilfred, no side would get fifty") C K Nayudu, who played both against Rhodes and his great successor, Hedley Verity, regarded Jamshedji as the finest spin bowler he had batted against — high praise indeed His fellow Parsi, the well-known commentator A F S Talyarkhan, once described 'Jumsu' Jamshedji as a wizard who "made the ball twist and turn in the air" "It went round and round the seam as it came to you " Jumsu knew all the tricks of the trade — before a match he would obtain some rosin from a violinist friend, who used the substance on his bow This the spinner carried in his trouser pocket, dipping his left hand into it every few overs to get a better grip on the ball

In his *History of Indian Cricket* Mihir Bose has argued that if India has produced few good left-hand batsmen, the explanation lies in the subcontinen-

tal custom of using the left hand to clear the trenches after bowel movement This puzzled me, for if this taboo did indeed spill over to the cricket field it would also affect the supply of left-arm bowlers, who use the offending hand rather more directly But Baloo and Jamshedji both emerged in violation of this history So have the fine slow left-arm bowlers who have followed in their wake Vinoo Mankad, Bapu Nadkarni, Salim Durrani, Ravi Shastri, Dilip Doshi, Maninder Singh and, above all, Bishen Singh Bedi

When I pointed this out in a review I wrote of Mr Bose's book, a correspondent insisted that the great Indian tradition of slow left-arm bowling could in fact be an indirect confirmation of the casual connection between a culture's pottying techniques and its preferences on the playing field The taboo, he remarked, could plausibly apply only to batting — i e one could not hold the bat the other way round When it came to the act of bowling, Indian cricket coaches would instead wish to encourage wronghandedness — for a projectile hurled with the left hand carried with it the danger and devilry associated with all polluting activities Let us not forget that the adjective 'sinister' (which must surely have come to mind as batsmen prepared to face Baloo or Jamshedji, Bedi or Mankad) is derived from the Greek for 'left-handed'

I leave that one for Mr Bose to work out At any rate, no Indian is known to have carried the obligatory *lota* of water in his left hand, to pour water in the right It is thus hardly surprising that in the generation after Baloo and Jamshedji, the leading Indian slow bowlers were all right-arm wrist spinners They included C S Nayudu and Amir Elahi, who also first made their mark in the Bombay inter-community tournament (which while they played had, with the inclusion of The Rest, been named the Pentangular), and Sadashiv Shinde and Chandu Sarwate, both of whom toured England with the Nawab of Pataudi's Indian side of 1946 Among the googly bowlers who played for India in subsequent decades were Chandu Borde (better known for his batsmanship), V V Kumar (a hopeless batsman and field, but a marvellous bowler), and preeminently, Subhas Gupte More recently, cricket lovers have followed the rapid rise and decline of L Sivaramakrishnan and Narendra Hirwani, and the emergence of the bespectacled Anil



Prasanna Guile personified

Kumble, who despite an apparent inability to spin the ball promises to be around a while longer

Compared to slow left-arm and wrist spin, the third great slow bowling variation — off-spin — took more time to root itself in Indian soil India's first Test captain, C K Navudu, while primarily a batsman of legendary six-hitting prowess, was a capable off-break bowler, usually operating (as W G Grace did before him and Sonny Ramadhin and the Australian Greg Matthews have done since) with his cap on However, the first full-time practitioner of the art to be capped for India was the Hyderabad maestro, Ghulam Ahmed A contemporary whom Ghulam usually kept out of the Test side was Jasu Patel, an off-spinner with a cleverly concealed but in the opinion of some, unfairly delivered leg-break Jasu, who died not long ago in his native Ahmedabad, disappeared from the cricket field shortly after spinning India to a famous victory against Australia in December 1959 at Kanpur At this time cricket captains of India could also call upon the very considerable bowling talents of Polly Umrigar and A G Kripal Singh, both batsmen-off-spinners in the tradition of C K Nayudu Then in the Nineteen Sixties Prasanna and Venkatraghavan came along, to carry off-break bowling to unprecedented heights Perhaps the best of the off-spinners since have been Shivlal Yadav — a flight-minded bowler in the mould of Prasanna — and his Hyderabad colleague Arshad Ayub, like Venkat flatter through the air and devastating on a crumbling wicket

This is an impressive roster of spin-bowlers, unmatched in the history of any other cricket-playing nation There is the odd Brahmin and the odd Bania here, but outstanding slow bowlers have in fact come from virtually all castes and communities If an Untouchable and a Parsi were its founding figures, the tradition has since been carried on by representatives of farming/pastoral castes (the Nayudus, Shinde, Patel and Yadav), Muslims (Elahi, Ghulam, Durrani, Ayub), Sikhs (Bedi, Maninder), and even a Christian (Borde) Here lies conclusive proof that spin bowling is, in the strict anthropological sense of being present everywhere and among all social groups, truly the Great Tradition of Indian cricket

It is tempting to regard the Holy Trinity as the glorious culmination of this long and uniquely Indian tradition But in the opinion of knowledgeable critics — or at any rate, of some knowledgeable critics above fifty-five — the tradition had peaked a decade earlier To my Trinity they counterpose one of their own "Mankad and the perilous art of his bowling bent to the assessment of batsmen, Ghulam Ahmed, tall and billowy as he moved to the bowling crease, an artist of effortless action and endless capacity for work, and the bantam-cock efficiency of Gupte, bustling with vagaries of the ball spun out of the edge of the right hand "

These words are taken from an essay published almost 40 years ago in the journal, *Sport and Pastime* — an essay, written by a Patna lad, that must rank as the first considered assessment of this Great Tradition of Indian cricket Starting with the early pioneers, Baloo and Jamshedji, the writer (Sujit Mukherjee) ended with an effervescent tribute to his Holy Trinity of slow bowlers There was Ghulam Ahmed the off spinner, "flowing effortlessly to the wicket with that delightful little hop prior to delivery, the arm coming over classically straight with palm and fingers cutting

across the face of the ball" Then there was Vinoo Mankad, his left arm "an inexhaustible storage battery" that had "electrified batsmen to swift and unexpected demise all over the world " Where Ghulam had a long, graceful and rhythmic run-up to the wicket, Mankad preferred a short three-step approach, "soundless and unstriving" With this he bowled sharp turning leg-breaks, interspersed with an arm ball which drifted in "as unannounced as the breeze which springs up at midnight," or a faster ball which "scuttled from the pitch like a worried rabbit " Finally, there was the diminutive Subhas Gupte, only five feet four inches tall, "with his brisk six-yard run to the wicket and the vicious wrist-action that provoked some turn out of the most unresponsive of wickets"

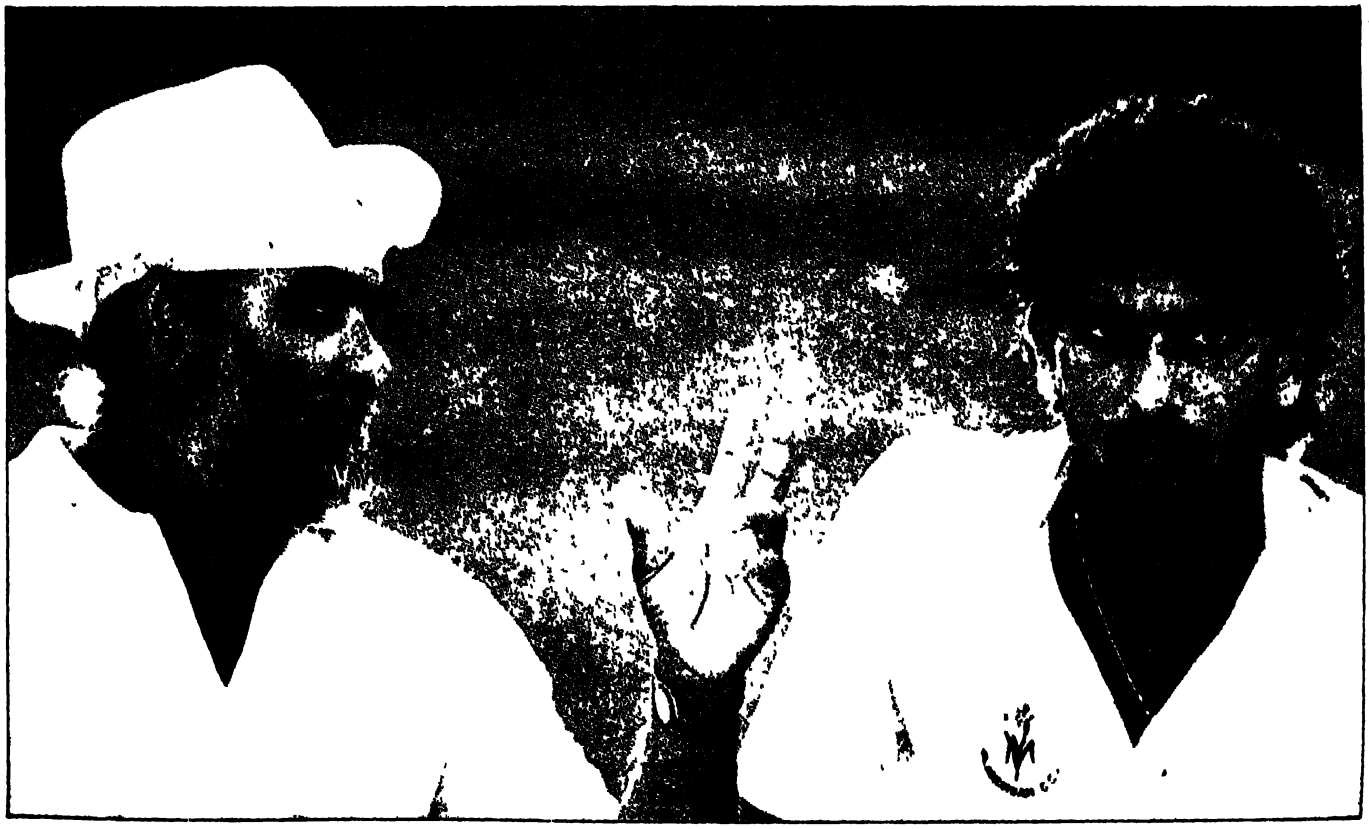
Even one who is too young to have watched them will recognise that Vinoo Mankad, slow left-arm, Ghulam Ahmed right-arm off-spin, and Subhas Gupte, right-arm leg-break googly, must have all been truly great bowlers Indeed, in purely statistical terms their record is not noticeably inferior to those who followed in their wake, whether reckoned in terms of runs per wicket or wickets per Test Thus Mankad had 162 wickets in 44 Tests (at an average of 32 32 runs per wicket) to Bedi's 266 in 67 (average 28 71) — Vinoo also scored more than 2,000 runs, with five Test hundreds, Ghulam Ahmed took 68 wickets in 22 Tests (average 30 17) to Prasanna's 189 in 49 (average 30 38), while Gupte collected 149 wickets in 36 Tests (average 29 55) to Chandrasekhar's 242 in 58 (average 29 74) And yet — speaking at least for my generation —in our imagination Mankad, Ghulam and Gupte do not quite constitute a Trinity in the manner in which Bedi, Prasanna and Chandrasekhar did

Perhaps this is only because India won Test matches rather less frequently in their time For one thing, Mankad, Ghulam and Gupte were more widely separated in age among themselves, and thus did not so often appear together for India Vinoo (born on 12/4/1917) was fully twelve-and-a-half years older than Gupte (11/12/1929) and five years older than Ghulam (4/7/1922) By contrast, Prasanna (date of birth 22/5/1940) was but six years older than the youngest member of his Trinity, Bedi (25/9/1946), with Chandresekhar who was in-between, being a year and a bit older than the Sardar (born on 18/5/1945) These respective age differentials, as much as the rather less crowded Test schedule of their time, explain why the first Trinity played but eight Tests together for India, whereas the second Trinity played as many as twenty-four

Then again, Mankad and company had nothing like the support in the field enjoyed by my Holy Trinity The England all-rounder, Tony Greig, once observed that with Eknath Solkar at short leg, the Indian side had in effect four strike bowlers As a fielder Solkar was out of this world, but the side of the Seventies could call upon, in addition, the skills of Wadekar at slip, Venkat at gully, and Abid Ali at leg slip — all marvellous catchers of the cricket ball Contrast this with the Indian teams in which Mankad, Ghulam and Gupte played, when (or so I was told by an old Test cricketer) you "were considered a good fielder if you caught a ball hit straight at you, waist-high, quite out of the question was the making of a catch by diving in front or leaping to the left or right "

For all this, were two men, aged 65 and 35, respectively, to sit down and choose an all time Indian Eleven, most contentious of all would be the three places reserved for spin bowlers Would it be Mankad or Bedi, Ghulam or Prasanna, Gupte or Chandrasekhar? When I put this question to the former Mysore, Services and India off-spinner, V M Muddiah, he refused to choose But I was able to persuade him

Bedi and Shastri: Devastating, if left to themselves

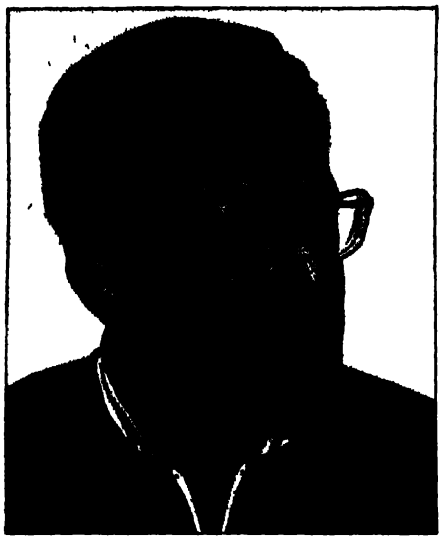


Utpal Sarkar

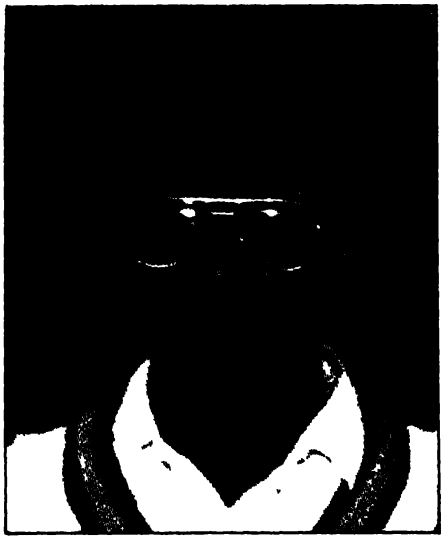
to discuss, one by one, the techniques of these three great pairs of spinners To this most glorious of comparisons Muddiah brought an impressive range of knowledge and experience He had played most of his cricket with or against the first Trinity, and in retirement had closely observed the second What more, as a retired officer of the Indian Air Force, he knew all about flight and turn

When I caught Muddiah on the phone, after weeks of trying, he told me he would give me, at best half-an hour But as we talked the half hour stretched to one, then to two full hours — the most enthralling cricket conversation I have had

We started with Mankad and Bedi, two left-arm slow bowlers with most dissimilar actions Bedi had of course



Doshi Was there



Kumble Still there

a classically high action, hand almost touching the ear, while Vinoo bowled slightly round arm, drifting the ball into the right-hander rather than looping it up With his action Bedi bowled the armer with no apparent change in pace or trajectory, whereas Mankad's arm ball was faster and flatter through the air — easier for the class batsman to spot and keep out, but most devastating to the rest Bedi had the greater deviation and sharper turn, said Muddiah, and Mankad slightly better control The Sardar was a poor fielder to his own bowling, both because of his bulk and his habit of running diagonally to bowl, between the umpire and the stumps Vinoo, who was a natural athlete, had a straight run-up and thus a fuller and more balanced follow through He darted about so quickly on delivering the ball, that at times he could even dispense with an orthodox mid-on and mid-off

An earlier conversation had brought out Muddiah's deep admiration for Ghulam Ahmed, whom he had then called "the greatest bowler in the world", only incidentally because he had kept the air force officer out of the Indian team for 10 years But as a native of Bangalore, and a connoisseur of flight, Muddiah also had a lot of time for Erapalli Prasanna In the air, he now remarked, Prasanna could outwit anybody, dragging the ball back in the flight almost 12 to 18 inches short of where the batsman expected it to pitch Ghulam, who was a taller man and bowled more side-on with a quick arm action, had nothing like the same loop But he had perhaps more variation, a better concealed straighter ball and leg-cutter Where the Karnataka man, owing to his marvellous control of flight, could get wickets on the best behaved pitches, Ghulam combined the roles of container and destroyer, and was devastating on a turning track

We came finally to the two wrist spinners At his pace and with his unique action, Chandrasekhar bowled the odd loose ball, whereas Subhas Gupte was tremendously accurate for one of his tribe, having in effect the control of a finger spinner Subhas really tweaked the ball, yet had great command over flight When his great contemporary, Richie Benaud, bowled his top-spinner, it was a rather obvious telegraph signal, to be immediately distinguished by the batsman as being much quicker through the air, whereas Gupte bowled this ball with the same flight and pace as his stock leg-break Chandra commanded less turn than Subhas, but had far greater nip off the wicket He was also more tough — Gupte could not take a thrashing, and got easily frustrated when he didn't get any wickets This was against the top order, but Subhas could dispose of tailenders with amazing swiftness, unlike Chandra, who often overwhelmed the class batsmen only to be held up by nine, ten and jack

As Muddiah talked I could picture, in my mind's eye, Mankad come in with his round arm action, and pick up a caught-and-bowled low on his follow-through, Ghulam, "tall and billowy", bowl an off-break that went 'srrr' through the air, and on pitching turned many a mile to end up in short leg's hands off the inside edge, and the whimsical Subhas, with his angular approach and side-on action, send up a gorgeous googly that curved away late in the flight, but came back after pitching to bowl the batsman through the gate Through a long afternoon Muddiah had played Sanjaya to my Dhritarashtra, helping me see our gods through his eyes

There is an uncomfortable caveat I have been dodging all this while, but I can dodge it no longer Was 'my' trinity actually a quartet? The Sardar of Spin, its most vocal member, certainly thought so When queried by an interviewer about his "effortless action", Bedi answered "The basis of the fluent action was the movement of the hip, shoulder and pivot But I would rather talk of the *four* Indian spinners of my time collectively Technical correctness was our biggest asset, our side-on bowling action, the delivery stride and follow through were all rhythmical We were proud of this and were collectively thrilled when any of us got wickets Each was different from the other and there was no hint of arrogance among us "

By contrast, I have in this study followed those two wise men, Trevor Bailey and Fred Trueman, who called Bedi, Prasanna and Chandrasekhar the 'Three Musketeers' of Indian spin, in terms of sheer quality to be distinguished from the man the Sardar, and some other commentators, consider to be the fourth member of what might instead be considered a quartet I follow Bailey and Trueman in the belief that the man we have left out was a superior batsman and fielder, but not quite in the same league as a spinner But let us now honour that great slow bowler and most selfless cricketer, S Venkatraghavan

Of all Indian cricketers Venkat perhaps best fulfilled the classical ideal of *Men's Sana in Corpore Sano* (a healthy

mind in a healthy body) He was tall and handsome, with a brilliant academic record — little wonder that the popular press in Madras had married him off to the dancer and actress Hema Malini (also a Tamil Iyengar) without the two having met Or so, I was told by my two closest friends in college, who were Tamils from the Madras localities of Kilpauk and Gopalpuram, respectively Both worshipped Venkat, their adoration made more complete when, on a winter holiday down South, one of them had been told by an uncle that Venkat held the season ticket next to his at the Music Academy's annual concerts This was a man who had obtained a first-class-first engineering degree from MIT (the Madras not the Massachusettes Institute of Technology), this was a man who won Test matches for India, and this was a man who found time to keep time at a concert by Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer I understood their sentiments, but as a Tamil domiciled in Karnataka and, more importantly, as an off-spinner myself I could not bring myself to agree that Venkat should be chosen for the next Test match ahead of Erapalli Prasanna

That disagreement aside, I remained a great admirer of Venkat's bowling In fact, there was no reason - except the presence of Bedi and Chandrasekhar, and that there are only 11 places in a cricket team — why the two off-spinners could not have played more often together for India, as they did for so many years for the South Zone in the Duleep Trophy Venkat's greater height made him a quite different bowler from Prasanna He was much quicker through the air, with less appparent variation in flight He was a less spectacular but, in some respects, a more subtle bowler To the batsman, wrote the critic and commentator, Rajan Bala, Venkatraghavan was like a dentist, "poking, pushing, hedging, provoking" as if getting him out was like "the extraction of a stubborn tooth" I best appreciated this particular quality one afternoon at the Karnail Singh Stadium in New Delhi, that most desolate and unattractive of cricket grounds In a Ranji Trophy quarter-final, Tamil Nadu had conceded the first innings lead to the Railways and with time running out, needed to win outright Venkat declared on the morning of the last day, setting the home side a bare 220 to win With the support of the veteran leg-spinner Vaman Kumar, Venkat started prising out the batsmen one by one On a wearing wicket he varied his angle of delivery by now going over the wicket, now round the wicket (He was in fact a supremely effective bowler from round the wicket, a skill so sorely lacking in our presentday off-spinners) He got six wickets, and Tamil Nadu won



Vinoo Mankad All-rounder, actually

Venkat's most frequent wicket-taking ball, at least on a good pitch, was his cleverly concealed straighter one This either trapped the batsman leg-before-wicket or, if it landed on the seam, moved away off the pitch to take an edge to slip I can recall my teammate Kirti Azad travelling to Madras to make his Ranji Trophy debut for Delhi against Tamil Nadu Kirti is now a politician, currently serving in the Delhi Assembly as the Honourable Member from the Gole Market, but even as a lad he talked big Now he had visions of doing to Venkat what he liked to do to the college off-spinner (the present writer) in the nets When Kirti came out to bat at Chepauk, Venkat was bowling The maestro, who had done his homework, served up a short one, which was easily hit away to square leg for four A similar ball came along the next over, but as the batsman made to pull, it fairly fizzed off the pitch, to make a mess of the off and middle stumps When Kirti came back to St Stephen's I consoled him with the thought that far greater batsman had fallen to that particular ball — not least G R Viswanath, whom Venkat repeatedly had lbw or bowled in matches between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

In Indian cricket's coming of age Venkat had something more than a walk-on part When India beat the West Indies for the first time, at Port of Spain in March 1971, he had figures of 5 for 95 in the second innings While Chandrasekhar claimed 6 for 38 to win the Oval Test against England, four months later, it was actually Venkat who sent back the two best English players of spin, both classic off-spinner's dismissals First Basil D'Oliveira tried to hit him over the top, but was deceived in the flight and fell to a fine running catch by the substitute K Jayantilal at mid-on Then Alan Knott got one that turned and lifted, and was brilliantly picked up by Solkar at short leg In between, Venkat had himself caught a blinder at slip to get rid of the obdurate Brian Luckurst

On his showing in 1971 Venkat was given a contract with Derbyshire in the English County Championship It was an offer he could not refuse, but he was to pay dearly for it Playing six and sometimes seven days in the week, Venkat drastically reworked his action, adopting less of a follow through to conserve energy through the summer Sadly, he was never quite the same bowler again

There is a goodly sized volume waiting to be written on the history of Indian spin This book would of course have chapters on the pioneers, Baloo and Jamshedji, on the two triumvirates and on Venkat, on spinners with extraordinary Ranji Trophy records who never quite made it in Test cricket — such as C S Nayudu Amir Elahi and C S Sarwate, on the great batsman-bowlers — Polly Umrigar, Chandu Borde, Salim Durrani and Bapu Nadkarni, on those the Holy Trinity (or Quartet) kept out — Padmaker Shivalkar, Rajinder Goel, C G Joshi and Uday Joshi - - and on those who followed in their wake — Dilip Doshi, Shivlal Yadav, Arshad Ayub, Ravi Shastri and Maninder Singh, and finally, a chapter on the One-Test wonders — Jasu Patel, Laxman Sivaramakrishnan and Narendra Hirwani

This is a task worthy of a cricket historian with more skill and more diligence than this one But having supplied a chapter outline, I might as well supply a title too The book shall be called *The Slow Men of India*, with a foreward by the slowest of them all, Prime Minister, P V Narasimha Rao ■

COVER STORY

TIMELESS

Sahir Ludhianvi's 75th birth anniversary was on March 8 An assessment of his poetry, that lives on, by ***B.P. Berry***



Sahir 'The Magician'

IT WAS IN THE LATE THIRTIES WHEN A TEENAged undergraduate of Government College, Ludhiana, started to express his inner agony in Urdu verse. Not in his wildest dreams could he have imagined that immortality would soon be writing odes to his verse.

In early 1940, his poems appeared in the book, *Talkhian* (Bitter Experiences). The couplet on the fly-leaf itself explains his point of view: *Duniya ne tajurbaton hawadas ki shakl mein/Jo kuchh mujhe diya hai woh lauta raha hoon main* (What the world has given me by way of experiences/I give back in like vein).

Overnight, the author had Peshawar to Kanyakumari under his magic spell [*Sahir* = magician]. It was a new experience for the connoisseurs and critics of literature.

The son of a zamindar, Abdul Hayee was born on March 8, 1921. As all zamindars of that time, his father's autocratic ways forced his mother to separate. Her son went along with her.

Soon after this, Abdul Hayee discarded his name and picked up the *nom de plume*, Sahir Ludhianvi. It was a name that cast its spell on both Hindi and Urdu literature for all time to come.

Talkhian contains some of the classic touches of Sahir's poetry, focusing essentially on his intense desire to highlight the devastating anguish of the poverty-stricken masses and the soul-stirring pain of women, specially the 'fallen'.

If on one side his poem on the Taj Mahal demolishes the centuries-old awe of one of the seven wonders of the world, on the other *Chaklay* takes us to the flesh trade streets and the

obnoxious nature of man.

Even after half a century or more, these verses, written at a tender age, remain timeless, unmatched in intensity and expression. There is also no other example in any literature on the Bengal famine of 1944 as in Sahir's *Kehte Bangal*.

It appears that the poet continued to give vent to his piercing perception of the cynical world around him He had abundantly made clear his attitude when he said: *Mere sarkash taranon ki haqeeqat hai to itni hai/Ke jab main dekhta hoon bhookh ke maare kisanon ko/Garibon, muflison ko, bekason ko, besaharon ko/Siskati naazninon ko tadaphte naujawano ko/Hakumat ke tashdad ko, amaarat ke takbar ko/Kisi ke chithdon ko aur shahenshahi khazanon ko/To dil taabe nashate bazmen ashrat la nahin sakta/Main chahoon bhi to khawbaawar tarane gaa nahin sakta*

If he talked about love, it was that of the ordinary man And his idea of misery, too, in human life was a reflection of the misery which besets the common man Thus he wrote *Ek shahenshah ne daulat ka sahara le kar/Hum garibon ki mohabbat ka udaya hai mazaak*

Or, when he exhorts the oppressed to rise above himself *Ponchh kar ashk apni aakhon se/Muskurao to koi baat bane/Sar jhukane se kuchh nahin hoga/Sar uthao to koi baat bane*

Similarly, the poet had an intense feel for human emotions and could convey that in a language which ran deep — *Pyaar par bus to nahin hai mera lekin phir bhi/Tu batade ke tujhe pyaar karoon ya na karoon/Tu ne khud apne tabassum se jagaya hai jinhein/Un tamannaon ka izhaar karoon ya na karoon*

But even his love lyrics retained his touch with reality *Tumhare gham ke siwa aur bhi to gham hai mujhe/Nijaat jin se main ek lahza pa nahin sakta*

Humanism was so profoundly engraved in his philosophy of life that he took upon himself to ruthlessly destroy the creaking customs of hardened bigots

Caste, creed, colour held no meaning for him *Rang aur nasl, zaat aur mazhab/Jo bhi ho aadmi se kamtar hain;/Is haqeeqat ko tum bhi meri tarah/Maan jaao to koi baat bane*

In the same way, he elaborates *Maalik ne har insaan ko insaan banaya/Hamne use Hindu ya Mussalman banaya/Nafrat jo sikhaye woh dharm tera nahin hai/Insaan ko raunde woh kadam tera nahin hai.*

In the process, Sahir did not ignore the presentday destructive mentality of youth and he applied logical persuasion to emphasise the point.

Ye watan teri meri nasl ki jaagir



Mother Sardar Begum· His obsession

nahin/Saikron naslon ki mehnat ne sanwara hai ise/Jis se dehkaan ko rozi nahin milne paati/Main na doonga tujhe wo khet jalaane ka sabak/Fasal baaki hai to takseem badal sakti hai/Fasal ki khaak se kya mangega jamhoor ka haq/Patriyan rail ki, sadkon ki busein, phone ke taar/Teri aur meri khataaon ki saza kyon bhugtein

He saw Lord Krishna from an angle which further stressed his point *Krishna ek zaat nahin, ek amal hota hai/Aaj hota hai koi uska na kal hota hai/Krishna har daur mein aata hai naya roop liye/Krishna har daur ke armanon ka phal hota hai*

Sahir did not believe in quantitative output, but kept himself completely confined to quality Till his last breath, Sahir remained consistent

He stayed on the same wavelength throughout his life be it for literature or for films In fact, even during his 30 years in the industry, he penned down the best of poetry which subsequently poured forth *Aao ke koi khwab bune* and *Parchhaiyan* Besides, he added quite a few fragrant poems in *Talkhian* like *Khubsoorat mod, Teri awaaz* (an ode to Lata Mangeshkar) and *Intezaar*

Having edited the most prestigious Urdu magazines, *Adbe Latif, Savera,* and *Shahrah,* the 'Magician' arrived in Bombay in 1950, intent upon spreading his message far and wide

Irony of ironies, the industry bigwigs acknowledged his literary standing with dignity and respect, but were loathe to accept his style and substance which they felt would not suit the commercial needs of cinema

Moments of frustration plagued Sahir's initial buoyancy, but the man was made of sterner stuff He stuck to his literary strains and started his innings with a flourish

In Guru Dutt's *Baazi*, he came out heavily on the frustration of human nature and reminded the people, *Tadbeer se bigri hui taqdeer bana le/Apne pe bharosa hai to yeh daav laga le/Tute huye patwar hai kishti ke to gham kya/Haari hui baahon ko hi patwaar bana le*

Then came *Taxi Driver, Naujawan* and *Jaal* The poetic message of Sahir was in full flow It was again in Guru Dutt's *Pyaasa* that Sahir cast aside his initial hesitation to expose the nakedness of false values Society was stunned, respectability maimed

He thundered *Jawani bhatakti hai badkar ban kar/Jawan jism sajte hai bazaar ban kar/Yahan pyaar hota hai vyopaar ban kar/Yeh duniya agar mil bhi jaye to kya hai /Yeh duniya jahaan aadmi kuchh nahin hai/Wafa kuchh nahin, dosti kuchh nahin hai/Yeh duniya agar mil bhi jaaye to kya hai*

And thundered again *Yeh purpech galiyan, ye badnam bazaar/Yeh guminaam raahi, yeh sikkon ki jhankaar/Yeh asmat ke saude, yeh saudon pe takraar/Jinhe naaz hai Hind par woh kahan hai/Kahan hai kahan hai kahan hai*

As if that wasn't enough, he reiterated his strong condemnation towards the male-dominated society as he wrote *Aurat ne janm diya mardon ko, mardon ne use bazaar diya/Nangi nachwayi jaati hai, ayyashon ke darbaron mein/Jis kokh mein inka jism dhala,/Us kokh ka karobaar kiya*

It is said that Lata Mangeshkar recorded this six-minute-long lyric at one go and left the studios speechless It was again Lata who commented on the death of the poet saying there will never be another Sahir

He often experimented and took extensive liberties with the language and thought, the result was unbelievably historic! *Parchhaiyan*, his only long poem, is an instance in point

A story in verse with a clarion call for every sane man, it concludes on this beautiful, dream-like note *Kaho, ke aaj bhi hum sub agar khamosh rahe/To is damakte hue khakadan ki khair nahin,/Junoon ki dhhali silayon se zameen ki khair nahin,/Aasman ki khair nahin,/Guzashata jung mein ghar hi jale magar iss baar/Ajab nahin ke yeh parchhaiyan bhi jal jayain,/Tasavarat ki parchhaiyan ubharti hain*

This poem was India's contribution



Lata Mangeshkar recording for Anil Biswas, behind them are Sahir and K A Abbas

to world literature on international peace Khwaja Ahmed Abbas translated it into English as *Shadows Speak* in 1958

In *Aao Ke Koi Khwab Bune*, Sahir carried the optimism for the coming generations and also the futility of the destructive element pervading the mind and thought of present times

A politically conscious person, Sahir had no friends or foes when it came to writing He deeply believed in the Nehruvian philosophy What he wrote was an honest, though often harsh, portrayal of what he saw

During his stay of a couple of months in Pakistan after Partition, he felt around him the maddening fundamentalism, giving vent to his thoughts, when he questioned, *Mera ilhaad to khair ek laanat tha, so hai ab tak/Magar is alam-e-vahshat mein imaan pe kya guzri?* (My convictions were a curse, they are still so, But what have the believers undergone in this reign of terror?)

Chalo woh kufr ke ghar se salamat aa gaye lekin/Khuda ki mamlaqat mein sokhtajanon pe kya guzri (It is good that they are safely back from the land of non-believers/But what about the sufferings of the diseased in the kingdom of God [Pakistan])

The consequence was obvious An arrest warrant was issued by the authorities of Jinnah's Pakistan and the poet, in the dark hours of the night, slipped back into his motherland

He was the only intellectual whose pen during the Emergency (in 1975) was not stilled as it lashed out against the Establishment *Lab pe paabandi to hai* disgraced)

Jhoot to katil thehra uska kya rona/Sach ne bhi insaan ka khoon bahaya hai

Similarly, he had no qualms about telling so-called Leninists and Marxists about the bankruptcy of their thoughts and actions in his poems written on the centenary of Lenin in 1970 *Woh log jinhein kal tak daawa tha rafaqat ka/Tazlil pe utre hain apne hi ke naamon ki* (Those who the other day were claiming loyalty/Have disgraced the label of their own affiliations *Kya jaane teri umt kis haal ko pahunchegi/Badhti chali jaati hai tadad imamon ki* (Who knows where this crowd of yours will end up/The number of leaders continues to increase)

To analyse the writings of Sahir, it is important to understand life at the grassroots Throughout, he stressed the need for man to come up from the depths of evil by which he is surrounded to steer the world on a different course so that life is worth living



While recording the Indian Army marching song; at right is Lt Gen S H Chopra

ehsaas par pehra to hai/Phir bhi ahal-e-dil ko ahwal-e-bashar kehna to hai (The lips are sealed, the feelings are suppressed/Still the sincere ones have to express the sufferings of the people

Apni gairat bech daalen, apna maslak chhod dein,/Rehnumaaon mein bhi kuchh logon ka yeh mansha to hai (Some leaders have a desire to sell their self-respect and balanced attitude)

Hai jinhe sab se zyada dawa-e-hubb-e-watan/Aaj un ki wajah se hubb-e-watan ruswa to hai (Those who claim to be the most patriotic/It is at their hands that patriotism has been

The poet, however, was not spared brickbats from the critics' arsenal, incapable as they were, of comprehending the extent of his genius, calling him, 'the poet of teenagers'

Fortunately, the literary giants and the masses held a different view Literatti of the likes of K A Abbas, Kaifi Azmi and Firaq Gorakhpuri acclaimed Sahir's writings and said they were near prophetic His books ran into several editions in Indian languages as in Russian, Polish, Czech, Persian and Arabic



Being honoured by the then President Zail Singh

After Ghalib in verse and Premchand in prose, Sahir remains the only other writer of substance in Indian literature Perhaps, he was aware of the impact of his thought when he said, *Main har ek pal ka shaayar hoon,/Ho ek pal meri kahani hai*

Sahir's graph in films can best be adjudged from the 30 long years he reigned peerless in that world

His name became a guarantee for a film's box-office He was the only poet-lyricist ever known to have his own team of music directors The stength of his lyrics could alone convert a tune into a masterpiece, at times, *without* background music

A few of his well-known lyrics bear testimony to the fact *Jaayen to jaayen kahan, Jaane woh kaise log they jinke pyaar ko pyaar mila; Yeh raat yeh chaandni phir kahan, Aaj sajan mohey ang laga lo, Jeevan ke safar mein raahi, Tu Hindu banega na Mussalmaan banega, Main zindagi ka saath nibhaata chala gaya, Sansar se bhage phirte ho, Bhagwan ko tum kya pao ge*

And there's more *Raat ke raahi thak mat jana, Saathi haath badhana, Abhi na jao chhod kar ke dil abhi bhara nahin, Na munh chhupa ke jiyo aur na sar jhukake jiyo*

He wrote for about 80 films and often the producers had to create situations befitting the superior quality of the lyrics

The Sahir-S D Burman duo did incredibly well However, in *Pyaasa*, the poet's ego got in the way and he insisted that tunes be provided to his pre-composed lyrics and not vice versa as custom would have it

Guru Dutt supported Sahir The senior Burman was hard put, but somehow managed to go along According to reliable sources, till then he was well equipped to adapt Tagore's songs and Bengali folk tunes to his own musical scores

Subsequently, S D Burman claimed the musical success of the film which Sahir dismissed with contempt, perhaps, rightly so, because the mainstay of *Pyaasa* was the lyrics—a fact accepted by one and all

In the words of Shyam Benegal, *Pyaasa* was an essay in poetry Therefore, a fallout was inevitable For a change, Sahir chose Roshan and once again ensured the box-office success of *Barsaat Ki Raat*

In another incident, it was again Sahir's ego which led to a tiff with Lata Mangeshkar, though that was thankfully short-lived Lata was known to have revered Sahir's poetic genius as apparent from *Shraddhanjali Volume I* where she selected three of his lyrics (and ironically only one of Phalke awardee, Majrooh Sultanpuri)

The poet in his lifetime has been the recipient of many national awards like the Padma Shri, the Sahitya Akademi, Nehru Land, Maharashtra, U P and Punjab state awards

He had been specially requested by the Indian Army to pen the lyrics of their marching song In gratitude they named a few advance posts after him In Ludhiana, a thoroughfare is known as Sahir Avenue He was unanimously elected the president of the Film Writer's Association for almost a decade

The lyricist had two childhood obsessions which remained with him throughout His intense love for his mother was the single sustaining factor in his life After her death in 1975, the poet just existed for another five years before he bade farewell to the world

Sahir's other weakness was Ludhiana, his birthplace He expresses his emotional feelings for this city through a couplet *Nazar karta hoon in phizaaon ki/Apna dil, apna rooh, apna kalaam*

On the night of October 25, 1980, the poet ended his eventful journey He had compromised neither with life nor death His exit was instantaneous

The heart, which breathed life into many, stopped Perhaps, death held no meaning, as he had himself commented, *Jism ki maut koi maut nahin hoti hai/Jism mit jaane se insaan nahin mar jaate*

Additional inputs by Poonam Berry

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Sahir's Spell

MA

Main kitni khush-kismat Ma hoon,
Meri god mein panap rahe
Dharm ka aur imaan ka sangam,
Mera chhota sa aanchal hai,
Gita aur Quran ka sangam,
Main kitni khush-kismat Ma hoon

Do tehzeebon ki dhaarein,
Ek saanche mein dhalte dekhoon,
Akbar aur Ashok ka sapna,
Ghar aangan mein palte dekhoon,
Main kitni khush-kismat Ma hoon.

Sadiyaan jis vardaan ko tarsein,
Mujh ko woh vardaan mila hai,
Pyaar ki ek dori mein lipta,
Kal ka Hindustan mila hai,
Main kitni khush-kismat Ma hoon.

Seene par zakhmon ke tamge,
Lab par azaadi ke naare,
Is saj-dhaj se mere bete,
Aaj aaye hain Ma ke dwar,
Main kitni khush-kismat Ma hoon

Meri god ke paalon par,
Kal sara Bharat maan karega,
Mujh si Ma kehlaane ko,
Har Ma ka dil armaan karega,
Main kitni khush-kismat Ma hoon

Ek bete ki laash idhar hai,
Ek bete ki laash udhar hai,
Is ka khoon us ke sar par hai,
Us ka khoon is ke sar par hai,
Pehle kis par phool chadhaaoon,
Pehle kis ko kafan odhaaoon,
Maut ke vyapaari netaon,
Main diwani samajh na paaoon,
Main kitni khush-kismat Ma hoon

First published in late 1993, in *Bazm-e-Fikro Fann*, courtesy Anwar Sultana

MOTHER

How
In m
Two
The hood of my
Confluence of Gita and
How blessed a mother I am.

I witness two cultures flow
Into one mould and become one.
The dreams of Akbar and Ashoka,
I witness crystallising in my backyard,
How blessed a mother I am.

For which others yearn for centuries,
I have that blessing bestowed upon me,
Entwined in a single thread of love,
The blessing of a Hindustan,
How blessed a mother I am.

Their breasts emblazoned with wounds,
And their lips ablaze with slogans of freedom,
With such decoration, my two sons
Have arrived at their mother's door,
How blessed a mother I am

The two nurtured by me,
Will be the pride of India,
To be a mother like me,
Every mother will aspire,
How blessed a mother I am

The corpse of one son lies hither,
The other corpse lies thither,
One head smeared with the blood of the other,
The other smeared with this one's blood,
On whom should I place the wreath first,
On whom should I first place the shroud,
Purveyors of death, you politicians,
Can you explain to me,
How blessed a mother I am

Translated by Anil Grover

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries
March 21—April 20



Secret deals and negotiations for Ariens, asserts Ganesha You could be travelling, commuting and moving Enemies and expenses do multiply But you will most certainly cope with these inimicalities Dreams, visions, religious experiences, make this week quite remarkable

Taurus
April 21—May 20



Buying, selling, and shopping make a useful triumvirate You will be working at full steam However, it would be ideal to socialise, have a grand ball You will find sweet satisfaction and good money there March 14-18 should be eventful in this regard Expect visitors

Gemini
May 21—June 20



Once again, you will have to strive with might and main, put your sinews to the test, if you want to get the maximum out of the week It depends upon your ability and desire to entertain Be sweet and talk your way into the minds and hearts of people Loans and funds will be secured

Cancer
June 21- July 20



As long as you have your eye on the main chance and are practical, success attends your efforts There is a strong possibility of trips and ties Many of you will be making a blueprint for the year this week and the next That's for sure You could go in for changes

Leo
July 21—August 21



While a few pin-pricks and health upsets are possible, these should not be allowed to hold you down and cramp your style February through April, particularly April, favours an official engagement, birth of children, a marriage or a collaboration Health caution is essential

Virgo
August 22—September 22



Though you could be passing through a lot of rough weather, you should be recovering by now and well on your way to calmer waters Meditation, therapy, yoga and prayers should really help you March 15-16 should be quite critical Be hopeful while preparing for trouble and tension

Libra
September 23—October 22



There are two distinct trends in simultaneous operation Job, health and the keeping of pets comprise one trend Appointments, interviews, meetings, conferences and a very tight and busy schedule constitute the second trend All of this could affect you physically Therefore, relax

Scorpio
October 23—November 22



The highs and the lows will both be yours, as emotions and moods take over Financial juggling and wizardry will be required You can expect help from known as well as unknown quarters and that's the saving grace of the week March 17-18 could well provide conditions of relief

Sagittarius
November 23—December 20



You may have to expect some flak and opposition and that could cause psychological and health complications, if you are not careful Partnerships of all sorts, be they personal, professional, or business will be highlighted Trips are foretold

Capricorn
December 21—January 19



You will come into your own and recover lost ground with long strides Promotion and perks are possible You will perform your task intelligently and diligently The buying and selling of goods and property will be a marked feature of the week However, do be careful of what you eat and drink

Aquarius
January 20—February 18



Your charm and finesse will take you to the end of the world It would be best to veer round tricky situations and direct uncalled-for opposition Get your travel-kit ready Many of you will think clearly, act promptly and thus win the day Keep contacts buzzing

Pisces
February 19—March 20



You should be moving at a brisker pace from mid-week, thanks to Mercury Home will be of particular significance for you A major move here is more than possible Many Pisceans will be getting over a trauma or loss, or a sense of dissatisfaction

B I R T H D A Y S

March 12: Moon-Sun trine means glory and grandeur. No matter how tough the going may be, be sure it will get easier and by July-November, you should be on your way to triumph.

March 13: Moon-Mars conjunction could lead to a change in the nature and scope of your work. Your services will be sought-after. But there could be a fall-out with colleagues.

March 14: Moon-Jupiter excellent formation means money and honey, points out Ganesha. One wish fulfillment will be granted to you, perhaps involving money and work. Be bold.

March 15: Venus Jupiter fine placing leads to luxuries and comforts, inspirational moments, good thoughts, words and deeds. Be precise in your correspondence.

March 16: Sun-Neptune lucky formation favours writers, teachers, astrologers, publishers and printers. But the bottomline is, it will trigger inspiration and imagination.

March 17: The full moon helps you to take important decisions. Many of you will be exploring new frontiers, perhaps even immigrating or homing in on foreign connections.

March 18: Moon-Jupiter excellent placing leads to enrichment of both knowledge and riches. New ventures could be started if you are really interested.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

AGARTALA

Departures Flt No	Time	Days	Arrivals Flt No	Time	Days
IC 741	0710	3 5	IC 742	0940	3 5
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7

AHMEDABAD

M9 304/109	0855	1 3 5	M9 110/301	1900	1 3 5

AIZAWL

PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6

BAGDOGRA

PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1300	1 3 5	IC 722	1540	1 3 5

BANGALORE

IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily

BHUBANESWAR

IC 541	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5

BOMBAY

IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
9W 202	0920	1 2 3 4 5 6	9W 201	0840	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W 212	1945	daily	IC 274	1850	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
AI 309	2035	6	D2-103	1935	daily
AI 681	2350	1			

DELHI

			IC 262	0815	2 4 7
IC 263	0700	daily	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0855	daily	AI 682	0950	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	4S 806	1115	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1745	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 301	1900	daily
IC 261	1900	2 4 7	S2 005	1900	1 2 3 4 5 6
M9 302	1930	daily	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
S2 006	1940	1 2 3 4 5 6	IC 264	2210	daily

DIBRUGARH

PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
IC 703	0800	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	IC 702	1630	2 4 6 7
4S 815	1145	1 2 3 4 5 6	4S 816	1705	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 701	1240	2 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5

DIMAPUR

IC 257	1150	4 7	IC 258	1650	

GUWAHATI

PF 735	0730	1	IC 712	1410	2 6
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 708	1130	1 4 7
IC 703	0800	3 5	PF 706	1510	4 6 7
IC 707	0800	1 4 7	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
IC 711	0800	2 6	D2 183	1620	4 6
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	IC 230	1650	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1705	1 2 3 4 5 6
4S 812	1145	1 2 3 4 5 6	PF 736	1730	1
IC 257	1150	4 7	PF 738	1740	3, 5
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 258	1740	4 7
IC 229	1310	daily	IC 212	1740	4 6

HYDERABAD

IC 777	1600	2 4 7	IC 778	2100	2 4 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5

IMPHAL

IC 707	0800	1 4 7	IC 256	1320	3 5
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC 708	1430	1 4 7
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2 6

JORHAT

IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC 213	1315	2 4 7

LILABARI

PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

LUCKNOW

IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5

MADRAS

IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2 172	1740	daily	IC 766	2220	daily

NAGPUR

IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5

PATNA

IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1830	1 3 5

PORT BLAIR

IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6

RANCHI

IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7

SHILLONG

PF 705	0730	2 2 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4, 6 7

SILCHAR

IC 255	0830	3 5	IC 260	1110	1, 7
IC 259	0830	1 7	IC 256	1320	3, 5
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2 6
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC-212	1740	4, 6

TEZPUR

IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC 213	1315	2, 4 7

TEZU

PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5

VISHAKHAPATNAM

IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1, 3, 5

ZIRO

PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

AMMAN

RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4

AMSTERDAM

KL-876	0420	7	KL 875	0235	7

BANGKOK

IC-731	0855	2 4, 6, 7	KB-108	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB 105	1125	2 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG 314	1355	1, 3 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 6, 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RO-076	2040	5, 7	RO 075	1035	5, 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-696	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2, 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1, 2 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1, 2 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3, 5, 6 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3 5 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG-095	2020	1 5
KATHMANDU					
IC-747	1115	1 3 5	IC-748	1455	1 3 5
RA-214	1400	4, 7	RA-213	1315	4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA 143	1525	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1855	4	SU 537	1655	4
PARO					
KB 106	1200	3	KB 105	1040	2 6
KB 106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2200	2 5	SQ 416	2040	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20-35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues, Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues, Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun, Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri-Wkly Dep Tues, Fri & Sat, Arr Tues Wed, & Sat	11-35	3074
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun, Mon, Wed & Fri	4-30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9-45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15-30	3050
3039	21-00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5-20	3040
3019	16-05	**Gorakhpur Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21-45	**Mithila Express**	5-00	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	5-50	3032
3025	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday, Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri, Sat & Sun Arr Mon, Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon, Tues & Wed, Arr Fri, Sat & Sun	6-50	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4-50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6-50	1182

Up	Time	Sealdah	Time	Dn
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express** Dep Mon, Tues Wed Thurs, Fri & Sun Arr Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7-15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gaur Express**	5-15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-55	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	3104
5185	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues, Thurs & Sat	4-25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6-50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8-10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	19 40	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6-15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20-55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22-15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6-05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21-30	2822
8079	23-20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15-00	8046
8017	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16-40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	-
—	11-05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	-
–	14-05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
—	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	-
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22-15	
—	14 05	**Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

PROBLEMS OF EVOLUTION

Sitting reading your newspaper and having breakfast, you may not be aware that you are evolving Modern scientists would say you are and have proof that the bacteria inside you are swopping genes like nobody's business

Evolutionary biology has become a new and fashionable branch of science In universities all over the world people are mapping natural selection — counting the spots on guppies or sticklebacks, measuring water fleas or even using their own digestive systems to monitor bacterial life

But there are problems abroad with evolution One stems from the great Western conflict between religion and science

Just mention evolution to tens of millions of Americans and they would splutter and go purple in the face A survey made in 1994 produced astonishing figures to show that nearly half the adult population of the United States do .iot believe in it

Many of them are Creationists, fundamentalist Christians for whom truth is literally what is written in the Bible — that God created the world and all the creatures in it in seven days

[This conflict between religion and science is alien to Indian tradition In Hinduism, for centuries, religion has been used to justify science Neem is worshipped, you can argue, for scientific reasons In Delhi at the Institute of Immunology, Dr Talwar hails it as a 'miracle tree' He is developing from it substances which can dissuade female mosquitoes from laying eggs, stop male humans making sperm or kill herpes

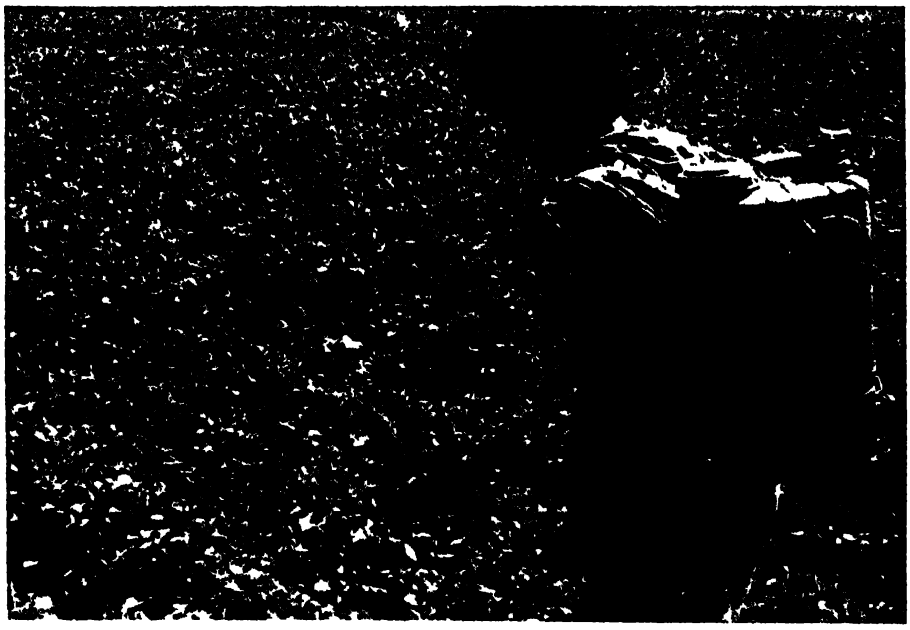
Science is not alien to Islamic tradition either *Ilm*, or knowledge, is one of the central concepts of Islam Akbar Ahmad, the Pakistani civil servant and academic, points out that, "The Holy Prophet urged his followers to go as far as China to acquire knowledge And let us keep before us the fact that to an Arab in the seventh century, China would have been at the outermost limits of the known universe."]

Ironically, it's in the areas of the United States where the Creationists are strongest — where many legislators would like to ban the teaching of evolution in schools — that there are the biggest problems with this branch of science

The economy in these areas depends largely on crops like cotton, and it's in crops like cotton that evolution is proceeding so fast you can see it Insect pests are doing the evolving Jonathan Weiner presents a convincing picture of their continuing rise in his book *The Beak of the Finch* which has to be one of the most thought-provoking books of 1994

One of the star evolvers he describes is a dull grey moth called *helothis virescens* It fluttered out of the forests in the Forties after cotton farmers had wiped their fields clean of insects and birds with huge doses of DDT Finding an empty environmental niche it set up house and its caterpillars munched happily through cotton balls The farmers assaulted it with larger and larger doses of DDT, and then dozens of more advanced brands of pesticides The caterpillars chomped on.

Then in the Eighties came a new family of chemicals called pyrethroids with macho names like Scout and Karate which chemists claimed no pest could survive According to Weiner in Arkansas in May 1987, only about 6 per cent of moths could live after a certain dose of



We are, it seems, placing huge pressures on species to evolve in certain directions, thereby achieving the opposite of what we want. If we kill pests with pesticides, only those resistant to pesticides survive and breed. These strong creatures have a different, mutant genes, and pass this pattern on to their descendants

pyrethroids By September the same year 61 per cent survived the same dose

We are, it seems, placing huge pressures on species to evolve in certain directions — thereby achieving the opposite of what we want. If we kill pests with pesticides, only those resistant to pesticides survive and breed These strong creatures have a different, mutant genes, and pass this pattern on to their descendants

The ubiquitous housefly is a case in point It carries a series of mutant genes One makes it more resistant to DDT, another reduces its absorption of insecticides, and yet another two give it resistance to two other groups of poisons

Weiner tells us that flies and other insect pests evolve much more swiftly than scientists can produce new poisons The result is that late 20th century America, according to top ecologists, is not much better than medieval Europe when, with no poisons at all, pests were said to eat one grain out of every three produced

Crops aren't the only things we pour chemicals into What about ourselves? For bacteria and viruses a human being is what the whole world is to us Inside us they multiply and evolve freely And we push them into evolution by the drugs we take By taking antibiotics too easily, we too easily create diseases resistant to them

Many of the fastest evolving diseases are killers The battle against TB is difficult enough even without drug resistant bacteria Some anti-tubercular drugs are in any case so strong they make you mislay your sanity — a fact I discovered when I took a girl we thought was weak in the head to a psychiatrist

But the microbes are overcoming even these medicines About 8 million people a year are colonised by an adaptable, drug resistant TB bacillus According to Weiner, about one in three people in the planet carry it and each of them has a 10 per cent chance of developing it In the United States the cases of TB in children under five rose 30 per cent just in the three years between 1987-90

We now cannot cope with disease — whether in the fields or within ourselves — without becoming familiar with evolution With that familiarity we can at least have a better idea of where we're going We need sustainable development even at the most microcosmic level

(Sanctuary Features)

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Wavelength/95

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

BOOKS, BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

The other day, when I was asked what profession I would have chosen had I not become a writer, I thought hard and long before replying, quite honestly, "A bookseller"

Of course, my choice was influenced by the fact that I feel perfectly at home among books So why not a librarian? I am not sure that I would enjoy being a librarian All that cataloguing, indexing, updating of library cards and sending out of reminders to absentminded borrowers — it would turn me into a dull fellow, I think

And then (natural enough in an author) I prefer to see people buying books rather than borrowing them People usually take care of the books they buy, and some even like to build up their own personal libraries

Oddly enough, it is now becoming quite fashionable to have books in the drawing room — a sign of breeding and culture no doubt Twenty years ago, folks were not too culture conscious A well-stocked bookshelf was a rarity, and if there was anything hanging on the wall, it was likely to be a calendar or a towel

I am so glad people are buying books again, and even reading them There was a time when I felt like a minority of one, the only browser in a bookshop, wondering if I had Rs 5 or Rs 10 spare for a paperback How ironical that when books were cheap there were few takers, and now that they are expensive, people buy several at one time

In one new bookshop in New Delhi, The Crossword, they will even provide you with a trolley to transport your books to the front door I think you have to leave the trolley behind, but still, it's a neat psychological ploy!

This sudden passion for books has grown in spite of the rival attractions of TV and video Or, perhaps, people are dissatisfied with the visual media and are returning to more thoughtful forms of entertainment

Reading has always been a minority pastime A long, long time ago, when I was a schoolboy, there were just two or three of us in a class of 30 who actually read the books we were obliged to borrow from the school library I think the ratio is much higher today I keep meeting teenagers who are familiar with authors I have never read!

At my school in Shimla we had a bursar named Ram Advani, who came from a family of booksellers His maternal grandfather ran a chain of bookshops called J Ray and Sons in Peshawar and Murree They lost everything at the time of Partition and had to migrate to India

After a couple of years at the school, he set up shop at Lucknow in 1948, and since then Ram Advani, Bookseller, has become an institution in that fair city Here is a man who is proud of his vocation, who is genuinely interested in selling good books, the sort of book seller I'd like to be

Another institution was K B K Rao's Select Bookshop in Bangalore, which I visited a couple of times in the Sixties (It is now run by his son) He specialised in rare and secondhand books, old photographs, postcards, memorabilia of the 'Raj (Is that the word? I never heard it used during the time of British rule!) Booksellers should encourage browsers, as sooner or later most of them will become book-buyers And it was in Rao's bookshop that I became a collector of all postcards!

And I have a friend who, when he opens a book, always sniffs the paper before making a purchase. There are good book smells and bad book smells, he avers

What is it about books that turn some people into compulsive bookbuyers? I know someone whose eyesight is so poor that he can barely read with a magnifying glass, yet he cannot resist buying books, if only to add them to his already burgeoning shelves And I have a friend who, when he opens a book, always sniffs the paper before making a purchase

There are good book smells and bad book smells, he avers And if you are going to spend some time with a book, even live with it, it should smell good! He has a point, and his attitude goes some way to explaining why the books we possess simultaneously possess us

As a boy with limited resources I was, quite naturally more of a browser than a buyer One bookseller who encouraged me to browse was the owner (or, perhaps, it was the manager) of the Ideal Book Depot in Dehradun, it is no longer there The old gentlemen permitted me to borrow from his stock of old or shop-soiled titles and with my assistance set up a small lending library which (at a modest membership fee) proved to be quite popular with other readers who could not afford the latest titles on display

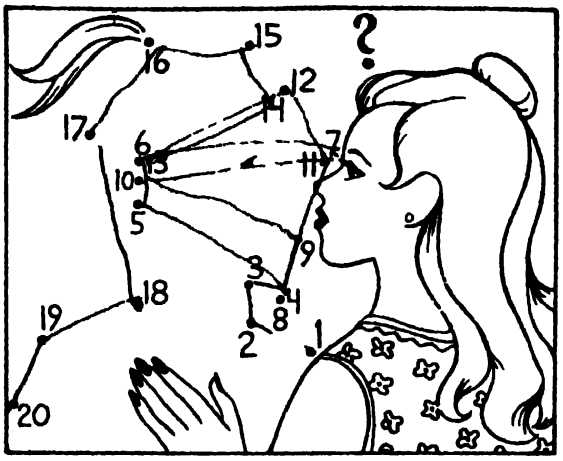
I became so familiar with his stock I can easily recall the names of publishers in conjunction with their titles and authors There was Herbert Jenkins (for almost all the Wodehouse titles), Heinemann (for Somerset Maugham), Macmillan (for Tagore's works), Collins (for crime and detection), Faber (for William Saroyan), and so on Such booksellers are not just passive vendors of merchandise, they help create readers who will one day value books enough to build up their own libraries which do not even exist in our smaller towns

Believe me, it is much more fun than depending on public libraries And so I say If there is a special heaven for good booksellers, may it always be well-stocked

(Sanctuary Features)

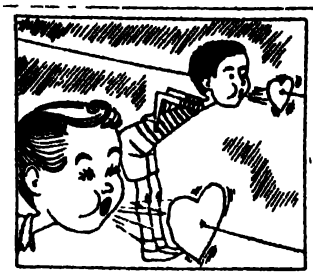
JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



BUSS STOP! A kiss is in store for someone above, but alas, the action s on hold Why is that? Draw lines dot to dot

LOVE STORY! It s Valentine's Day and there s romance in the stars Check the following sequence of letters and see if you don t agree tRhOeMsAtNaCrEs



STRING-ALONG PARTY GAME

STRING along friends on Valentine s Day, or at any time, with this amusing party game

Use string to set up racing lanes across a room Place a paper heart 4to5 inches in diameter on each string

Divide guests into even teams Place a paper heart 4 to 5 inches in diameter on each string

At the word "Go , players blow the heart along the string to turning point where a teammate takes over and blows the heart back to the starting point, etc , until one team wins

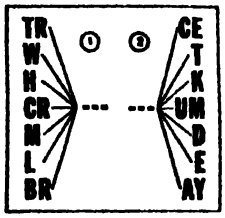
Use of hands to propel hearts is not permitted

appoint a judge to rule on close races

THREE OUT! A word of three letters is required to complete seven longer words in each of the posers below Example In No 1, add the word ill and you have trill, will, hill — but the string ends there with crill Similarly, in No 2, try pea and you have peace, peat, peak — and again string ends

Put on your thunking cap and see if you can find two words that fully comply

Time limit 2 min each



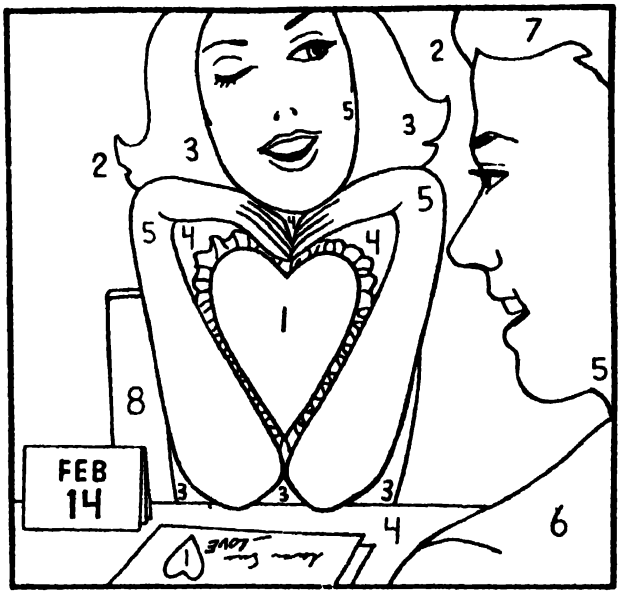
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Poster is missing 2 Zipper is missing 3 Valentine is missing 4 Cloud is different 5 Purse is missing 6 Choker is different

FUNSPOT



HEART COPY! Hey, heartthrob, will you be my valentine? Apply colors by number neatly. 1—Red 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Dk. blue. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

SPLENDID

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

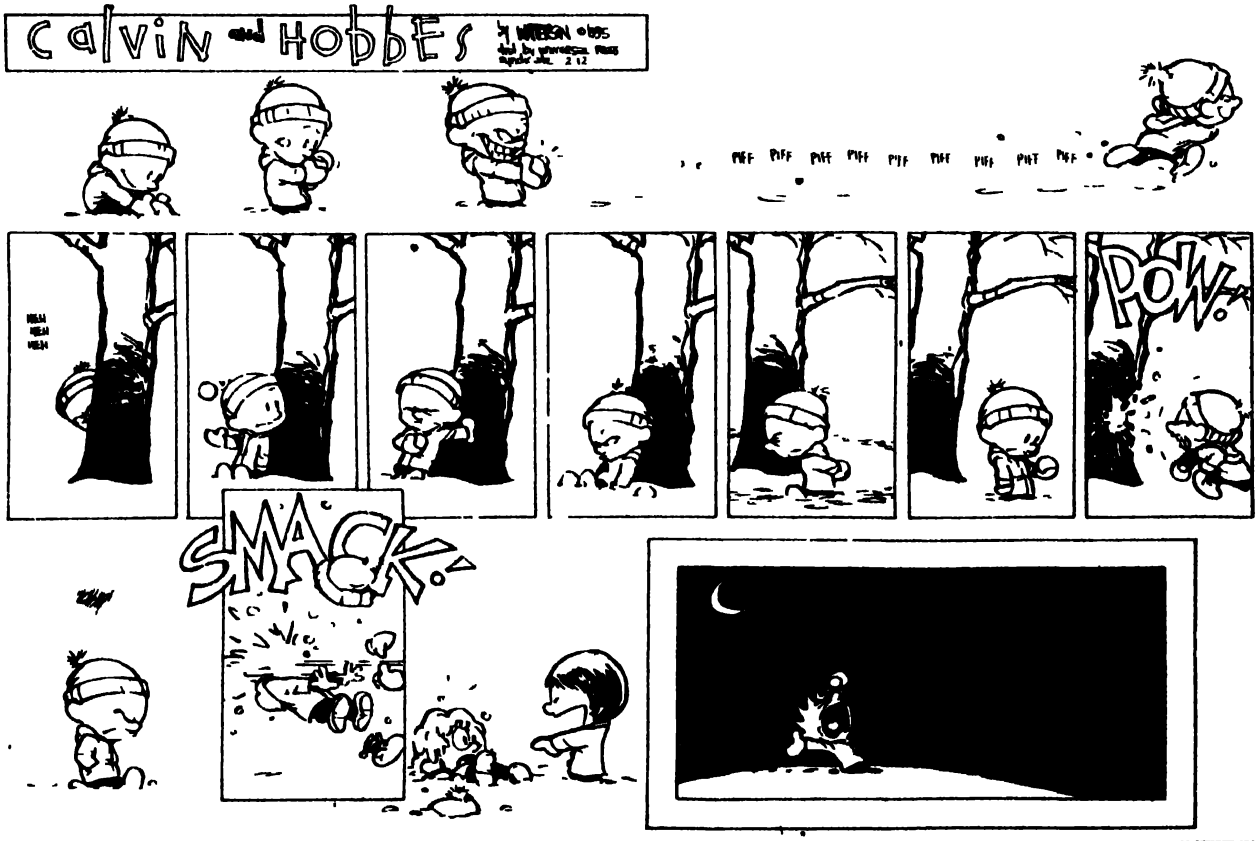
Possible twosome Lend dips

COMICS

ARCHIE

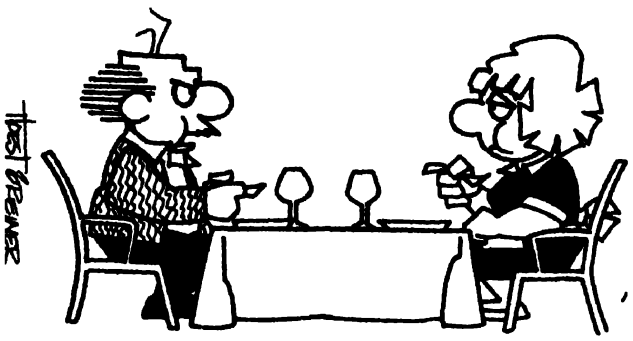


CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



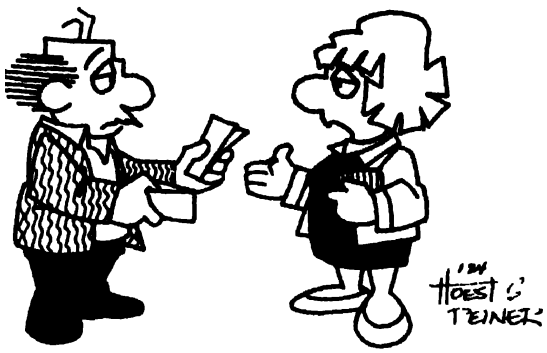
THE LOCKHORNS

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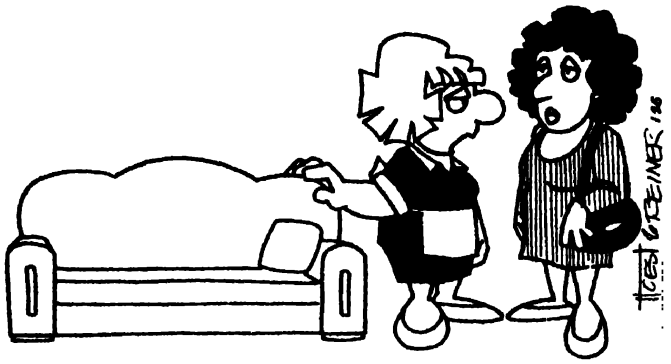


"THIS ISN'T PHEASANT-UNDER-GLASS, LORETTA IT'S CHICKEN UNDER-COOKED"

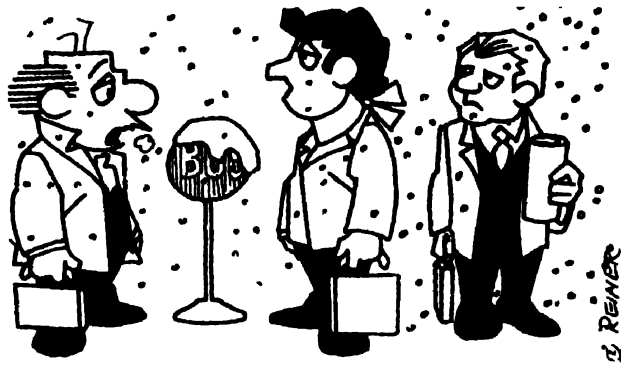
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"YOU COULD TEACH THE MILITARY A THING OR TWO ABOUT POCKETS OF RESISTANCE."

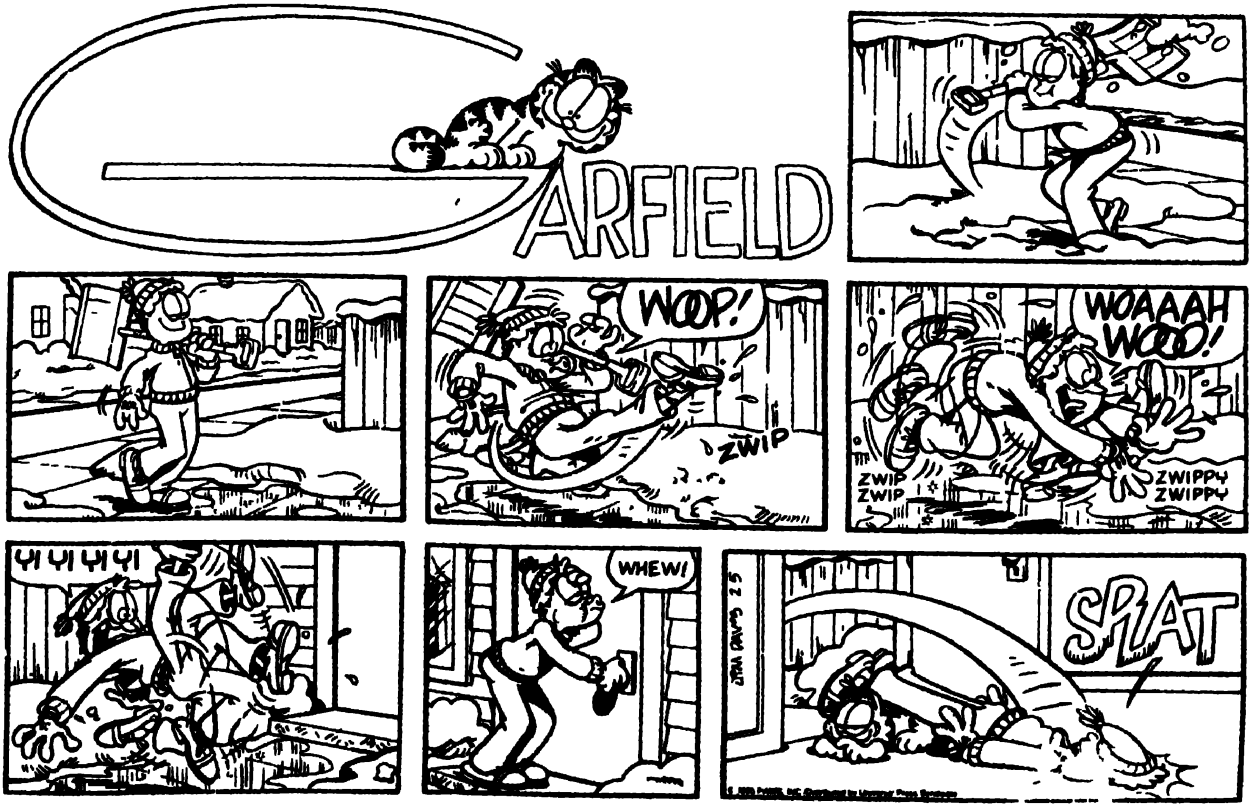


"TO LEROY, THIS IS MAN'S BEST FRIEND."



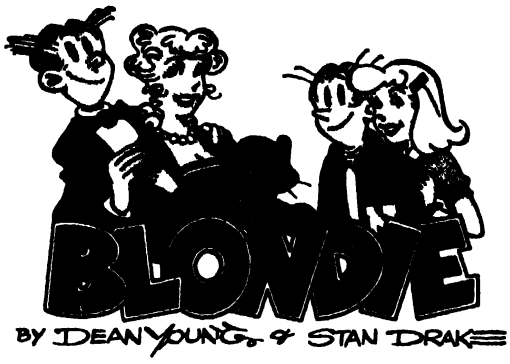
"RETIRE? ME? . . AND EAT LUNCH AT HOME, TOO?"

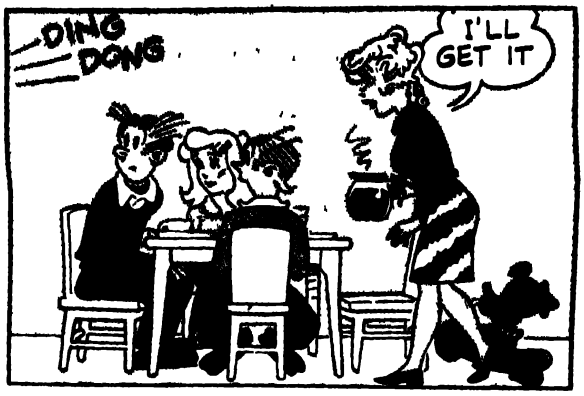
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

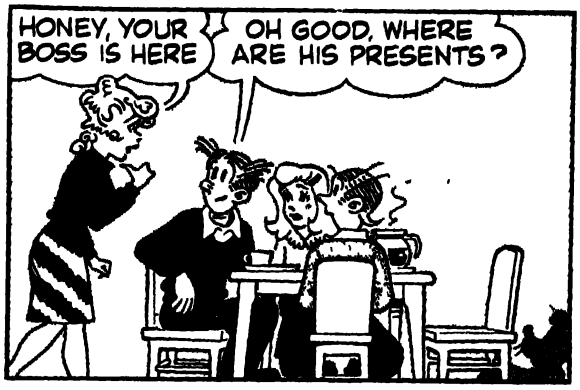


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

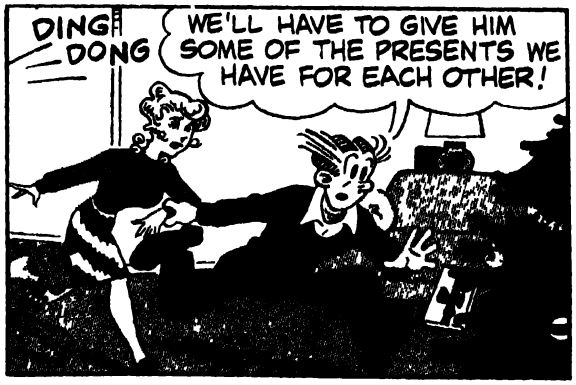


















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FOCUS

SUITABLE GIRL?



When it comes to the crunch, would you give your brief to Anjali Kapur?

KHUSHWANT SINGH

Author, journalist, scholar, columnist and self-confessedly "not a nice man to know"

Yes, I would hire her as a lawyer if she is good at her work The fact that she looks good without clothes and whether she would be good as a lawyer are two different things

I think all this noise over her posing in the semi-nude and about overstepping her professional ethics as lawyer is useless She has every right to do what she wants and I don't think she had done this as a publicity gimmick

I don't think other men in the legal profession or any other field should get biased against her I am a male and I am not biased because I don't see any reason for it

MANU PAREKH,

Artist

Being a painter I would have hired her both for modelling and as a lawyer

If she is good and competent as a model, there is no reason why she would not be good as a lawyer

One should know and be good in his or her profession and that should be the criterion for judging someone's work What she did was her personal choice and should, in no way, be a reflection on her professional capabilities

I, for one, would not like to mix the two and sit on judgement over her

In our society, many times we need cultural shocks like this to galvanise us into focusing on and broadening our attitudes on certain issues There was a time when a career in films was not considered good for girls and they were looked down upon Today, girls from respectable families are the ones who are doing well on the silver screen So everything takes time to gain acceptance

SONAL MANSINGH

Dancer and woman of true grit

If I need a lawyer and if someone suggests her name I would certainly not overlook her just because she has posed for some soft-porn magazine

I have not met her or spoken to her so I do not know whether she is a good lawyer, but if she was, yes, I would consider hiring her

Anjali is not the first woman to do this Protima Bedi, too, had done something similar when she ran naked on a beach in Bombay more than 20 years ago Today, she has a Nrityagram, support and extended partonage

I feel that what Anjali did was her own private matter for which she may have her own reasons If she is good, brilliant and young, I don't see any reason why it should come in the way of her being a good lawyer as well

PROTIMA BEDI

Dancer, managing trustee of Nrityagram and original iconoclast

Why are they making a big noise about Anjali Kapur's posing? I think it's cruel to put the whole burden of morality on the shoulders of women, and men having no role at all to play

Nobody objects to men smoking, drinking or being lecherous, but anything a woman does, becomes a moral issue It's time women shrugged off this mantle and didn't care about what the others say

I have seen men lifting their dhoti and blowing their nose, displaying the crotch in the bargain But if an intelligent, educated smart woman decides to do whatever she wants for some reason, she is immediately hauled over the coals

I wish her plenty of energy and strength — that's if she needs it

AMIT CHAUDHURI

Author

If she were good, I would hire her

And I am not being tight-lipped or taciturn

MAHESH JETHMALANI

Lawyer, with accent on big causes

Her competence is what matters If I needed a lawyer to fight my case and I felt she could handle it competently enough, I see no reason not to employ her Her morals do not come into question in this case

Much as I wish I had seen the pictures, if Kapur did indeed pose in a lawyer's robe, it was not right If she posed in a bikini or whatever, it would be perfectly all right If she were a criminal lawyer — which are the kind of cases my firm handles — and could do her job well, I see no reason not to employ her in my firm

PRASAD BIDAPPA

Fashion designer and choreographer

Hats off to her After all, it is her body and she is free to do what she wants to do As a practising lawyer, she is obviously a very bright girl, who wants to do modelling as well

I have no qualms about Anjali taking up my brief, though people

could be prejudiced against her I don't think there is anything wrong in her pursuing both the careers as she seems to be a combination of beauty and brains

G. R. KHAIRNAR

Ex-Bombay MunicipalCommissioner and crusader

My employing her as my lawyer would depend entirely on her merit However, since the matter is not socially acceptable in our country, she could have refrained from doing it

There are certain customs and traditions that are followed in our society and there is no point in changing the *status quo* just for the sake of it

DR PRAKASH KOTHARI

Sexologist who needs no introduction

I would definitely have employed Anjali Kapur as my lawyer if she could handle the case well and competently

It is her intellect that has to be judged here What she does with her personal life is entirely her business

MAITREYI CHATTERJEE

Author and women's rights activist

My criteria for hiring her would be her professional capability and personal integrity While hiring a lawyer one would obviously go for the kind who would be immune to bribes from the opposing side If Anjali Kapur has shown her comepetence as a lawyer, I would hire her

As a woman I would not be comfortable with the thought of another woman voluntarily posing in the nude for a tasteless magazine After all, it is a matter of shame that she should expose herself for the sake of titillating men No matter how beautiful her body, or how aesthetically satisfying, it is voyeurism at its best

On the other hand, the Bar Secretary has laid down that if a man has two wives, it is his personal affair Does it not violate the Hindu Marriage Act according to which a man is not entitled to having two wives simultaneously?

Just because a woman strips for a magazine, it becomes more than a personal matter, and to make things worse, her profession is dragged into it Our legal custodians have claimed she has tainted the noble profession of

PARITOSH SEN

Artist

As an average citizen, I believe in a certain amount of professional ethics By that I mean your profession does put you through some kind of restrictions If someone were to ask my opinion about the works of my colleagues, I would not venture to comment on them, for it would go against the grain, professionally

While I do enjoy looking at disrobed young females, it is again a separate matter, and has nothing to do with a model's profession, or my own Besides, I have a clinical interest in the nudity of the female figure

Were I to consider giving my suit to her, I'd have to find out whether it has any repercussions on my own life or profession Her nudity has really nothing to do with her capabilities as a lawyer At the same time, she has a weakness for publicity, not minding when it comes to exhibiting herself

I'd like to know whether she is a professional model or a professional lawyer, and these two things don't go together As a lawyer it was not necessary for her to bare herself If she were a professional model, I would have no objections

After all, one has to be committed to one's chosen field of activity -- at all cost.

RAHUL DEV

Model, including for condoms

As long as she was merely trying to prove a point, there was nothing wrong in what she did She has every right to take up modelling as a hobby even while continuing as an advocate and it was unjust of her colleagues to make such a big issue of her posing in the semi-nude

I am myself an electronics engineer with the UB group while simultaneously working as a model

I would have no hangups whatsoever were Anjali to handle my case, though in a male dominated society like ours, there would be prejudices against her

I feel it is entirely up to her to choose the profession she finds most lucrative, without being subjected to unfair comments

SUNIL GANGOPADHYAY

Author, poet and Smiling Buddha of Bengali literature and life

My hiring her would depend entirely on the lawsuit Were I to seek legal help, I would not be too concerned about the lawyer's personal life, or what she chooses to do in her spare time

I would judge her on the basis of her merit in the legal profession To my knowledge, Anjali Kapur has the capabilities of being an effective lawyer

And if I know that my lawyer is dauntless, capable of breaking barriers and established conventions, why, I would all the more root for her! She'd be my first choice

RITU BERI

Fashion designer who, perhaps, should have been model



I don't know much about her as a lawyer, but if she is good at her work and if I had a case, of course, I would hire her

As far as I am concerned she could have gone on and posed in the nude, and not just semi-nude That would not have affected my choice of her as a lawyer because it is Anjali Kapur as a lawyer that I would be hiring and would not sit on judgement over her personal life I think if she did what she she felt like doing by posing so, there is absolutely nothing wrong about it

ANANDA SHANKAR

Music and dance composer, and game for most things

I would have no objections really There are two sides to every person the personal and the professional What she chooses to do in her private life should not make any difference to the way she functions as a lawyer

Why do we have to create so much fuss over a woman who had courage? She could have even been a doctor If Anjali Kapur can put up a case properly, I'd respect her for it

Inputs from Rajlakshmi Bhattacharyya, Geeta Sharma, Ramakrishna Upadhyay and Vaishali Honawar

RASOI

JIGGS KALRA



When one thinks of a curry in the north, it evokes an image of a *shorbewali/tarriwali* dish, be it *qorma, saalan* or *makhani* The word 'curry' has become synonymous with a spicy gravy Few are aware that the word owes its origin to the Tamil *kari*, which, contrary to popular belief, doesn't always have to be a thin gravy

The wonderful aspect of the *kari* of the south is that they are usually made with the minimum of fuss The *kari* below are, in fact, made without even peeling the garlic The recipes are from what is arguably the finest Indian restaurant in the land, Dakshin

KOZHI UPPAKARI

INGREDIENTS
16 Chicken drumsticks

The Marination
200 g / 7 oz Ginger
3 g / 1 tsp Turmeric powder
Salt

The *Masala*
90 ml / 6 tbs Gingelly (or any other cooking) oil
8 whole dried Red Chillies
3 sticks Cinnamon (1")
2 25 g / 1/2 tsp Mustard seeds
7 5 g / 1 tbs Fennel seeds
7 g / 1 1/2 tsp husked *Urad daal*
10 flakes Garlic
165 g / 1 1/2 cups Onions
110 g / 1 1/4 lb Tomatoes
15 g / 5 tsp Coriander powder
4 5 g / 1 1/2 tsp Red Chilli powder
3 g / 1 tsp Turmeric powder
Salt
16 Curry leaves

Serves: 4
Preparation time: 30 minutes
Cooking time: 25 minutes

PREPARATION
The chicken: Clean, remove the sinews, wash, pat dry and make three incisions on each drumstick (for better marination)
The marination: Scrape ginger, cut into small pieces and extract the juice Mix with turmeric and salt, rub the drumsticks evenly with this marinade and reserve for 20 minutes
The *Masala* Wipe red chillies clean with moist cloth Crush garlic **without** peeling Peel, wash and chop onions Remove eyes, wash and chop tomatoes Clean, wash and pat dry curry leaves

COOKING
Heat oil in a *kadhai/wok*, add whole dried red chillies, stir over medium heat until they become slightly darker (approximately 15-20 seconds), add cinnamon, mustard and fennel seeds, *urad daal* and garlic, stir for a few seconds, add 60 ml / 1/4 cup of water and *bhunno*/stir-fry until garlic is light golden Then add onions *bhunno*/stir-fry for three-four minutes, add the marinated chicken, stir, add 60 ml / 1/4 cup of water and *bhunno*/stir-fry until the fat leaves the sides and the *masala* nappes the chicken Now add the coriander, red chilli and turmeric powders (all dissolved in 45 ml / 3 tbs of water), stir, add salt and *bhunno*/ stir-fry until the chicken is cooked Remove and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE
Remove to an *urli* and serve with *Idduappam*

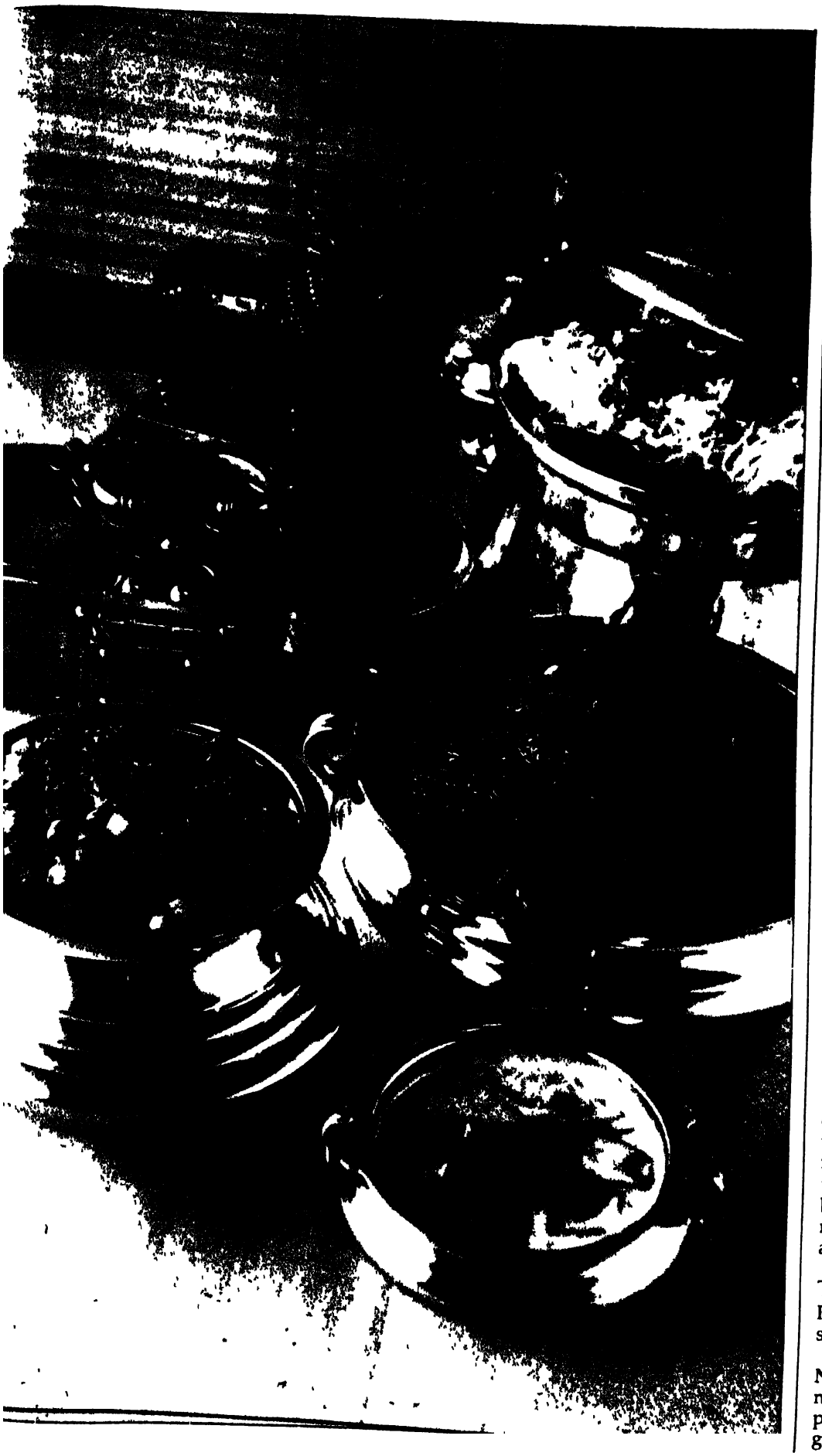


KAI KARI MANDI

INGREDIENTS
250 g / 9 oz Butter beans
200 g / 7 oz Okra
200 g / 7 oz Tamarind
A generous pinch of Asafoetida
90 ml / 6 tbs Gingelly (or any other cooking) oil
8 whole dried Red Chillies
3 sticks Cinnamon (1")
4 5 g / 1 tsp Mustard seeds
4 g / 2 tsp Cumin seeds
3 5 g / 3/4 tsp Fenugreek seeds
12 flakes Garlic
165 g / 1 1/2 cups Onions
110 g / 1/4 lb Tomatoes
15 g / 5 tsp Coriander powder
4 5 g / 1 1/2 tsp Red Chilli powder
3 g / 1 tsp Turmeric powder
Salt
16 Curry leaves

Serves: 4
Preparation time: 1 45 hours
Cooking time: 35 minutes

PREPARATION
The butter beans: Wash and then boil until cooked but not squishy
The okra: Wash, pat dry, remove caps and tips and then cut into 1" long pieces



The whole dried red chillies: Wipe clean with moist cloth
The remaining vegetables: Crush garlic **without** peeling Peel, wash and chop onions. Remove eyes, wash and chop tomatoes Clean, wash and pat dry curry leaves
The tamarind: Reserve in 2 litres / 8 1/2 cups of water in which rice has been washed for 90 minutes
The asafoetida: Reserve in 30 ml / 2 tbs of water

COOKING

Heat oil in a *kadhai/wok*, add whole dried red chillies, stir over medium heat until they become slightly darker (approximately 15-20 seconds), add mustard, cumin and fenugreek seeds, stir, add garlic and *bhunno/* stir-fry until garlic is light golden Then add onions *bhunno/*stir-fry until onions are light brown Add tomatoes and *bhunno/* stir-fry for three-four minutes Then add the coriander, red chilli and turmeric powders (all dissolved in 45 ml / 3 tbs of water), stir, add salt and *bhunno/* stir-fry until the fat leaves the sides Strain the tamarind water into the *kadhai/wok*, add the reserved asafoetida alongwith the water, bring to a boil and continue to boil over high heat for 20 minutes or until the gravy is of a medium-thick sauce consistency Now add the okra, stir, reduce to medium heat, cook for 2-3 minutes, add the curry leaves and the boiled butter beans and cook for 2-3 minutes Remove and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE

Remove to an *urli* and serve with *Idd1appam*

NOTE: All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross ■

UDUPI RAJAGOPALACHARYA ANANTHAMURTHY, *the last winner of the Jnanpith Award for literature, is one of the foremost cultural ambassadors of the country. Currently chairman of the Sahitya Akademi, Dr Ananthamurthy has penned outstanding Kannada novels like* Samskara, Bharatipura *and* Avaste *which have been translated into many Indian and foreign languages. A poet of great calibre, he is also known for his short stories like* Ghatashraddha *and* Mauni. *A former chairman of the National Book Trust and vice-chancellor of the Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam, Dr Ananthamurthy is hugely popular in American universities, where he regularly lectures on both Indian and English literature.*



Mushtaq Ahmed

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Talking with very dear friends who can disagree with me and who can provoke me enough to change my views

What is your greatest fear?
Having to spend a long time alone with a cynic

Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
Two people have profoundly moved and provoked me Gopalakrishna Adiga, a poet who writes in my language, and Ram Manohar Lohia

What do you dislike most in others?
An egoistic arrogance, which is not necessarily ideological

What do you dislike most in yourself?
An absentmindedness which sometimes makes me forget what I owe to people who are very dear to me

What is your most precious possession?
Pen

What objects do you always carry?
Pen and a book, which I may not read

What makes you most depressed?
Many times my doing nothing and my feeling of helplessness in not being able to carry out my obvious duties

What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My boyish plumpness

What is your favourite word?
Two words in Kannada *Aala* and *gahana* (deep, and profound)

What is your favourite journey?
Back to my village near Thirthahalli in Karnataka, which I rarely visit

What is your favourite dream?
Wandering in the woods which I did as a child

What is your nightmare?
Failing in my mathematics paper

What or who is the greatest love of your life?
It's different at different times My father was a constant preoccupation in my life when he was alive and also after death

What is your source of sustenance?
A sense of surprise about myself when I do things I had not foreseen

On what occasions do you lie?
When I don't want to hurt an acquaintance I don't lie to friends

What is your greatest regret?
That I did not cultivate unsociability, a capacity to be alone sometimes

What has been your happiest moment?
When I have written a good story or a poem, and when I have made somebody I care happy

What brings tears to your eyes?
Bhakti (which I hide)

How do you relax?
Often listening to music or reading a book

What do you envy most in others?
Perpetual capacity for creativity like that of a musician But I have to wait for it

How would you like to be remembered?
As someone who didn't hesitate to ask the most inconvenient questions

How would you like to die?
Without much suffering, suddenly

What do you dislike most in others?

An egoistic arrogance, which is not necessarily ideological

How would you like to be remembered?

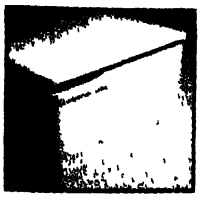
As someone who didn't hesitate to ask the most inconvenient questions

What is your nightmare?

Failing in my mathematics paper

Presenting the new Cold Gold Deluxe.

The idea is beauty with an accent on utility



The only 165 lt refrigerator in its class with a soft look and all white interiors From the flush recessed door handle to the crystal clear vegetable and butter trays this refrigerator says it all in terms of style Besides sporting a whole new host of flexible features like the new **shelf-flap.**



Soft looks.
All white interiors.
And very, very flexible.

That can be raised to create room for additional bottles Or even a tall jug A **snugger.** Which holds your bottles in place So they don t shake or tumble when you close the door



There s even an **extra mini-shelf** on the door To hold small items Or the odd chocolates

And the **moisture control.** Which lets you adjust the moisture level in your vegetable crisper So vegetables stay fresh Longer

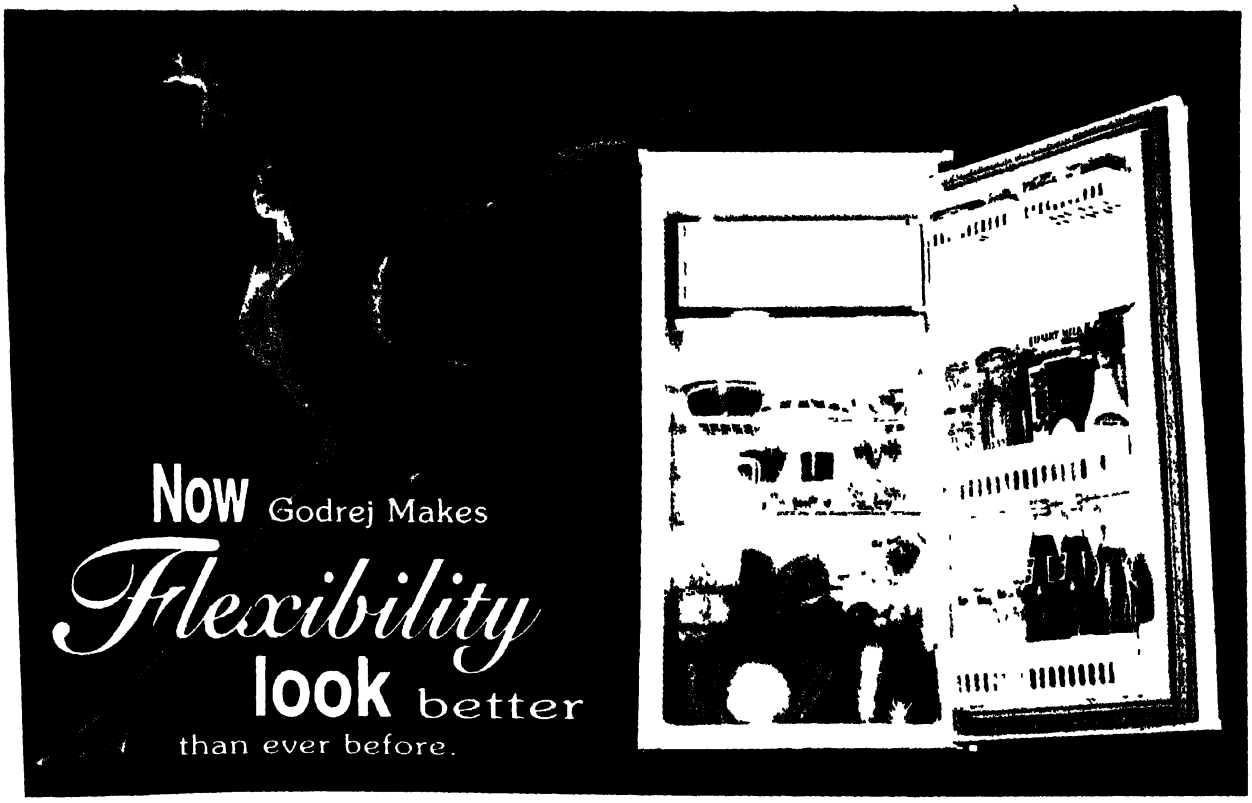


Plus **adjustable shelves** that let you design the interiors of your Cold Gold Deluxe The way you want it

What s more, all this comes with the advantages of PU F

The new Cold Gold Deluxe from Godrej.

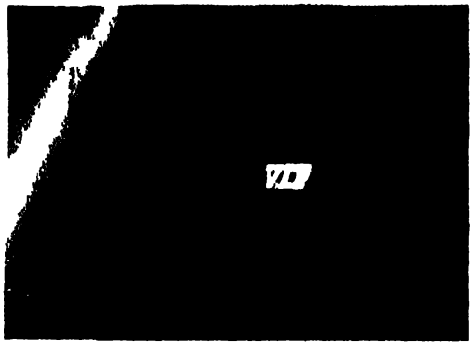
Any way you look at it, it s a winner



Godrej REFRIGERATORS
THE PROMISE OF GOOD LIVING

COLD GOLD
Deluxe
FLEXIBLE REFRIGERATOR

HTA 2446 95

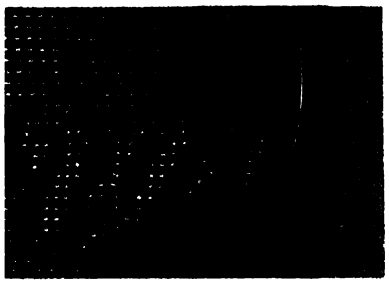


SUITABLE TRAVEL WEAR FOR A PALACE-ON-WHEELS HOLIDAY

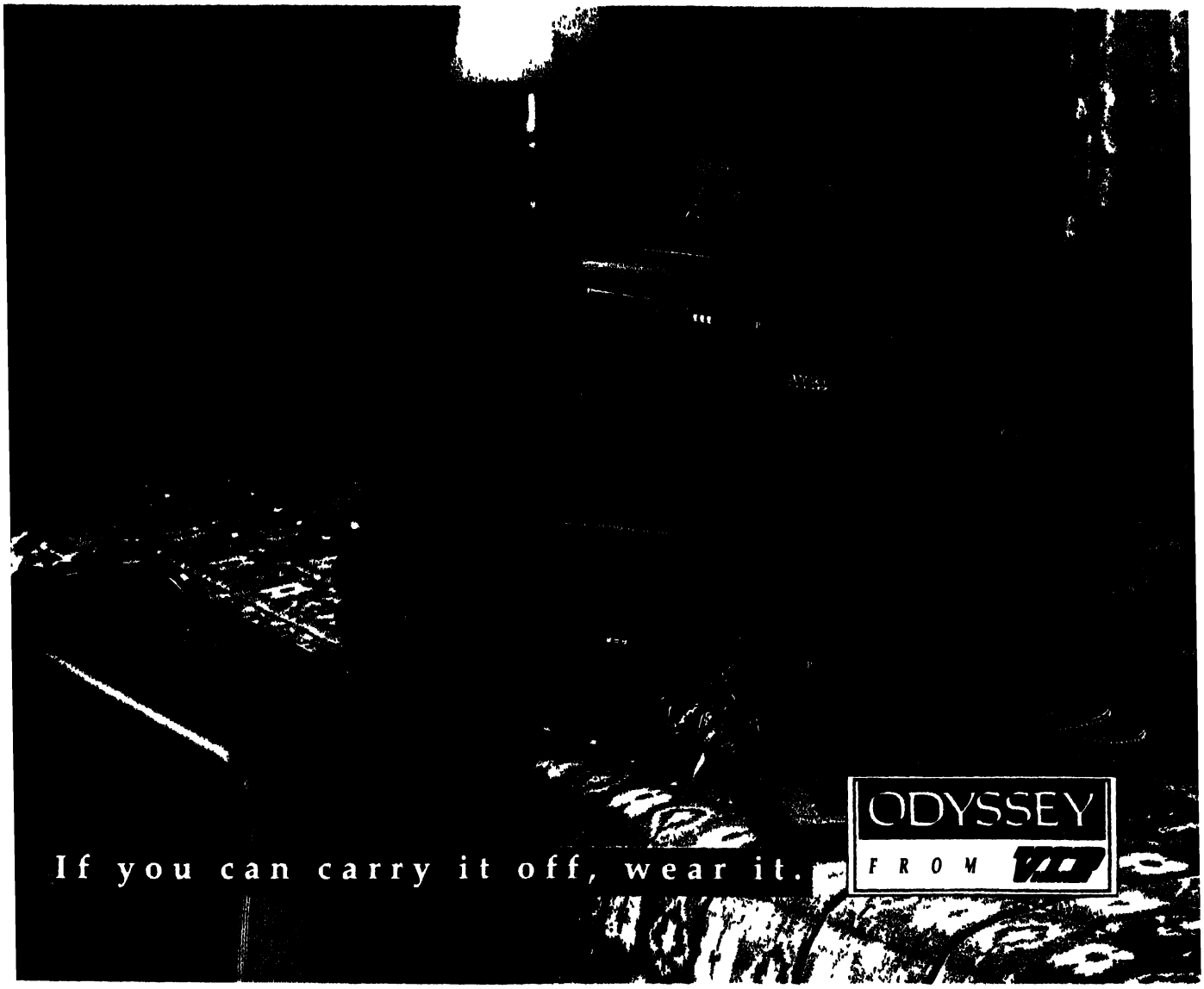
Pack in the lifestyle of a Maharaja With Odyssey From VIP

It's more than just luggage It's a symbol of luxury

The smoothest ride on wheels Check the plush interiors The impeccable finish The unexpected details When you are travelling first class, you've got to wear the style to match



Suitcases Rs 1445/- onwards Briefcases Rs 1125/- onwards Vanity Cases Rs 1245/-



The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

To Live Life Yet

■ 'Life at 80' (January 29) made delightful reading as it was peppered with R K. Narayan's ready wit.

It is true, old age to most brings visions of grey hair, wrinkled skin and suffering But to some it is also a time for enjoyment and relaxation, after retirement one can pursue one's hobbies

What is, however, frightening is the prospect of becoming useless in the eyes of society and family All their toils in life are forgotten — even by their own children — and they are left to themselves

Perhaps, a few more geriatric homes could take care of these helpless people

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore

■ Octogenarians are living symbols of the Tennysonian philosophy To strike, to live, to find and not yield

Old age is the beginning of a new life — with new hopes and new dreams They should serve as an inspiration to the idle youth of today.

It is people like Bhabatosh Dutta and others who make old age look like an adventure Their experiences make us appreciate the coming of old age.

Shabina Omar,
Calcutta



A symbol of hope

■ My grandfather is 92 and can still read the newspaper without his glasses, he writes a column for a local journal, walks miles with the aid of a stick and is full of life.

Such good health and vigour are possible only because of a disciplined life, regular exercise, a controlled diet and abstinence from alcohol and smoking

Md. Sajid Hossain,
Calcutta

■ It is sad the article did not mention Mother Teresa's name among the people above 80 although her contribution to society is incomparable It is a shame we forget such noble souls whose lives are dedicated for the betterment of society The active life of Mother is an example for others to follow

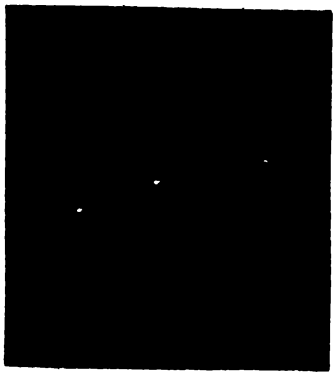
Manali Das,
Calcutta

■ In mentioning the names of some of the great personalities in their eighties, mention should have been made of Nirad C Chaudhuri who is as fit as a fiddle even in his nineties

Sanjiv Dutta,
Calcutta

■ R K. Narayan has woven a beautiful article on the autumn of his life Contrary to his views, respect for octogenarians is not for their old age, but for their wisdom they have gained

Manoj K. Jain,
Shyamnagar (W B)



Rupinder Sharma

PAGE 4

IT MAY not be that easy, but as they would say, throw away that old Ambi or Maruti and step into a Cielo, a Citroen, a Ferrari or an Opel Astra instead With the zooming in of foreign cars, the Indian market is being steered on another course altogether more style, more value for money

SECTIONS

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Cover Volkswagen, photograph by Rupinder Sharma

COVER STORY

Here They Are!

Foreign cars are parp-parping in, says ***Jayanta Roy Chowdhury****, much to the delight of the Indian market*

Photographs by Rupinder Sharma

GLITTERING SLEEK AUDIS, MERCEDES BENZS AND PEUGEOTS will soon be vying for space with old, smoke-belching Ambassadors and Premier Padminis on Indian roads. By the turn of the century, say analysts, the Indian market will become the second largest car market in the world as more and more global car manufacturers make a beeline for the Indian market.

The Great Indian Car Bazaar that the big leaguers from Germany, the US, Japan and Korea wish to steer in, promises to be a marketing man's dream-come-true with about 16 new models being introduced in the country.

And a bewildering new range for the Indian consumer — used as he is to choosing from the few, outdated and overpriced models that are manufactured here.

Rising incomes, increasing urbanisation, easier financing and a breakdown of the public transport system have led to a boom in personal vehicles. The demand is expected to grow four-fold from a current 240,000 cars to over a million by the year 2001.

Mercedes The best in luxury

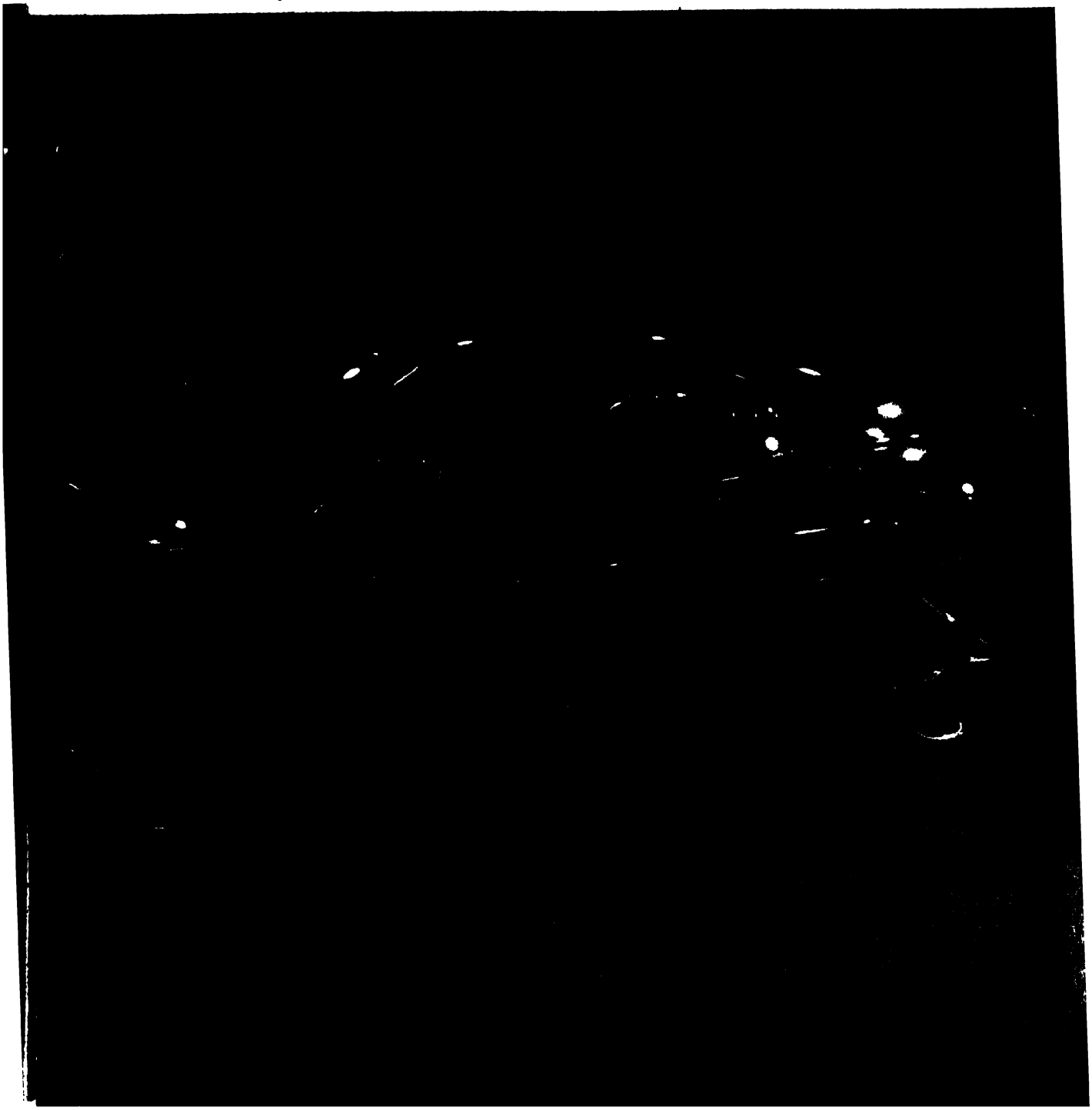


And the market size is slated to increase five-fold, from Rs 5,500 crore annually to k 25,000 crore by the turn of the century.

Studies conducted by the Association of Indian Automobile Manufacturers as well as by individual car makers like Daewoo, Mercedes and Peugeot, indicate that the market can be expected to grow by about 15 per cent in the next two years and then go steeply up to 33 per cent in 1997-98. Growth rates will remain between 20 per cent and 30 per cent thereafter.

Realising this, multinational automobile majors, which are facing stagnating demands in their home markets, are striking alliances with Indian partners to bring in their latest models And existing nervous domestic manufacturers are trying desperately to find ways

Ferrari: The new status symbol





Audi Smooth and sleek

POURING IT IN

Seven out of 10 buyers of new cars in this country purchase their automobiles with loans from a host of small and big financiers The reasons are obvious — Indians traditionally are low savers and they lack the hard cash needed to splurge on life's luxuries

"Cars were the exclusive preserve of the rich till the Eighties, when car financing really came into this country," says Dhruv Prakash, chief of DCM Finance Limited "We made cars a middle class necessity by providing ordinary people with loans to buy their dream cars " Obviously in the process the financiers made a neat packet

Financiers will give car loans to anybody whose income is three times the monthly instalment payable and who has a record of financial stability The interest rates are, of course, extremely high Financiers say they charge a flat rate of 10-12 per cent on the loaned amount But the innocuous words "flat rate" mean that the interest charged works out to a compounded rate of 19-23 per cent!

Financiers give out car loans worth Rs 3,000 crore every year and this is expected to go up six-fold to Rs 18,000 crore by the beginning of the next century

Car financing has acted as a catalyst in fuelling demand in the automobile market, a fact which every car manufacturer admits readily "Without them, Maruti would not have been a success story," admits a Maruti spokesperson

But what made these financiers come forth in such large numbers suddenly? A change in the law which permits financiers to repossess the vehicles they finance in case a borrower refuses to pay back Earlier this was possible, but a financier had to go through a very difficult and cumbersome legal procedure At one stage financiers like Citibank reportedly had to use muscle gangs to get back defaulters' cars to survive

With such a large number of models coming in, marketeers will try every possible tactic to expand and sustain the market A price war in the car market is certainly on its way A Suzuki or a Maruti 800 which sells for Rs 1 80 lakh in India sells for about a lakh in West Asia Though taxes and duties account for about a third of an Indian car's price, it is still over-priced compared to similar cars abroad

The coming war will not only bring down prices, it will also eat into the profit margins of car companies and force them to find ways to make even cheaper cars, feel analysts They predict that there will be an eventual shake-out in the automobile industry "and quite a few players will take a tumble just as they did in Europe and the US in the Seventies and Eighties, when big companies like Chrysler and General Motors virtually collapsed"

Several car models such as the perennial favourite Ambassador are expected "to become history" One logical fallout will be the creation of well-defined segments

"The new market will be segmented into four basic sections — budget cars, family coupes, luxury cars and super-luxury salons," says R C Bhargava,

chairman of Maruti Udyog, the country s largest car maker

Market analysts expect Maruti 800 to continue to rule the roast in the budget car segment, which accounts for the largest chunk of the market, despite the car's price graph increasing sharply over the years And that is simply because of a lack of a viable competitor

The only competitors who have announced their decision to move into this segment are Telco which plans to go in for an indigenous design, Bajaj which is still scouting around for a partner and Uno, which Premier Automobiles hopes to make in collaboration with the Italian car maker, Fiat

Unconfirmed reports, however, say Renault too may bring in its Twingo model in collaboration with the Hinduja-owned Ashok Leyland company The European small car is, however, currently facing stiff competition from cheap Japanese cars in its own home market

Waiting in the wings and checking out what the Indian market has in store are big names like Ferrari, Daihatsu and Fuji But so far the two door 1000 cc Uno may pose the only real threat to the Maruti hegemony Bhargava does not feel threatened "Competition will not overwhelm Maruti We will remain the market leaders"

An industry analyst, S K Ghosh, adds "Perhaps, the term 'budget cars' is a misnomer in the Indian context With Maruti making virtually everything needed to turn out a car here in India, it will be very difficult for any other car maker to beat them in terms of costs, specially if they try to import parts and assemble here"

If rival car manufacturers wish to duplicate the Maruti model of building everything here, then they will have to invest heavily But with global interest rates going up this will prove to be a 'prohibitively costly affair'

Realising this quite a few well-known budget car makers, including Citroen and Volvo, backed out at the last moment after making quite a few preliminary studies and holding long-winded discussions with Indian business leaders

Most car makers have consequently targeted the family and luxury segments There is, of course, another reason for foreign car makers to target the costlier family segment where prices are expected to range between Rs 3 5 lakh and Rs 5 lakh

Projections prepared by DC M Daewoo and Escher Motors estimate that the maximum growth would be in this segment from some 45,000 cars annually to about 3 lakh, a more than six-fold rise in just five years

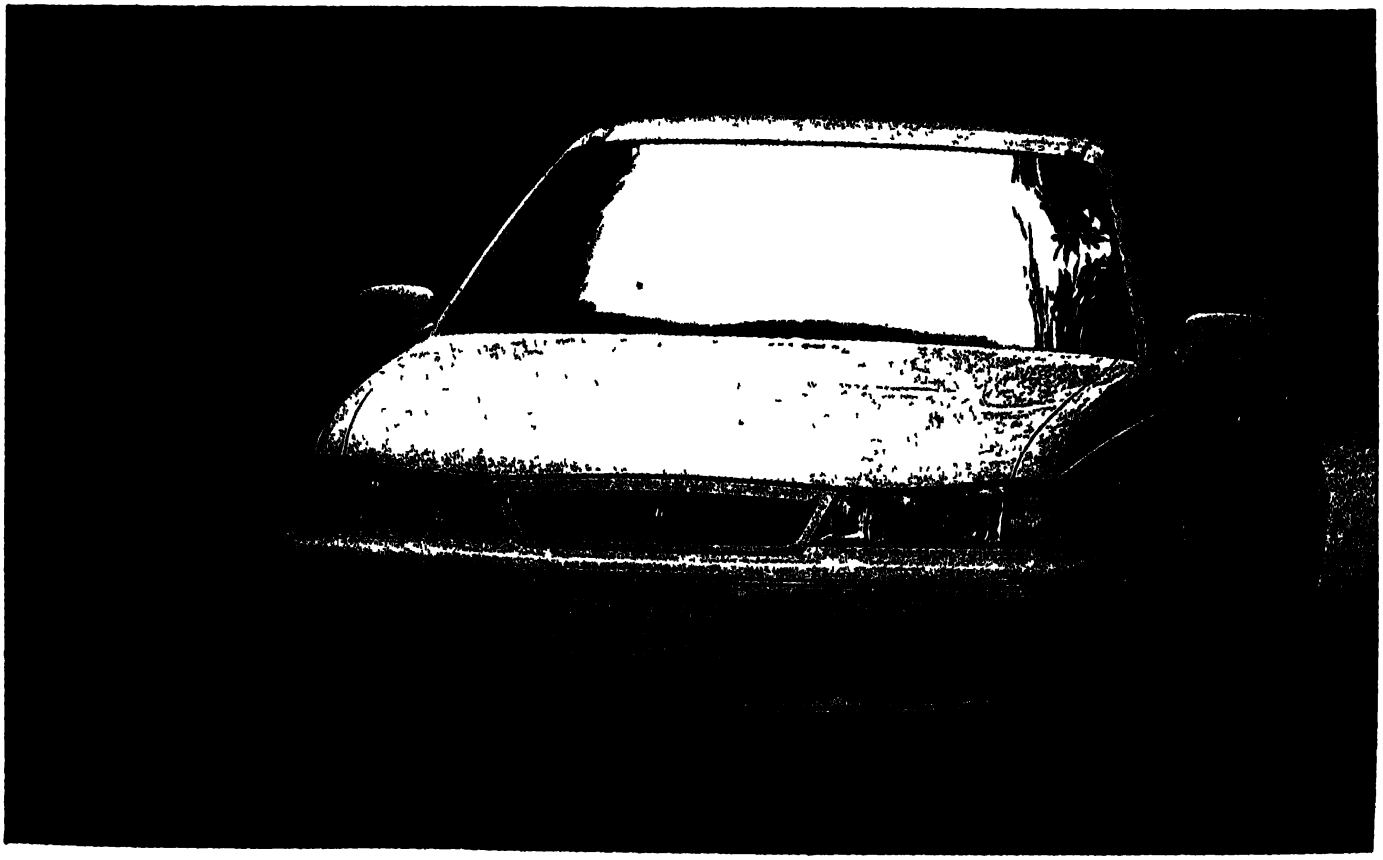
Entering the family segment are Peugeot 309 to be made by Premier Automobiles, Cielo from DCM Daewoo and Volkswagen Gl to be made by Volkswagen AG and Escher Motors These cars are expected to pose a tough challenge to Maruti's Esteem and Hind Motor's Contessa which at present are the only cars available in this segment

Says Murad Ali Baig, a former automobile marketeer and currently columnist for a leading Bombay-based newspaper chain, "Each of these new cars is an engineer's delight and extremely popular abroad I would not give much to a bookie asking for bets on the survival of cars like the Contessa"

However, even the manufacturers of Contessa are fighting hard to face the challenge Market sources say they are tying up with Mitsubishi to remodel and retool their unwieldy car into a sleeker, more powerful machine to be sold at the same price Contessa, which has the body of the Seventies' model Vauxhall and Eighties' Isuzu engine has been badly hit ever since a host of cars in this range started coming into the market

The costlier luxury segment with prices between Rs 5 and Rs 7 5 lakh, will feature Opel Astra to be

Cielo Move over, Maruti 1000





Jogindar Chawla

Maruti manufacturing unit and (inset) R.C Bhargava, chairman, Maruti

manufactured jointly by General Motors and Hindustan Motors and Audi 1800 cc to be made by Eicher But the true blooded Indian industrialists, vying for a place in the Asian *Fortune* 500 list will of course, book one of the cars which are being dubbed 'super-luxuries'

The Goenkas, the Singhanias and Chhabrias will get the opportunity to buy Mercedes Benz E-220, Audi 6 (1800 cc) and Rover Montegos by the middle of next year when the first batches of these cars will roll out of their factories in India

At prices over Rs 8 lakh and reaching upto Rs 20 lakh, these cars will have every amenity conceivable A total electronic system to control everything from push-back seats to winding up windows, anti-lock braking systems and dashboards which open up on impact and, of course, an air-conditioned interior and a travelling mini-bar

Manufacturers say special add-ons can be ordered that will add up to the final price by anything between Rs 2 lakh to 10 lakh Special lighting, Bose speaker systems, collapsible beds, in-built televisions, videos, word-processors and even tiny computers which fold into the armrest are among features which can be ordered

But besides the huge domestic market most car makers from the West feel they can use their low cost Indian operations to take on competition in the

Bhargava does not feel threatened. 'Competition will not overwhelm Maruti. We will remain the market leaders'

Asia-Pacific region from cheaper cars made in the Far East Volkswagen vice-president, Lutz Wagner, in fact goes to the extent of saying, "India is our number one priority operation "

However, most car manufacturers are merely trying to set up assemblyline operations taking advantage of the new government policy which permits import of knocked-down kits at a 50 per cent duty Investment in kit assembly operations can be as low as a few crores of rupees This explains why car dealers like Sai and Autoriders are thinking of going in for assemblylines

This, perhaps, is another reason why the newcomers are going in for the upper-end of the market At a 50 per cent duty, assembled budget cars will simply not be able to take on the Maruti 800, in which something like 85 per cent of the components are

MARUTI REVS UP

With a host of state-of-the-art cars entering the Indian market, automobile giant Maruti Udyog Limited is readying itself to take on the challenge.

Next month, Maruti chief R.C. Bhargava will be meeting directors of the Suzuki company, which has a 50 per cent stake in Maruti, to discuss future strategies.

Maruti wants another Rs 1,500 crore and new car designs to set up a second factory which will churn out Suzuki's latest models for Indian roads in a bid to shake off the threat posed by Uno, Peugeot, Telco and Volkswagen

Maruti knows its market share (at present about 60 per cent) is bound to slip. Even the company chief admits. "By the turn of the century we will have lost some of our share. .the incoming competition is tough, very tough."

Analysts estimate Maruti will lose about 15 to 20 per cent of its share of the market within the next five years and be forced to lower prices as well as scrap controversial schemes like 'Takal' which provide for on-the-spot delivery of cars on payment of a premium of Rs 30,000.

The signs are showing already With the introduction of Cielo, reports indicate that several thousand customers have cancelled earlier bookings of Maruti Esteem. Nevertheless, it will remain the biggest single entity in the Indian car market and continue to affect every single decision taken by rival car makers. As Rahul Bajaj, chief of the Bombay-based Bajaj Autos, said recently, "Most car makers are unwilling to take on Maruti."

The company which was the brainchild of the late Sanjay Gandhi has to date faced a protected market with government licensing norms not allowing any other vehicle manufacturer to enter the budget car segment

THE DRIVING FORCE

Uno	Premier Auto & Fiat of Italy	Rs 5 lakh	Two door, 1000 cc, robotised engine, five-speed synchronised engine, spacious body	Popular in West Europe, specially with the younger generation, will compete with Maruti 800
Peugeot 390	Peugeot & Premier Auto	Rs 4 8 lakh	Four cylinder, 1360 cc engine, excellent shock absorbers, tough body	Should do well on bumpy Indian roads, good buy for money, a challenge to Esteem, 118 NE and Contessa
Cielo	Daewoo & DCM	Rs 4 59 lakh	Adjustable seats, microprocessor controlled fuel injection system A deluxe version offers power steering and automatic transmission	Will compete with Maruti Esteem and Maruti 1 000
Opel Astra	Hindustan Motors & GM	Rs 6 7 lakh	1600 cc car, split folding seat, extra large boot, solid body Slightly dated model is not doing particularly well abroad	Will compete with Zen and Audi A4
Rover Montego	Sipani and Rover	Rs 10-11 lakh	Power steering, good suspension system, turbo-charged engine and big boot	Styled on Austin Montego model of the 1980s, considered over-priced by market analysts, will be a poor match to Mercedes Benz and Audi 6
Mercedes Benz E 220	Mercedes Benz and Telco	Rs 12-18 lakh	Electronically adjustable seats, anti-locking brakes, catalytic converters, airbags on wheels and dashboards which open out on impact	Possibly the best buy in the super-luxury segment according to automobile engineers, will compete with Audi 6

made in India and hence are cheaper

However, industrialists realise that despite the plethora of choice being unleashed on the Indian consumer, their assemblyline operations or even the more ambitious indigenisation programmes will not really put India on the global automobile map.

As a top executive from Pinninfarina, the Italian car design company, said, "Till you actually design or develop your own car nobody will take your automobile industry seriously. For us you will remain just a large licensed market, not a feared competitor like the Koreans or the Japanese "

Most countries either try to develop their own cars through indigenous research projects or else shop for designs from European design houses Asian 'tigers' like South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia, as well as several South American countries, started out by adopting the "shop for a car design" route and graduated to their own designs

The truly Indian car will probably remain a dream for quite some time as the country's industrialist community rushes to tie up with one or other global automobile giant But then as the Pinninfarina designer said, "With India possibly having some of the best brains in the world, can we really keep you down forever?" ■

PUFFING OUT THE HABIT

Shameem Akthar *reports on the 'world's first herbal' cigarette which may wean a way tobacco addicts from the killer habit*

A mouthful of herb-tanged incense and your lungs expand to suck in that last puff from Nirdosh—a cigarette that is packed with ayurvedic herbs, and the promise to dissuade you from tobacco smoking!

As a brand the fledgling Nirdosh or 'Not guilty' is less than a decade old But its ayurvedic components are intrinsic to the hoary medical texts of *Sushruta Samhita* and *Charaka* And, no, this is not an advertisement for the brand, but as an ayurvedic doctor, Dr R. Prabhu, who had never heard of Nirdosh, confirmed even vintage ayurvedic texts like *Vagbhatt* have copious references to a herbal smoking alternative which not only staves you off from an addiction to nicotine in the cell-killing tobacco, but also relieves chronic asthmatic patients from their tiresome breathing problems

On whether a herbal alternative may spawn addictive habits which in turn may seek out the soul destructive recourse to drugs, or even a life-dependence on branded cigarettes, Dr Prabhu says, "No! No! Herbal smoke is a well-known alternative and you will notice that its ingredients, such as *tulsi*, are safe, specially if instructions for preparation are adhered to with textbook precision

"Also, these ingredients are regularly used as a base in all ayurvedic medication which everybody, even in the West, is finding out is more effective than allopathy. So where is the question of addiction?" But, then, she worships all things ayurvedic

All along the western coast, particularly in the tribal and rural belt that snakes across the Konkan region, even women inhale the sweet-sharp smoke of *Chadachi pana* leaves It is a com-



Gautam Patole

As a brand the fledgling Nirdosh or 'Not guilty' is less than a decade old. But its ayurvedic components are intrinsic to the hoary medical texts of *Sushruta Samhita* and *Charaka*

mon practice to wrap up bodies with these medical weeds which, apart from the household *tulsi*, also include the common *ajmo, yastimadhu, sugandhvala, haridra, tendu* leaves, cinnamon, *kustha* and cloves.

Other ancient worthies who have made specific reference to these are Acharya Vagbhatt in his *Astang Hradaya*, Acharya Sarangdhar in his *Sarangdhar Samhita* and Pandit Bhavmishra in his *Bhavparakash*

The list runs on as the tradition is continued even today by other faithful practitioners of traditional Indian medicine many of whom have written lengthy, approbative testimonials to Natvarbhai Madhavlal Bhavsar, the brain behind the herbal filter Bhavsar was just like any other small-scale bidi manufacturer, who was content with steady business which would never have dried up as long as smokers puffed their money and life away

But then, he was hit by the incongruity of selling a product which warned buyers from itself — the ineffectual tag that said 'smoking is injurious to health' And disturbed by selling a harmful habit to a gullible but willing public, he decided to switch over to a product that now alluringly suggest that "you enjoy smoking, the Nirdosh way" Well-known smokers who had puffed their lungs away like Bal Thackeray and writer Dom Moraes are said to have decided to shift allegiance to the herbal filters

All along the western coast, particularly in the tribal and rural belt that snakes across the Konkan region, even women inhale the sweet-sharp smoke of *Chadachi pana* leaves

Even doctors like J R Goril, who did not practise what he preached in that he was a chain smoker, has now embraced the herbal habit He maintains that these filters have weaned him away from smoking tobacco altogether This herbal devotee, however, insists that the smouldering ashes of Nirdosh be "carefully deposited" Since the product has crushed herbs wrapped in the form of an ungainly bidi, the manufacturers, too, caution that "burning fragments may fall while smoking"

Other ayurveds buttress Bhavsar's claims on his dream product which is marketed purely by word-of-mouth. A dean of the Gujarat Ayurvedic University at Jamnagar recommends these bidis for controlling chronic bronchitis

Another medicine-man, Dr P. Shah, recalls the experience of a group of mountaineers on a Himalayan expedition He relates how his associates, die-hard smokers, found out the hard way that smoking tobacco at 12,000 feet above the sea-level can make one feel giddy and uneasy. Nirdosh, apparently, offered the much-needed psychological relief to them

But Dr Mayank Shah, a naturopath, points out that a herbal alternative may soothe the needs of mild smokers whose dependence on the cigarette is limited to the sensual pleasure they derive from feeling the burning smoke rush into their lungs or just see the white rings swirl away at each puff.

It may not be the perfect panacea for the dyed-in-the-tobacco chain

WHAT THE WISE MEN SAID

Vinitha Mathur, director of the Health Food Stores, which has tickled people's palate by stocking natural, wholesome food, also markets Nirdosh.

She recalls that some years ago there was a mild flurry among the medical fraternity, with a few doctors questioning its efficiency and wondering if people were being taken for a ride, even if it was only an inexpensive one at Rs 6 a packet.

She confesses, "I withdrew the product from the shelves for a short period. But it's back, since a section of doctors had tested it on their patients and testified that herbal filters were mentioned in ancient medical texts."

And here is what the authoritative texts on ayurveda have to say: *Sushruta Samhita*, which is placed around 1,000 BC, and which translator K.L. Bhisagratha says, relates the "origin of medicine as disclosed to the holy Dhanvantari to his disciple Sushrut" instructs that "properly administered *dhum pana* or herbal smoking is followed by a distinct alleviation of diseases, while its excessive use is followed by aggravation or non-amelioration of the disease and is ate and the throat and a burning sensation in the body, thirst, fainting fits and vertigo and infection of the ear, nose and the eye and unparalleled weakness of the body."

The venerable *Sushruta* also firmly and explicitly instructed on the three methods of inhaling smoke, even suggesting how the smoke should sit And he issued a loud hands-off for those "afflicted with anger, fear, bereavement, fatigue and in a heated state of the body and after fasting...in cases of poisoning, haemorrhage, alcoholism, burning sensation of the body, thirst, jaundice, dryness of the palate, vomiting, head disease, eructation, urinary complaints, abdominal enlargement with dropsy, inflation of the abdomen and in respect of infants, old, enfeebled persons, as well as those treated with purgatives. It is also forbidden to ancient women, those suffering from insomnia or parallel condition of the body as well as to those suffering from any kind of cachexia."

You may have rightly gleaned that the ancients ruled out against smoking *per se*.

Charaka Samhita, another book revered by ayurveds translated by P.V. Sharma, painstakingly lists the ingredients to be used in the herbal stick — *patlika, kuphaja*, flower stalk, and so on to be powdered together and rolled into a piece of linseed cloth, smeared with *ghee* followed by an intake of milk or water added with jaggery. Charaka too cautions against any form of smoking with even a little *kapha* in the body.

Maybe the manufacturers should highlight these factors even if it means cleaving their already small band of loyalists into sceptics and devotees.



Mega-size cigarettes being burnt to protest the introduction of a special brand for women

smokers whose blood may contain a high nicotine-level accumulated after years of sucking on cigarette butts

By the time a cigarette addict reaches for help, often after his health baulks at the incessant nicotine intake, his dependence on tobacco has become a physiological need Weaning a tobacco lover from his killing habit can trigger off withdrawal symptoms such as lack of sleep, bowel disturbances, extreme nervousness, irascibility

Shah recommends a programme culled from 24 natural remedies which takes off with a homeopathic solace and an ear acupuncture to scale down the patient' anxiety He is also put on an anti-acid diet to neutralise the poison accumulated in the blood followed by herbal and floral medications

Where the motivation to keep off cigarettes is strong, the anti-smoking course boasts a success rate of 90 per cent

Well-known smokers who had puffed their lungs away like Bal Thackeray and writer Dom Moraes are said to have decided to shift allegiance to the herbal filters

Shama Dalal, a homeopath, agrees with Dr Shah's estimation of Nirdosh's limitations as an anti-smoking alternative "It really will not offer relief to a hard-core smoker because smoking tobacco is a disease Homeopathy has various regimens to cure people of it "

She is reluctant to mention the drugs used in these programmes since it might set off health freaks on a binge of self-medication "But," she offers, "variations of tabacum and nux vomica are used "

Meanwhile, Bhavsar continues to experiment with his dream product which is concocted from a list of 22 herbs which have been mentioned in the medical scriptures Interestingly, apart from offering routine relief from cold, cough, gastric trouble, bad breath, respiratory problems, the use of Nirdosh is also said to offer relief for the wear and tear of a stressful lifestyle

Bhavsar's pamphlets also insist that apart from whipping up a good appetite, Nirdosh actually induces in smokers an active dislike for cigarettes To vouchsafe this claim, Bhavsar produces the results of a pilot study conducted by Shalya Shalakya Department of the Akhandnagar Ayurvedic College which states that Nirdosh contains all the herbs mentioned under the chapter, *Dhoompan*, in ayurvedic text and that it does turn smokers off from tobacco

Vinitha Mathur, director of the prestigious health food shop in Bombay who has helped create a fad for natural and herbal habits, says she has a small band of loyal buyers An occasional mention in the press spurts its sales, indicating that at least some smokers want to give up their lung-burning habit

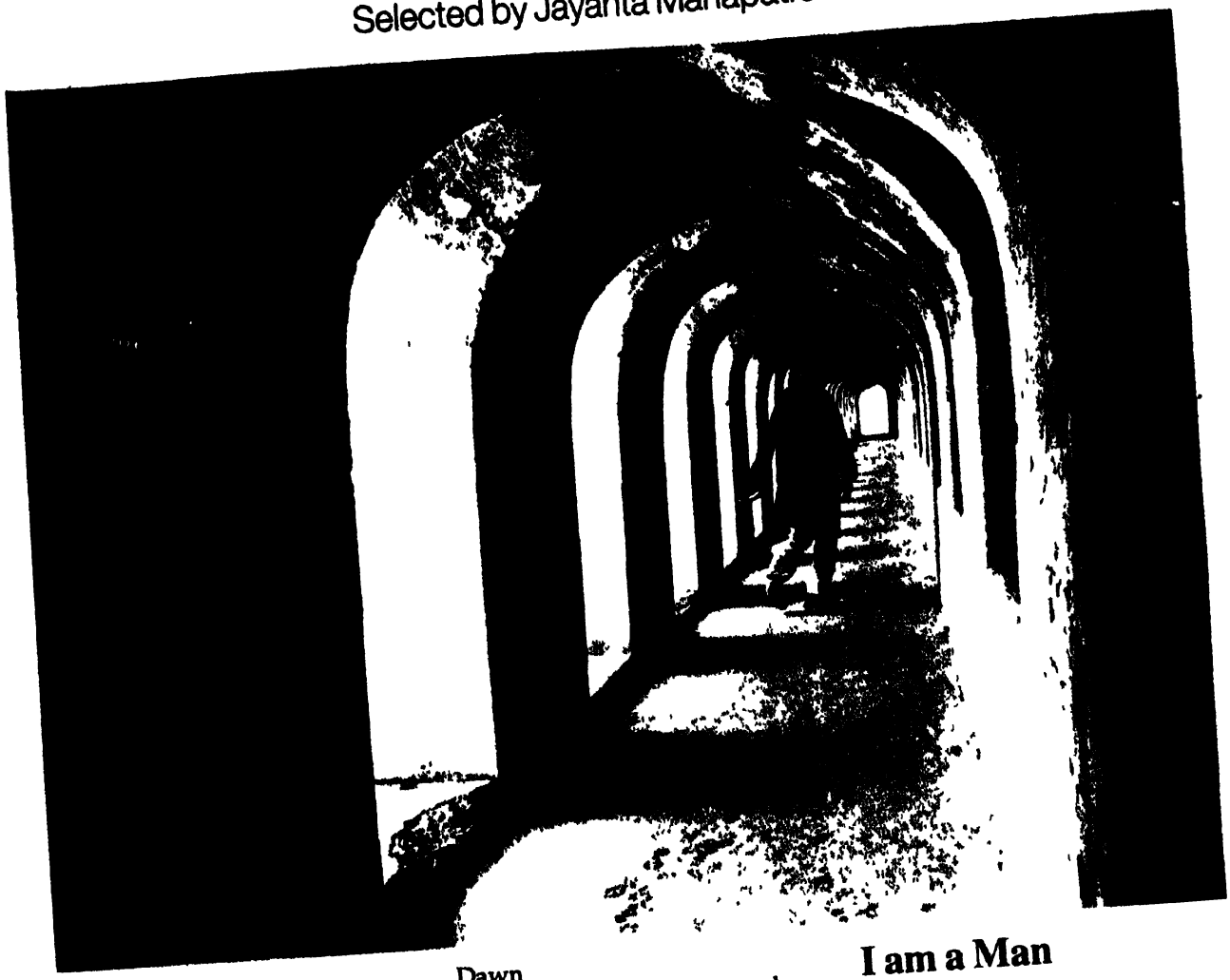
Mathur thrust a few packets of Nirdosh on her reluctant father who was an avid smoker A fortnight after smoking Nirdosh, he was off tobacco But he reverted to his habit after throwing off the Nirdosh packets

Since, as Mathur wryly notes, his motivation to give up smoking was not strong enough

Nirdosh has seen many changes since its birth — from a sharp medicinal flavour to a milder one now Even the pruned herbs within this filter bidi which Bhavsar proudly calls the world's first herbal filter puff inhaler, have changed on and off And Bhavsar continues to tinker with his creation as his band of loyal herbal smokers continues to grow steadily ■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Dawn

Dawn
A rosebud sleeps, petals tightly furled,
Sepal fingers cupping it gently, Protectingly,
Until
Roused by the soft warm flush of morning,
A faint stirring signals its awakening

Dawn
The woodland's purple plumage turns anew
Slowly to olive and brown,
Mad red,
Land sienna,
Meadow green comes peeping out of grey haze
Into the sun and sleep-encrusted view

Dawn
The light wind drifts the smoke from tiny huts,
While beyond, a lazy stream glints Emerald.
Tall reeds .
Like criss-cross bayonets stand rigid guard
With the sun on each serpentine bend

Centuries cascade on,
Another day dawns
Alone, unnoticed —
City-hands bound to perpetual agitation
These sweeps of light cannot undo
'Where, O where are the tears of the world?'
The whistle of money beckons me on ..
Dawn?

Nandini Das

I am a Man

I have written a petition
full of grievances
all the grievances I could form
all that I felt and met —
those were the hurdles I had to stop at

Were I a horse
I would have jumped
come back to my stable
would stand erect
jerk my flank
strop my hooves
and nonchalantly browse.

But I am a man

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Aries
March 21—April 20



Ganesha says, work pressures and demands upon your time and money will be simply stupendous Get ready to serve selflessly if you want to be happy, or, you could be enmeshed in all sorts of complications Those in collaborations and alliances could have a breakthrough

Taurus
April 21—May 20



Matters related to children, hobbies, entertainment and amusement have top priority You will absorb tensions and go right ahead and that's the best thing to do Rendezvous, secret alliances and behind-the-scene activities keep you mighty busy

Gemini
May 21—June 20



There are two trends working at maximum potential The home or office could be in for renovation/decoration/alteration/buying/selling/leasing/renting and so on You will also go all out in your work to make new inroads, bag a contract, please the boss and so on

Cancer
June 21—July 20



Be sure to communicate and contact correctly and vibrantly, as, practically, everything will depend upon it Those in business can expect new deals and contracts The professionals can look forward to more clients and work Next two weeks are even better

Leo
July 21—August 21



The focus will be on family, finance, income and taxes You will have to hurry your strokes, so to say, because so much will have to be done in so short a time Health safeguards are imperative if you want to make the best of this week March 20-21 are outstanding for getting work done

Virgo
August 22—September 22



The personal and the professional now clash and also converge, making matters quite difficult for you, as well as others So many things are going on Being objective but not cold, should be your guiding principle, though it would be undoubtedly difficult

Libra
September 23—October 22



You could well be in an introspective mood and could turn the searchlight within A journey is indicated in the next 30 days or so Many Librans will be attending to issues on health and happiness Old skins will be shed and new relationships could take over March 24 is lucky

Scorpio
October 23—November 22



Ganesha says changes in your job are likely Try to enlist support and sympathy of well-wishers and colleagues That's a trump card for you Many of you will be finalising plans as well as testing them out for real use The next week is definitely better for you

Sagittarius
November 23—December 20



Your chance to make a discovery starts now and continues right through 1995 So, if in research, discovery or invention, give it your best shot Creativity will be at white heat. Passions will cross the shore of no return. A plethora of activities and plenty of sustained action

Capricorn
December 21—January 19



It is certain that you are coming into your own, having learnt from past mistakes and disappointments, attending to the home and outside world, gaining in confidence and knowledge March 23-26 will be absolutely vital for you News from a distant place and a journey is likely

Aquarius
January 20—February 18



You do see light and love at the end of the tunnel Get finances in order and be prepared to take out time and energy for it Family affairs should receive top priority Many Aquarians will be trying out new ideas, schemes, plans, projects and the chances of success are good

Pisces
February 19—March 20



This is certainly a stock-taking time, making a balance-sheet of your life, coming to terms with it, but above all, getting ready to push ahead with all your might Friends and foes see a lot of you now Buying and selling will require discretion and bargaining

BIRTHDAYS

of research, marriage and journeys.

March 23: The moon's last quarter enables you to [illegible] hand. You will have success. This is a good time to [illegible] decision of any sort.

March 24: Moon-Saturn sextile suggests prolific [illegible] and achievement. That should give you the confidence [illegible] right ahead.

March 25: Moon conjuncts Uranus-Neptune and [illegible] shows ambition, talent and triumph. It is time you will have [illegible] struggle for it.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code. ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-741	0710	3, 5	IC-742	0940	3, 5
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3, 5, 7
[redacted]					
M9 304/109	0855	1, 3, 5	M9 110/301	1900	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2, 4, 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-721	1300	1, 3 5	IC-722	1540	1, 3 5
[redacted]					
IC-771	0800	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
[redacted]					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
9W-202	0920	1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6	9W-201	0840	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-306	1840	5
9W-212	1945	daily	IC-274	1850	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
AI-309	2035	6	D2-103	1935	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
[redacted]					
			IC-262	0815	2, 4, 7
IC-263	0700	daily	S2-025	0810	1, 2 3, 4 5 6
S2-026	0845	1, 2, 3, 4 5, 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	AI-682	0950	1
IC-812	1515	1, 3 5	S2-015	1015	1, 3, 5
S2-016	1555	1, 3 5	4S-806	1115	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1745	1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6	S2-005	1855	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
IC-261	1900	2, 4, 7	M9-301	1900	daily
M9-302	1930	daily	IC-811	1930	1, 3 5
S2-008	1930	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	IC-264	2210	daily
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3 5	IC-704	1430	3 5
IC-703	0800	3, 5	D2 181	1620	1, 3 5, 7
D2-181	1135	1, 3, 5 7	D2-183	1620	2, 4 6
D2-183	1135	2 4, 6	IC-702	1630	2, 4 6 7
4S-815	1145	1 2 3, 4 5 6	4S-816	1705	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-701	1240	2, 4, 6, 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-257	1150	4, 7	IC-258	1650	4 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	IC 712	1410	2 6
PF-737	0730	3 5	IC-704	1430	3 5
PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC-708	1430	1 4 7
IC-703	0800	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
IC 707	0800	1, 4, 7	D2-181	1620	1, 3 5 7
IC-711	0800	2 6	D2 183	1620	2, 4, 6
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	IC-230	1650	daily
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1705	1 2 3, 4, 5, 6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
4S-812	1145	1, 2 3 4, 5, 6	PF-736	1730	1
IC-257	1150	4, 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-211	1240	4, 6	IC 258	1740	4 7
IC 229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4 6
[redacted]					
IC-777	1600	2, 4 7	IC 778	2100	2 4 7
IC 769	1525	1, 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC-707	0800	1 4 7	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC-708	1430	1 4 7
IC-253	1100	2, 6	IC-254	1550	2 6
[redacted]					
IC-213	0910	2 4, 7	IG-213	1315	2 4 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
[redacted]					
IC-812	1515	1 3, 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2, 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2-171	1045	daily
D2 172	1740	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
[redacted]					
IC-769	1525	1 3, 5	IC 770	2120	1 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2, 4 7
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC-285	0640	3 5 7	IC-286	1100	2 4 6
[redacted]					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	I.. 249	1805	2 4 7
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2, 2, 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
[redacted]					
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC-260	1110	1 7
IC-259	0830	1, 7	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2, 6
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC 212	1740	4, 6
[redacted]					
IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2 4, 7
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-542	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-541	1030	1 3, 5
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

[redacted]					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
[redacted]					
KL-876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7

[redacted]					
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 6, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC 732	1505	2, 4, 6, 7
AI-308	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RO-078	2040	5, 7	RO-075	1035	5, 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1 2, 3, 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1, 2, 3, 5 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2, 3, 5 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5
[illegible]					
IC-747	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-748	1455	1, 3, 5
RA-214	1400	4 7	RA-213	1315	4, 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
■ [illegible]					
BA-142	2050	3, 7	BA 143	1525	3, 7
■ MOSCOW					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
■ [illegible]					
KB-106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2, 6
KB-106	1300	5			
■ [illegible]					
SQ 415	2200	2 5	SQ-416	2040	2, 5
■ SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
■ TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure				Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah		Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**		7-20	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**		7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad		13-00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya-Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat		16-15	2382
2303	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun		16-15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues, Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun		10-45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat		12 50	2306
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat, Arr Tues Wed & Sat		11 35	3074
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri		4 30	5048
3009	20-30	**Deen Express** via Grand Chord		7 00	3010
3007	9-45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line		18 15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**		15-30	3050
3039	21-00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line		5 20	3040
3019	16-05	**Gorakhpur Express**		11-55	3020
3021	21-45	**Mithila Express**		5 00	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**		6-30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**		21 25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**		10 30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**		8 45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**		5-50	3032
3025	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday		11-35	3026
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**		5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Sentinlistan Express**		15-40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri, Sat & Sun, Arr Mon Tues & Wed		6-50	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon, Tues & Wed, Arr Fri, Sat & Sun		6-50	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**		4-50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express** Thursday only		6-50	1182
Up	Time	**Sealdah**		Time	Dn
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express** Dep Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed, Thurs, Fri Sat & Sun		6-35	3 12
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**		8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line		7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga Express**		20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**		5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**		4 15	5664
3151	11-45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**		15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop		12-55	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**		10 25	3104
5185	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues, Thurs & Sat		4-25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6-50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	17 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16-20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12-00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19-40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	19 40	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22-05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5-30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8-25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21-30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15-00	8046
8017	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	—
—	11-05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati - Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
—	14-05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	–
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13-45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
—	14-05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13-45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains, 2203536-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203498-3508 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 136 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503536-37

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

AS FAR AS THOSE LEGS CAN CARRY

All my life I've been a walking person Up to this day, I have neither owned nor driven a car, bus, tractor, aeroplane, motorcycle, truck or steamroller

Forced to make a choice, I would as soon drive a steamroller, because of its slow but solid progress and unhurried finality And also because other vehicles don't try hustling steamrollers off the road

For a brief period in my early teens I had a bicycle until I rode into a bullock cart and ruined my new machine The bullocks panicked and ran away with the cart, while a furious cart driver was giving me a lecture on road sense I have never bumped into a bullock cart while walking

My earliest memories are of a place called Jamnagar, a small port on the west coast of India, then part of a princely state

My father was an English tutor to several young Indian princes and princesses This was where my walking really began, because Jamnagar was full of spacious palaces, lawns and gardens

By the time I was four, I was exploring much of the territory on my own, with the result that I encountered my first snake

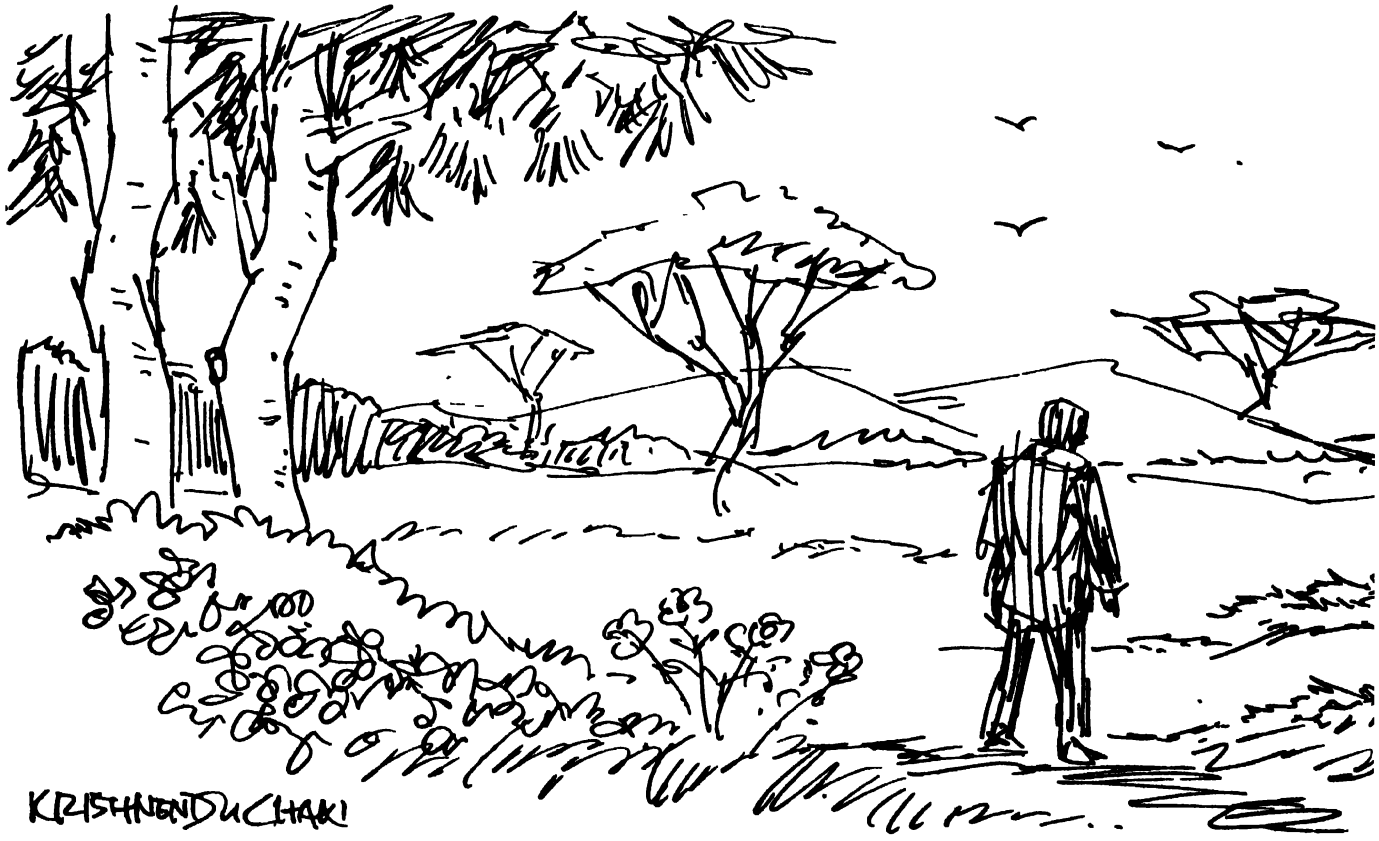
Instead of striking me dead as snakes are supposed to do, it allowed me to pass Living as it did so close to the ground, and sensitive to every footfall, it must have known instinctively that I presented no threat, that I was just another small creature discovering the use of his legs

Envious of the snake's swift, gliding movements, I went indoors and tried crawling on my belly But I wasn't much good at it Legs were better.

My father's school-room and our own residence were located on the grounds of one of the older palaces which was full of turrets, staircases and mysterious passages

Right on top of the building I discovered a glass-covered room, each pane of glass stained with a different colour This room fascinated me as I could, by turn, look through the panes of glass at a green or rose pink or orange or indigo world It was nice to

The adventure is not in arriving, it's the on-the-way experience...not the expected, it's the surprise. You are not choosing what you shall see in the world, but are giving the world an even chance to see you



be able to decide for oneself what colour the world should be!

My father took his duties seriously and taught me to read and write long before I started attending regular school. However, it would be true to say that I first learned to read upside down.

This happened because I would sit on a stool in front of three princesses, watching them read and write and so the view I had of their books was an upside down view

I still read that way occasionally, specially when a book becomes boring

There was no boredom in the palace grounds We were situated in the middle of a veritable jungle of a garden where marigolds and cosmos grew rampant in the long grass

An old, disguised well was the home of countless pigeons, their gentle cooing by day contrasting with the shrill cries of the brain fever bird (the hawk cuckoo) at night "How very hot it's getting!" the bird seemed to say And then in a rising crescendo, "We feel it! We feel it! We feel it!"

Walking about a nearby beach, collecting sea-shells, I got into the habit of staring hard at the ground, a habit which has remained with me all my life Apart from helping my thought processes, it also results in my picking up odd-objects — coins, keys, broken bangles, marbles, pens, bits of crockery, pretty stones, feathers, ladybirds, sea-shells! Not to speak of old nails and horseshoes



Looking at my collection of objects picked up on these walks, my friends insist I must be using a metal detector But it's only because I keep my nose to the ground, like a bloodhound

Occasionally, of course, my habit results in my walking some way past my destination (if I happen to have one) And why not? It simply means discovering a new and different destination, sights and sounds I might not have experienced had I ended my walk exactly where it was supposed to end

And I am not looking at the ground all the time Sensitive like the snake to approaching footfalls, I look up from time to time to take note of the faces of the passerby, just in case they have something interesting to say

A bird singing in a bush or tree has my immediate attention, so does any familiar flower or plant, particularly if it grows in an unusual place such as a crack in a wall or rooftop, or in a yard full of junk — where once I found a rose-bush blooming on the roof of an old abandoned Ford car

I like to think I invented the zig-zag walk Tiring of walking in straight lines, or on roads that led directly to a destination, I took to going off at tangents — taking sudden unfamiliar turnings, wandering down alleyways, following cart tracks or paths through fields instead of the main roads and in general, making the walk as complicated as possible

In this way I saw much more than I would normally have seen Here a temple, there a mosque, now an old church, a railway siding follow the railway line and here's a pond full of buffaloes, there a peacock preening itself under a tamarind tree and now I'm in a field of mustard Soon I am walking along a canal bank and the canal leads me back into the town and I follow the line of mango trees until I am home.

The adventure is not in arriving, it's the on-the-way experience It is not the expected, it's the surprise You are not choosing what you shall see in the world, but are giving the world an even chance to see you

It's like drawing lines from star to star in the night sky, not forgetting many dim, shy, out-of-the-way stars which are full of possibilities

The first turning to the left, the next to the right! I am still on my zigzag way, pursuing the diagonal between reason and the heart

(*Sanctuary Features*)

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

SHEPHERD, WEAVER AND FIGHTER

Every year the Ganga cuts a course closer to Sherpur, a village of Ghazipur district larger than many small towns Chakbandi took place decades ago, but here surplus land has not been redistributed The main street of the Harijan *basti* seems strangely straight That is because it had to be rebuilt after the *basti* was burnt to the ground by Bhumihar landlords in 1975

The houses of the *gadariyas* or shepherds stand close by Once or twice a week, an elderly blind man with a long *lathi* as a stick feels his way through the alley and comes and sits with his old friends in the Harijan *basti* He wears a rough khadi *kurta* and *dhoti*, a *gumchha* wound round his neck

From childhood he suffered from night blindness and now he is sightless during the day too He is not well known outside his village — even the DM had never heard of him — but he is one of this backward district's few recipients of the Padma Shri

Sita Ram Pal received this honour in 1981 for his efforts to improve the income of shepherds through blanket weaving A weaver and shepherd himself, through persistent hard work and struggle with government bureaucracy, he managed to organise others and establish first a co-operative society and then a *manch* to sell blankets to charities like CASA

One night, when he was in the middle of an oil massage, an anxious lekhpal arrived outside his mud house, calling out, "Palji, Palji, come quickly The magistrate is here" As Sita Ram was led to the road where the official's jeep stood, he was convinced he'd been implicated in some crime to do with the continuing Harijan-Bhumihar tension in the village But when the magistrate shook his hand in greeting, Sita Ram's spirits revived

"Why have you called me?" he asked

"To see if you would accept a Padma Shri"

"What does that mean?"

"*Izzat* and money," came the reply

Sita Ram went to Delhi for the first time in his life to receive the award, wearing a blanket-wool waistcoat he had woven himself

But cottage industry had never been his main mission in life As a child he had stayed in Samastipur with his grandfather who in 1911 had managed to pass his High School exams and had eventually risen to the rank of sub-inspector of police

In 1942, his grandfather retired and they returned to Sherpur There the young Sita Ram was called over by a landowner, whom he respectfully greeted and whose feet he touched before sitting down on the *charpoy* beside him Later his grandfather reprimanded him for sitting next to a Bhumihar That ate at him "What lack is there in us," he asked, "that we can't sit on the same level?"

His reaction was to right matters by fighting the first Panchayat elections held in 1949, and encouraging the best among the dalit castes to fight too The result was that they were beaten, their houses were burnt down and they were denied water Then he reached the conclusion that there was no way forward without education Boys must study and get out of the village to earn — only when people went out would they be able to improve matters within

"I couldn't study much because of my eyes," he says, "So I turned to social service Then not a single Harijan or Yadav was literate here There was a *Chamar* called Kusahr I began to teach him at my gate at a time when no one would touch water he drew I had him enrolled in primary, then in the middle school and then in Mohammadabad in high school He joined the Army

Then there was Dev Narayan Singh, a Yadav, he became a schoolmaster And Shivnath, a Harvaha's son, he became a friend and a master too

"Why did the zamindars despise us? We were dirty, so perhaps that was reason enough But education is the best soap Now if you look around the *basti*, I am sure you will see how smart some of the young people are When one member of the family has education the whole family goes forward"

The process he started has gained its own momentum There are now 11 graduates and postgraduates in the Harijan *basti* waiting for jobs In the meantime they work for the Bhumihars, labouring and moving earth, but nowadays they are paid cash

Uma Shankar, BA, B Ed, is about to apply for government teaching jobs and his ambition is to open an Ambedkar *vidyalaya* in the *basti* to make sure every child there studies and studies well "I will work even for little money," he told me, "And I know I can do it I have guts"

The men from the *basti* have petitioned a local MLA and lain down in the road in front of Mulayam Singh Yadav's car to make sure their deamnds for development are met Now they have electricity, handpumps, and a half-built road, and the land for redistribution, says the DM, has been earmarked

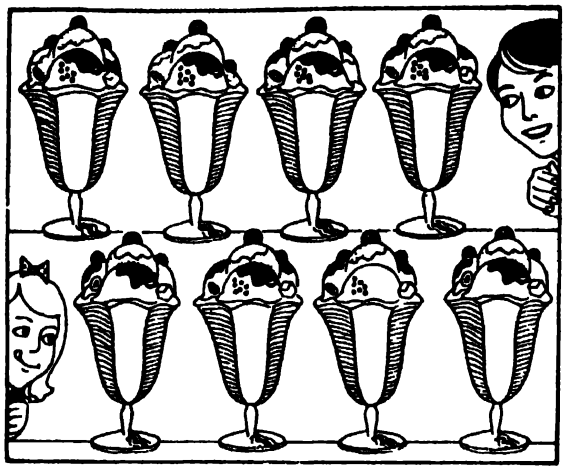
However the Padma Shri-winning weaving venture failed once Sita Ram went blind Now Sita Ram's son, afflicted with the same night blindness, is following in his father's footsteps It's even more difficult than before to maintain flocks as grazing land has been turned into irrigated fields

With no sheep of his own, he has to buy wool, but he spins it on the same primitive wooden wheel and weaves it into the same strips of coarse blanket Every weaver needs a good *vyopari* — a trader to do business with He still hasn't found one, but he is a determined BA-pass with strong ideas of where to look in the outside world

(Sanctuary Features)

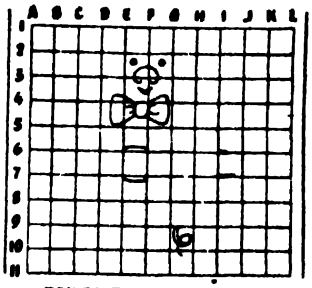
JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



DOUBLE DIP! Two of eight sundaes above are enough alike to be twins Which two? Take note of details carefully

AGE PAGE! Jot down your age add 7 double the result and add 16 Double the result again divide by four and subtract 15 Answer will be your age Give it a try



QUICK DRAW CANVAS

HEY, we know you're in there But why are you all dressed up? To complete the picture, simply draw lines in accord with letter-number coordinates as follows

Draw from E-1 to D-3, to D-4, to C-4, to A-6, A-7, C-5, D-5, D-8, E-9, D-11, E-11, F-9, I-9, J-11, K-11, I-5, J-5, L-7, L-6, J-4, I-4, to G-1

Add D-6 to I-6

Add D-7, to I-7

Add D-2, to E-1, to G-1, to H-2.

Draw straight lines, using a sharp pencil

Be sure to draw lines in keeping with letter and number coordinates

Colour finished figure, if crayons are handy

PROPER NOTE! When leaving the cafeteria-restaurant, the story has it, a well-mannered gent indicated to the cashier that he was suffering from laryngitis and was unable to talk Whereupon he handed her a note containing the numbers 1 0 2 0 0 4 1 8 0

Without a word of protest, the cashier permitted him to depart, obviously having understood his message

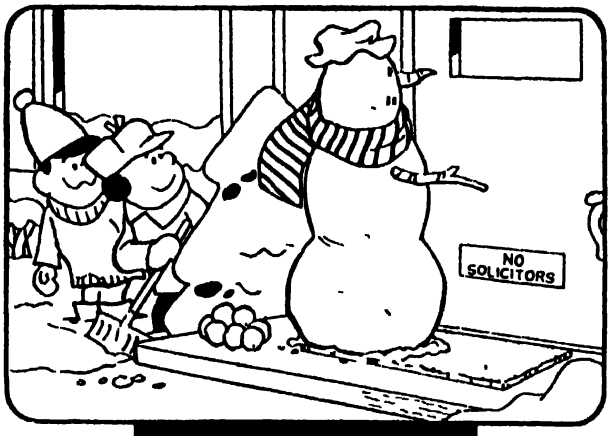
What did the note say?

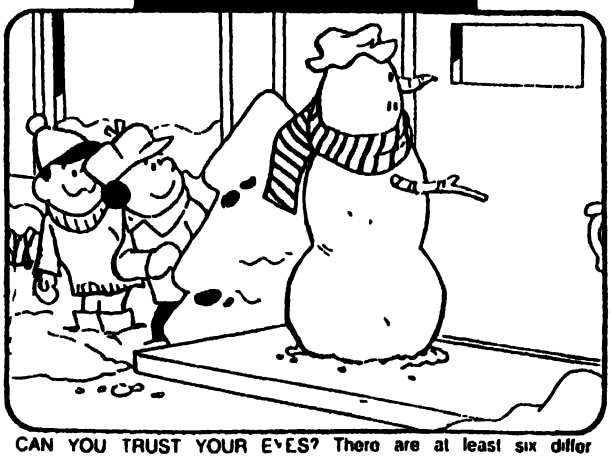
Answer in 30 seconds

It said I ought to owe nothing for I ate nothing



HOCUS-FOCUS





CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Cap is smaller 2 Shovel is missing 3 Snowballs are missing 4 Scarf is different 5 Sign is missing 6 Doorknob is missing

FUNSPOT



BY GEORGE! Martha knows best, or does she? Apply colors neatly to the scene Colorcode 1—Red 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Maroon 7—Dk brown 8—Dk. blue 9—Gray

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

ENTREATY

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

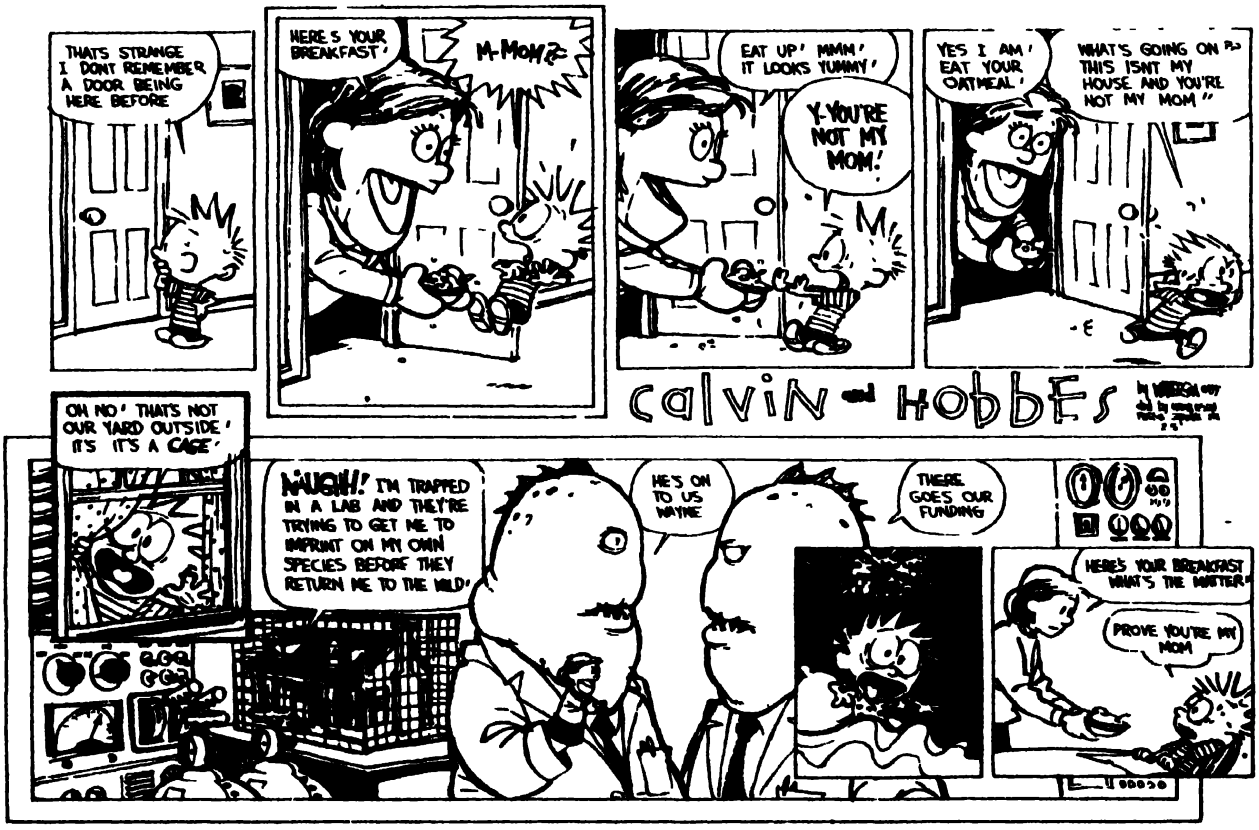
Possible twosome Tent year

COMICS

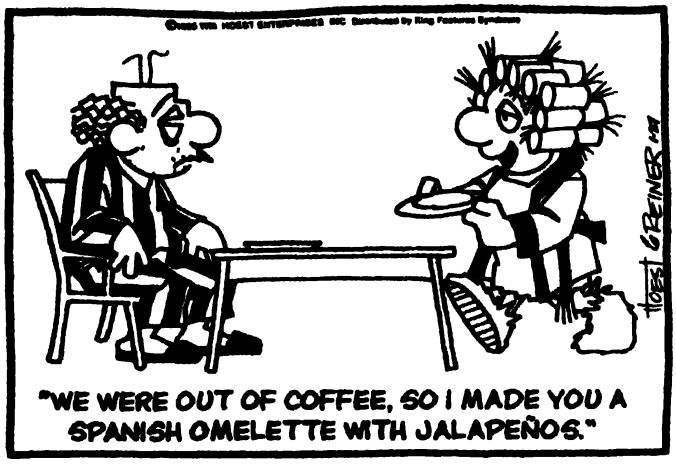
ARCHIE

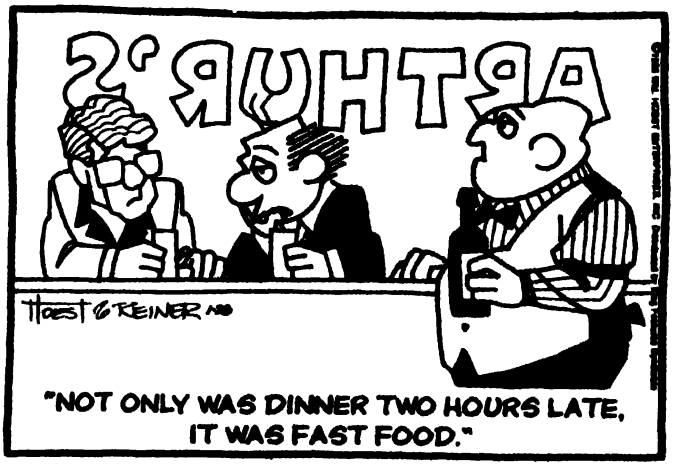


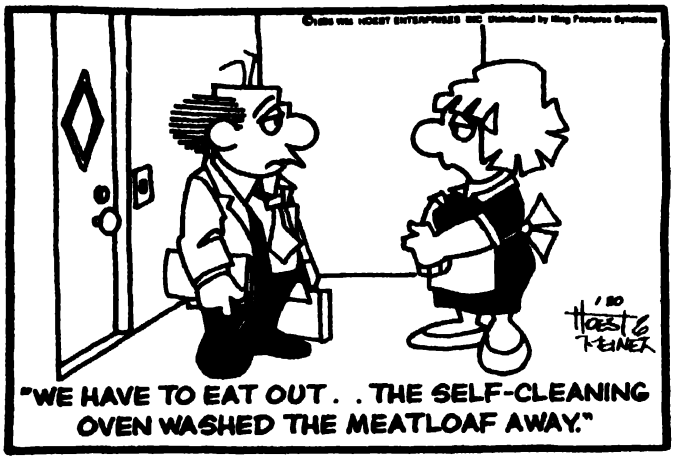
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON

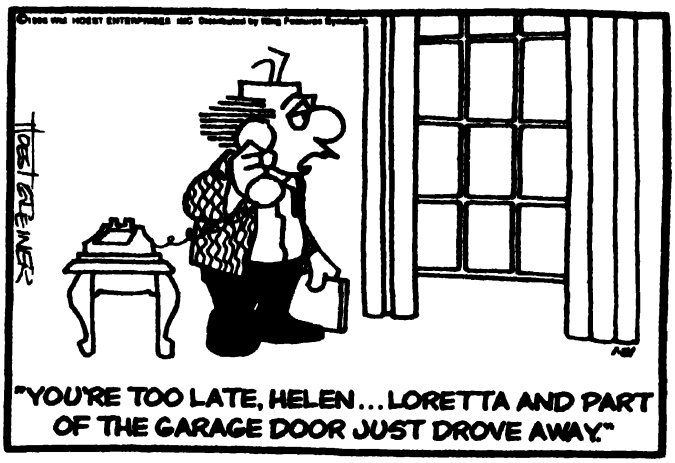


THE LOCKHORNS

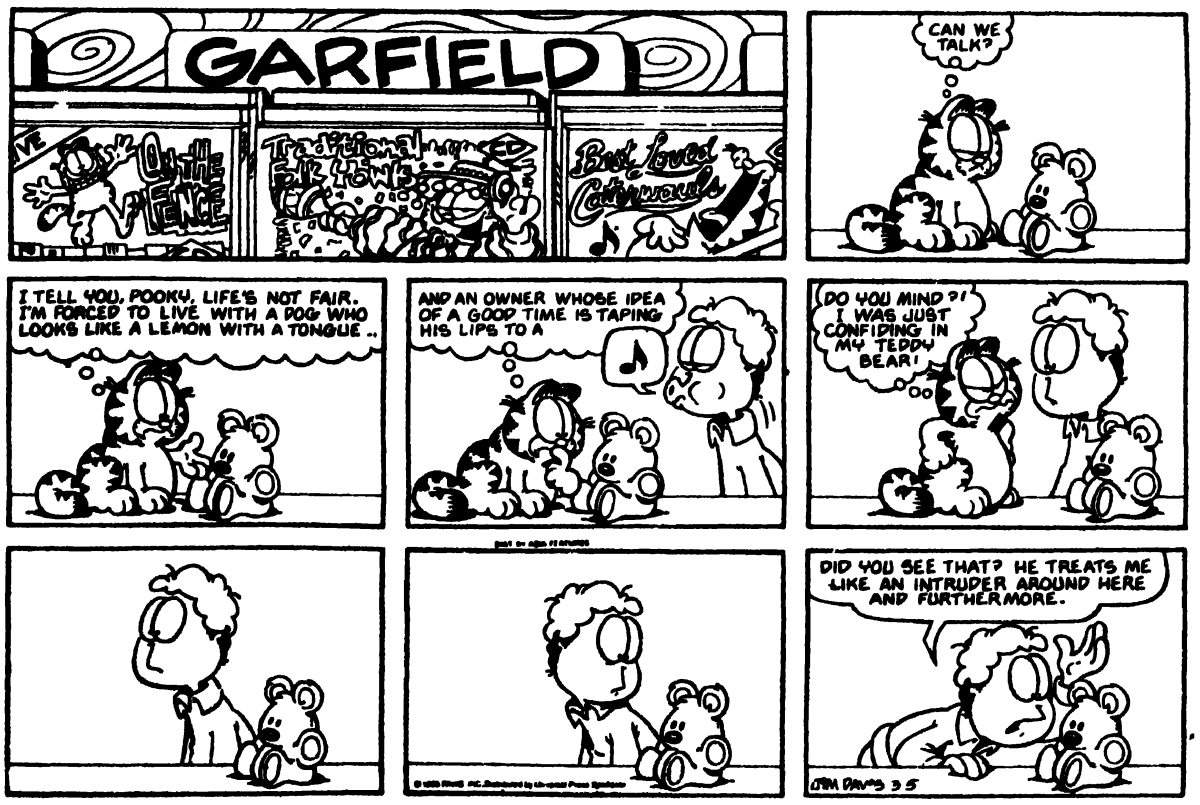






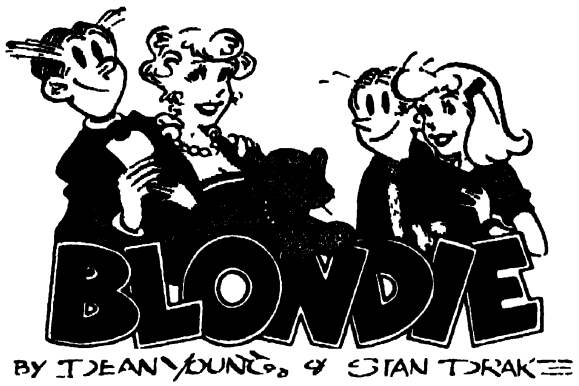


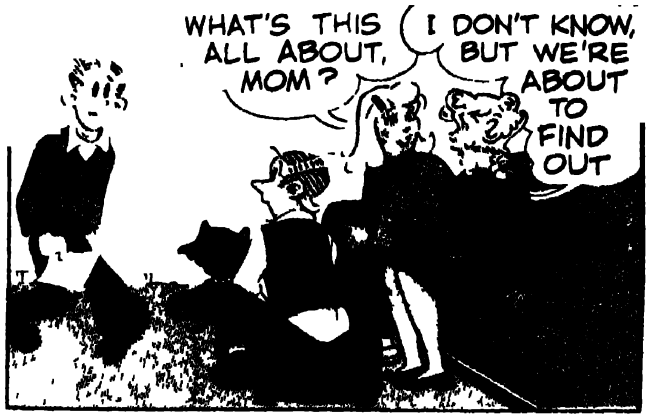
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



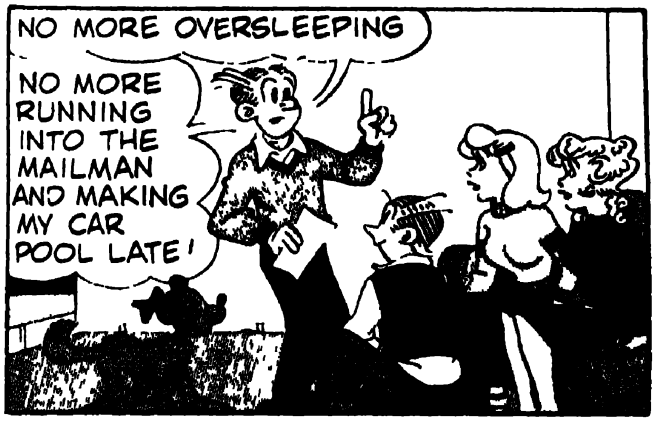
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP





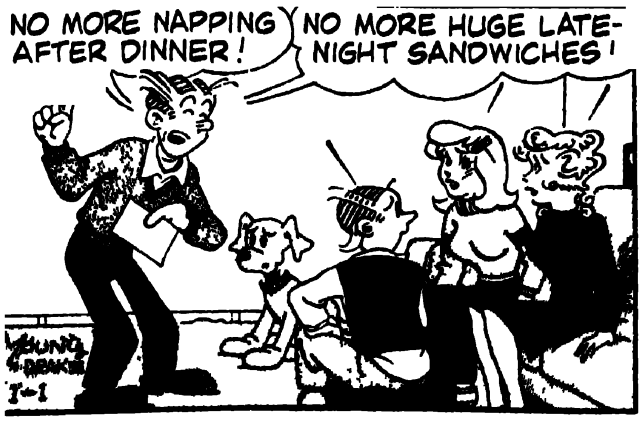












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'THE ALL-TIME LOOK'

Ritu Beri's fashion show in Delhi recently held out against all odds

It was more than just a light drizzle As the heavens opened, the invitees scampered for cover An hour later, they returned to their soggy seats quite unsure whether the show — which appeared jinxed from the outset — would get under way at all

Despite the fact that the controversy-ridden venue for Ritu Beri's 'Sanskriti' show was shifted from the exotic backdrop of the tombs in Lodi Gardens to a farmhouse some 20-odd kms off town, and that it poured through the day and an hour into the show as well, 'Sanskriti' had a good turnout

A short vote of thanks from model Arjun Rampal to the sodden guests for caring enough to have waited for the rain to let up, a 15-minute clean-up job, and Ritu Beri was on

Her usual poise visibly rattled, she said, "I can design clothes, but I have no control over the weather Hope you are able to see at least the first part of my collection for I can see it's drizzling again "

But the rain gods granted Beri her 90 minutes before it came down heavily once again, just after the show-stopper at the end had left the audience dazed The grand finale, a vision in endless yards of silk, bronze lace and encrusted Swarovsky crystal The intricate gold embroidery on the blouse and voluminous lehnga making the bridal creation worth all of Rs 1,25,000!

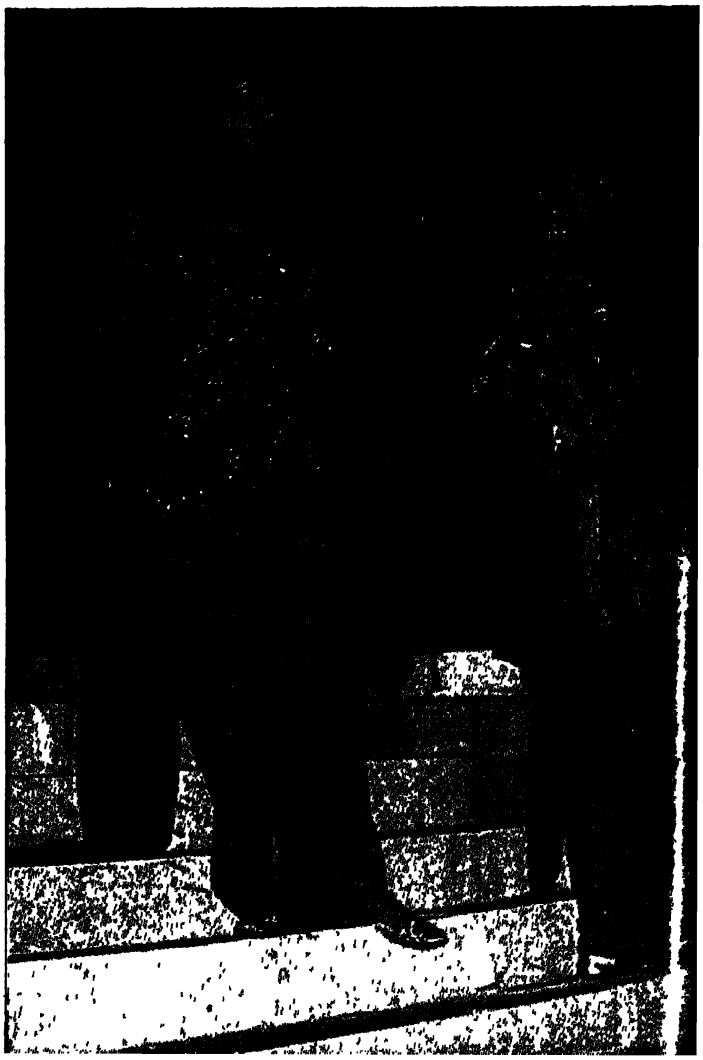
Lightning flashed, thunder clapped and the ramp was bathed in an electric blue light lending a dramatic backdrop to the 156 ensembles, brought to life by the country's top models Anu Ahuja, Pooja Batra, Karminder Kaur, Colleen Khan-Robinson and Marc Robinson were there So was the evergreen Anna Bredemeyer, Farheen Khan, Noyonika Chatterjee, Tehiya and Sonalika Oberoi

Divided into four sequences, the designs were not intended as a forecast collection for the coming summer or Ritu's winter collection but "an all-time look" that she spent two years working out An inspiration stemming from the different periods India went through — Ancient,

The British Collection



The Ancient Collection

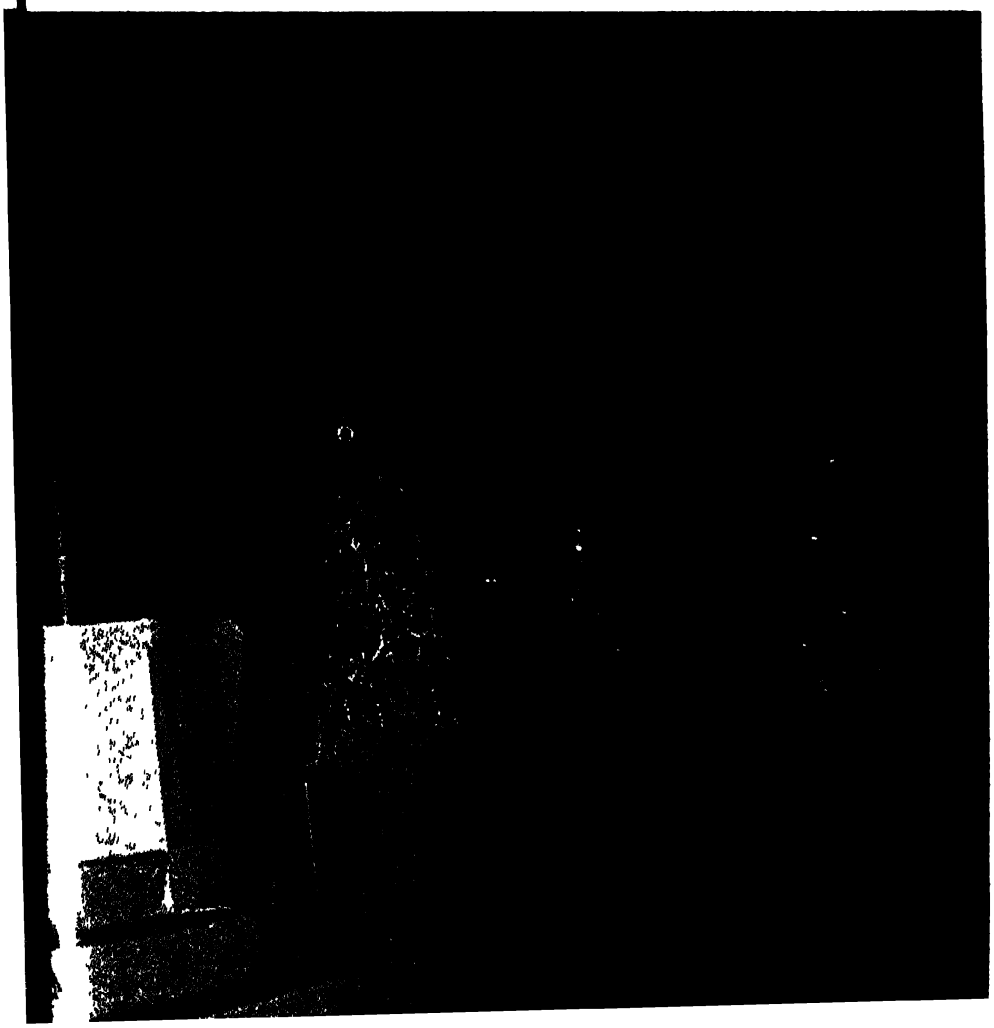




The Contemporary Collection



The Medieval Collection



Medieval, British and Contemporary

"Even though the inspiration is from eras past, it's a statement on the look of today Of how a modern woman can dress, taking cues from history Essentially, I've visualised a woman who doesn't care a whit for the opinion of others and dresses to please herself," explains Ritu

Some techniques of embroidery that embellished all the four collections were different and untried The Ancient collection mirrors the society of the Vedic period, the role played by the *samskaras*, the mysticism The Medieval was inspired by the opulent grandeur of the Mughal era with the Persian influence, clearly reflected in the heavy, exquisite embroidery The British collection has taken hues of the Raj days — the first steps of the Indian woman towards emancipation Finally the Contemporary collection, "a celebration of the woman of today"

Samita Bhatia

RASOI

JIGGS KALRA



Hazaron saal nargis apni benoori peh roti hai/ Barrhi mushqil seh hota hai chaman mein deedawar paida

Translated, it says that narcissus laments its ugliness for a thousand years and more It is only rarely that a connoisseur is born to appreciate its beauty If we — Pushpesh Pant and I — may flatter ourselves, this verse inspired Khumb ke Nargisi The original Nargisi, deriving its inspiration from the flower nargis or narcissus and akin to Scotch Eggs, prided itself for its yellow iris — the yolk of the egg Our recipe has a filling of a humbler hue but far surpasses the traditional Nargisi Kofta in the subtle symphony of flavour

Tired of the now ubiquitous Harra Kebab made with *channa daal*, we decided to give spinach and the lentil the heave-ho and bring in something — the far more exotic broccoli to combine with *musoor daal* Bon Apetit !

KHUMB KE NARGISI

INGREDIENTS

The *Kofta*

450 g / 1 lb Kid/Lamb Mince (10 per cent fat)
12 flakes Garlic
10 g / 1" piece Ginger
2 Green chillies
3 25 g / 1 tbs *Kaali Tulsi*/Basil (fresh)
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Black Peppercorns (freshly crushed)
Salt
Cooking oil to deep fry *kofta*

The Filling

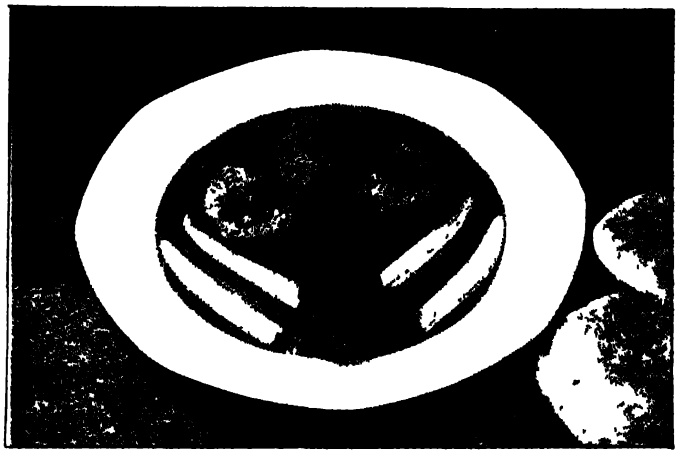
8 Morels (large)
30 g / 1 oz Oyster Mushrooms
60 g / 2 oz Button mushrooms (fresh)
25 g / 2 tbs Butter
5 g / 1 tsp Sugar
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Black peppercorns (freshly crushed)
Salt
10 ml / 2 tsp Lemon juice
5 g / 1/2" piece Ginger
1 75 g / 1/2 tbs *Kaali Tulsi*/Basil (fresh)
16 roasted Pistachio

The Stock

1 litre / 4 1/4 cups clear Kid/Lamb stock
1 75 g / 1/2 tbs *Kaali Tulsi*/Basil (fresh)

The Gravy

60 ml / 1/4 cup Cooking oil
8 Green cardamoms
5 Cloves
2 Bay leaves
3 Black cardamom
2 sticks Cinnamon (1")
200 g / 7 oz Onions
30 g / 5 1/4 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
15 g / 2 1/2 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
125 g / 1/2 cup Yoghurt
75 g / 2 1/2 oz Fried onion paste
30 g / 1 oz Fried garlic paste
15 g / 1 tbs Almond paste
15 g / 1 tbs *Chaar magaz* paste
3 g / 1 tsp *Kashmiri deghi mirch*
Salt
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Black peppercorns (freshly crushed)
0 75 g / 1/4 tsp Green Cardamom powder
0 375 g / 1/8 tsp Mace powder
0 375 g / 1/8 tsp Clove powder
0 375 g / 1/8 tsp Cinnamon powder
0 375 g / 1/8 tsp Rose petal powder
0 5 g / 1 tsp Saffron
1 drop *Ittar*



Khumb Ke Nargisi

Serves: 4
Preparation time: 2 15 hours
Cooking time: 45 minutes

PREPARATION

The *Kofta* Peel and finely chop garlic Scrape, wash and finely chop ginger Wash green chillies, slit, deseed, finely chop and discard the stems Clean, wash and finely chop basil Mix these and the remaining ingredients with the mince in a bowl, divide into 8 equal portions and make balls

The filling Soak morels and oyster mushrooms in hot water for 10 minutes, drain, wash in running water to remove grit and soak again in hot water for 5 minutes or until soft and fully swollen Drain, squeeze out excess water, remove stems, cut morels into thick juliennes and tear oyster mushrooms into small pieces with your hands Slice earthy lower bit of stalks, reserve button mushrooms in water and slice at the time of cooking Scrape, wash and cut ginger into tiny dices Clean, wash and finely chop basil

Melt butter in a frying pan, add sugar and 30 ml / 2 tbs water, stir over low heat until mixture is of syrup consistency Then add mushrooms, stir, add pepper and salt, stir for 3-4 minutes or until glazed Remove, sprinkle lemon juice, stir, add ginger, basil and pistachios, mix well, adjust the seasoning and divide into 8 equal portions

The Stuffing: Flatten each ball between the palms, place a portion of the filling in the middle, make balls again and shape into oval *kofta* Refrigerate for

30 minutes Then heat oil in a *kadhai/wok* and deep fry over medium heat until golden brown Remove to absorbent paper to drain the excess fat

The Stock: Clean basil Put stock in a large *handi*/pot, add the basil, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat and simmer until reduced by a third

The Gravy: Peel, wash and finely chop onions Whisk yoghurt in a bowl Crush saffron with a pestle, soak in 15 ml / 1 tbs of lukewarm water for 15 minutes and then make a paste with the back of a spoon

COOKING
Heat oil in a *handi*/pan, add the two cardamoms, bay leaves, cloves, cinnamon and stir over medium heat until the cardamom begins to change colour, add onions, saute until light golden, add the garlic and ginger pastes, saute until onions are golden Remove from heat, stir-in yoghurt, return *handi*/pan to heat and *bhunno*/stir-fry until the fat leaves the sides Then add the fried pastes, *bhunno*/stir-fry for one-and-a-half to two minutes, add the almond and *chaar magaz* pastes *bhunno*/stir-fry until the fat leaves the sides, add *Kashmiri degha mirch*, stir for 30 seconds, add the stock and salt bring to a boil, reduce to low heat and simmer until reduced by half Remove and pass the gravy through a fine mesh soup strainer into a separate *handi*/pan Return gravy to heat, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat, add *kofta* and simmer for 4-5 minutes, constantly pouring the gravy over the *kofta* Sprinkle the freshly crushed black peppers, green cardamom, mace, clove, cinnamon and rose petal powders, stir, stir-in saffron, remove and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE
Arrange two *koftas* in the middle of each of 4 individual plates, pour on equal quantities of the gravy, arrange a garnish of your choice and serve with *phoolka* or *tandoori roti*

SUBZ KE KEBAB

INGREDIENTS
200 g / 7 oz Broccoli
100 g / 3 oz Potatoes
200 g / 1 cup *Musoor daal*
8 Green cardamom
5 Cloves
3 Bay leaves
3 Black cardamom
2 sticks Cinnamon (1")
Salt
2 g / 1 tbs *Vanajwain*/Thyme (dried, freshly crushed)
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Black peppercorns (freshly crushed)
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Green cardamom powder
0 75 g / 1/4 tsp Mace powder
50 g / 1/4 cup unsalted Butter
Equal quantities of Butter and Groundnut oil to shallow fry

The Filling
60 g / 3 oz *Paneer*
30 g / 1 oz Cheddar Cheese
16 *Chilgoza*/Pine Nuts (roasted)
2 Green chillies
5 g / 1/2" piece Ginger
3 25 g / 1 tbs Ginger
3 25 g / 1 tbs Coriander
Salt
Serves. 4 (2 patties/portion)
Preparation time: 1 20 hours
Cooking time: 4-5 minutes/set

PREPARATION
The Broccoli Paste: Clean and wash Boil enough water in a *handi*/pan, add salt, stir, add broccoli, boil until cooked (approximately 3-4 minutes) Drain, pat dry, cool and then grind into a smooth paste in a food processor/blender Peel potatoes, boil until cooked but not squishy, drain, cool and mash Mix well with broccoli Melt 12 5 g / 1 tbs of butter in a *kadhai/wok*, add the broccoli and potato mixture, *bhunno*/stir-fry until the moisture has completely evaporated and the mixture becomes like a *khoya* ball (Only then would the strong aroma of the two vegetables dissipate) Remove and spread on a flat surface to cool immediately


Subz Ke Kebab

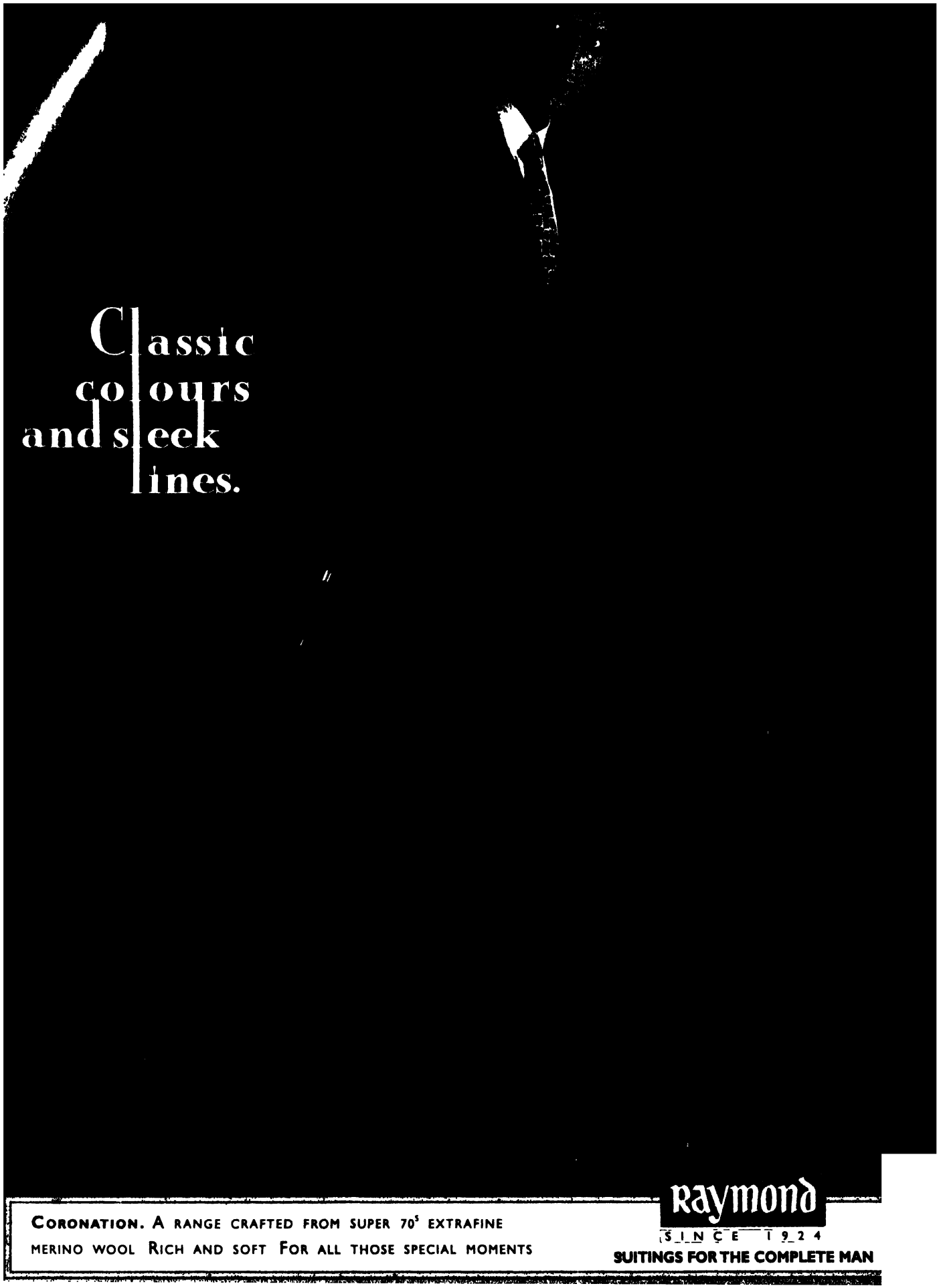
The *Daal* Paste Pick, wash in running water, drain and then soak in water for at least 30 minutes Drain, put in a *handi*/pan, add the two cardamoms, cloves, bay leaves, cinnamon and water (approximately 480ml/2 cups), boil until cooked (approximately 10-12 minutes) Drain, cool, remove the whole spices and grind into smooth paste, preferably with a *sil-batta* (grinding stone), otherwise in a food processor-blender Melt 12 5g/ 1 tbs of butter in a *kadhai/wok*, add the lentil paste and *bhunno*stir-fry until the moisture has completely evaporated and the lentil becomes of a grainy texture (Only then would the strong aroma of the lentil dissipate) Remove and cool

The Vegetable-*Daal* Mixture Put the two pastes in a bowl, add the remaining ingredients (including the remaining butter), mix well, divide into 8 equal portions and make balls
The Filling. Grate *paneer* and cheese in a bowl Wash green chillies, slit, deseed, finely chop and discard the stems Scrape, wash and finely chop ginger Clean, wash and finely chop coriander Mix these and the remaining ingredients and divide into 8 equal portions
The Stuffing Flatten each ball between the palms, place a portion of the filling in the middle, make balls again and flatten into 3/4" thick patties

COOKING
Heat butter and oil on a *tawa*/griddle and shallow fry the patties over medium heat until a crisp layer is formed on both sides Press with a spatula and remove to absorbent paper to drain the excess fat

TO SERVE
Arrange the julienne salad in the middle of each of 4 individual plates, place two *kebabs* on top, arrange the lettuce — *lollo rosso* and *lollo bianco* — as shown in the photograph, pour on the dressing of lemon, oil and *chaat masala* and serve with *khasta roti* or a bread of your choice and a fruit — in this case guava and blue berry — or any other *chutney*

NOTE All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross ■



CORONATION. A RANGE CRAFTED FROM SUPER 70^{s} EXTRAFINE MERINO WOOL RICH AND SOFT FOR ALL THOSE SPECIAL MOMENTS

Raymond

SINCE 1924

SUITINGS FOR THE COMPLETE MAN

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

What a Century!

■ It was an abundantly rewarding experience reading the life and thoughts of the great surviving Gandhian, Morarji Desai, who turned 100 recently ('A Great Long Life', February 26)

The writeup could be treated as an extension of an earlier cover story, 'Summer of the Patriarchs' (January 29)

A disciplined life, strict vegetarian diet and avoidance of any kind of alcohol are the three prime factors responsible for the former Prime Minister's enviable good health and eventful long life

Sukla Das,
Jamshedpur

■ Morarji Desai was never a towering figure in the realm of Indian politics Yet, during his Prime Ministership, Indian foreign policy saw some light at the end of an otherwise dark tunnel For relations between India and Pakistan, no matter for how brief a period, began to show signs of cordiality

But his successors could not keep up the tempo and this gave rise to greater hostility between the two neighbours The possibility of the situation improving in the near future looks dismal

Apart from the political stunt of celebrating his 100th birthday, the government should come out with some worthwhile foreign policy that will reduce tension between the two South East Asian countries This will be a better way of paying tribute to this veteran politician

Choton Banerjee
Calcutta



Gautam Patole

Morarji Desai: Good innings

■ It was surprising that a magazine steeped in fashion, glamour and sex should publish a story on Morarji Desai

Swadhin Kumar Dutta,
Sonarpur (S 24-Parganas)

■ A remarkable century from Desai! Hope he continues his innings smoothly

Biswajit Kar,
Kharagpur

Bikini Beauties

■ It baffles me how a family magazine can print bikini beauties on its pages ('Beauty Tall, Dark and Asian', February 12)

Such license, only to show how Indian models have emulated the prurience of the West in fashion/modelling is beyond the pale of decency

Suman Kar,
Calcutta

Enough of Food

■ Jiggs Kalra has served us enough of his *rasoi* by filling two pages of the Magazine every Sunday for quite some time It is more than we can digest Could we have something else now?

Virendra Shah,
Calcutta

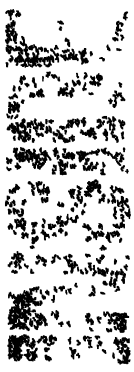
■ In the absence of a bigger Anglo-French dictionary, the word 'Ceviche' (Rasoi, January 15) remains an enigma

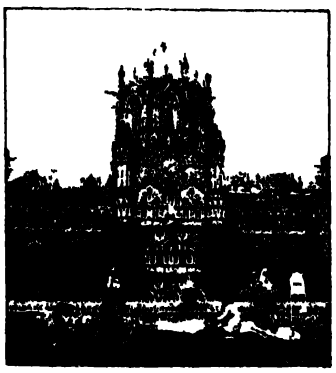
Rangin Banerji,
Calcutta

Common Sense

■ The First Person interview of R K Laxman (January 15) was an excellent treat to lovers of the 'common man' His answer that he would not be remembered after his death was quite in keeping with his witty and simple personality

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore





PAGE 4

RAGHUBIR SINGH's photographic tribute to the undying spirit of Bombay And an essay on what it is that makes the great cosmopolis a jewel in the sea

PAGE 10

PRESENTING THE top women mystery writers

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Cover Irani restaurant, photograph by Raghubir Singh

COVER STORY

Spirit of Bombay

A journey into the heart of Bombay, which twinkles like a diamond in the sea By ***Shameem Akthar.*** *With a photofeature by* ***Raghubir Singh***

As a blazing sun dips into the rippling Arabian Sea and the hooting vehicles jam both eardrums and sensibilities, the night's dew settles on the omnipresent dust in Bombay's thick air and weaves a surreal pattern of magic

A dense fog trails the foam-rimmed sea and all of Bombay's concrete skyline is viewed through this translucent veil It shrouds the grime, the nerve-killing crowds, the garbage and the crime

Only the city's soul seems to shine through this veil And how lovely this is

Ask television personality Siddharth Kak just what it is about this city that grips him and he can tick off a few million things that make it special

For this man from the hills of Kashmir, the romance of Bombay lies in its dun-coloured skyscrapers When the twinkling lights suffuse the concrete with gold, the dusk begins to glow with an inexplicable mystery that makes this city tick

"The whole city seems to visually come alive Oh, there are people on its streets throughout the day But in the evening, when you see them under the evening's glow, you wonder really as to who they are And where they are all going The bright lights against the black sky The city becomes different," he says



Undertakers, Mahim

Photographs extracted from *Bombay Gateway of India* ***photographs by Raghubir Singh, Conversation with V S Naipaul, The Perennial Press, Rs 1,264***



Chauffeur and a Mercedes, Malabar Hill
Fisherwomen, Versova





Kilachand House, Napean Sea Road



Siddharth Kak explains as eloquently as only the deep-throated *Surabhi* man can, Bombay's pull on him. 'Bombay cannot compare in true beauty with the state I come from [Kashmir],' he says. 'But it compares in soul. And that is what matters'

Then there is another Bombay that is lesser known The coastal Bombay where the sea laps incessantly "Unfortunately it does not lap against a clean shore But that is another thing Yet, it is picturesque," he points out

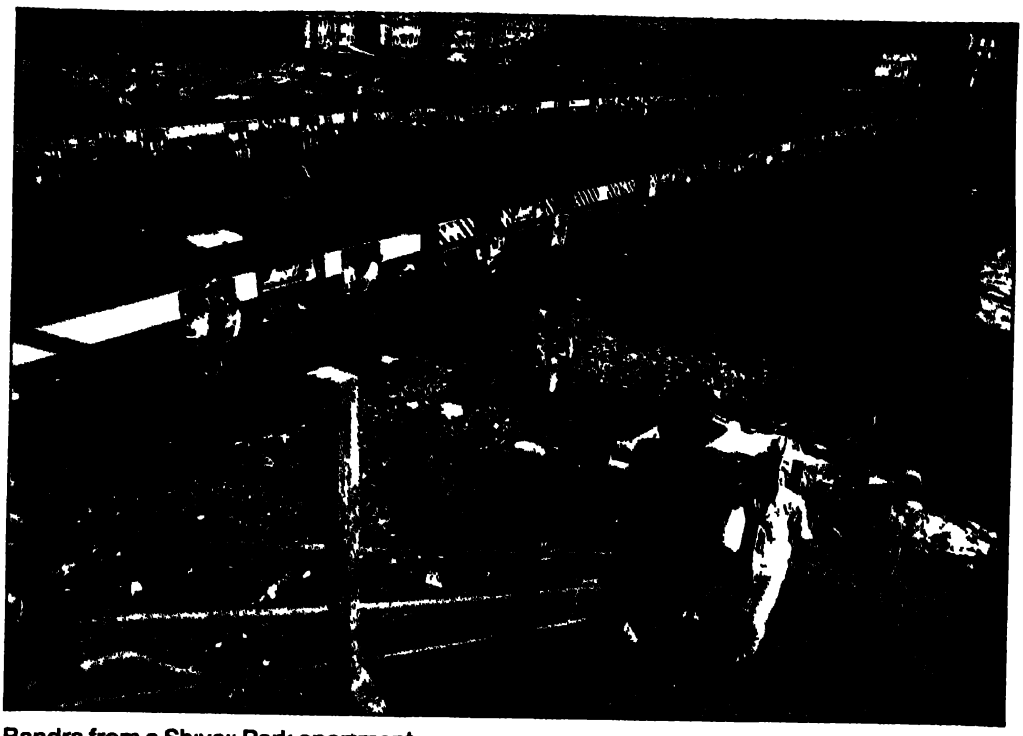
And, of course, the winding coastline where the fishermen still live off a rich

Chawl housing, Girgaum

sea And the beaches still retain their pristine prettiness "An hour's drive away from south Bombay, if you go to Madh Island you could experience the Bombay that was I stayed at the lovely Retreat resort over a weekend And that is another face, a lovely face, of Bombay "

Where the night's slow,

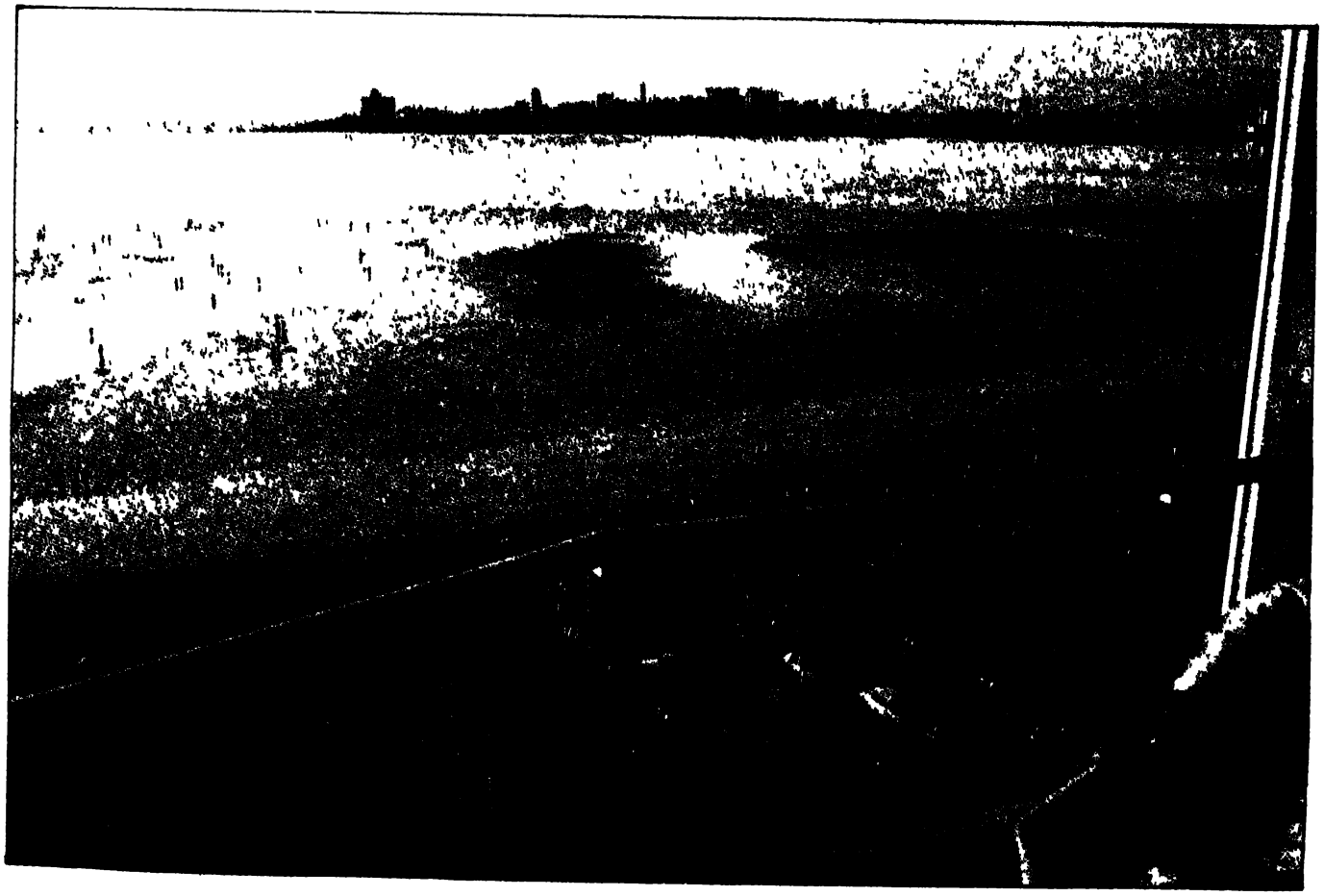
Commuters, Mahim





'Look at Marine Drive in the night. The large hotels sparkling and lighting up a night sky. It is other worldly. It is almost European,' says Michael Ferreira

Bandra from a Shivaji Park apartment





Mario Miranda loves Bombay because it is the only city where one can make a choice to be alone or with the crowd. A city where you can never be alone. Yet, a crowded city that has the heart to let you be

Father and child, Kamathipura



soft winds blow away yesterday's dirt. And the cleansed morning shines clearly through. The mind's eye captures an image that remains etched for long — of flamboyantly dressed fishermen pushing their moss-covered vessels into the rushing waves, the softly lilting boats against a clear horizon, the warm sun on clean sand.

"The whole image is so soft, scenic," Kak rhapsodises

Then, he explains as eloquently as only the deep-throated *Surabhi* man can, Bombay's pull on him. "Bombay cannot compare in true beauty with the state I come from. But it compares in soul And that is what matters"

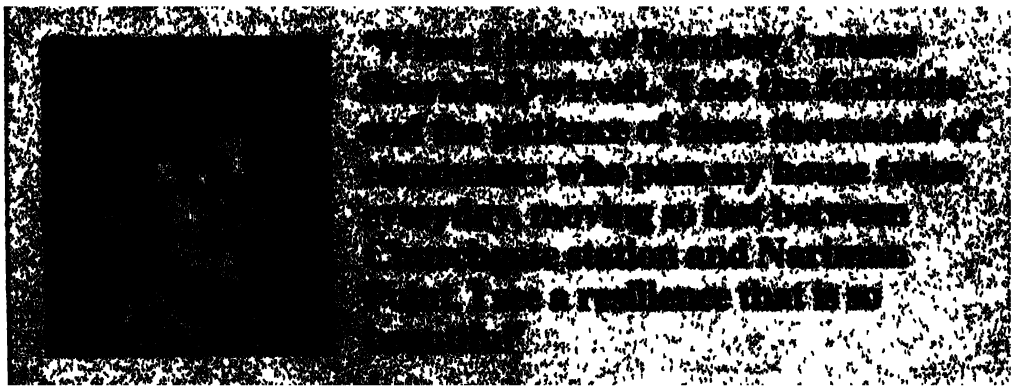
Unlike him, billiards champion Michael Ferreira, who was born and brought up in Bombay, finds his city incomparable "I am, of course, prejudiced," he admits, "but there is a vitality about this city that is so appealing Take Delhi, for instance. Despite its overt beauty it is not a city I would choose to live in. Bombay is truly cosmopolitan There is no consciousness of status But in Delhi everything hinges around one's position and the power that one wields"

He concedes that there is a grimy, ugly side to his beloved city. But he insists that there are sides to it that are so heart-tuggingly beautiful. "Look at Marine Drive in the night. The large hotels sparkling and lighting up a night sky It is other worldly. It is almost European."

Somehow this image of the Queen's Necklace (as Marine Drive is perfectly known), with the bejewelled lights pulsating against a moving mass of restive humanity, embodies the soul of this city. "For me, this is linked to the instinct of Bombay itself. The commuting workaholics who are surviving under enormous strain. Everyone in this city withstands so much pressure. But they are so modern in their outlook. Aware of what is happening in the rest of the world," Ferreira observes

For him every other Indian city is parochial More so a city like Delhi, which he dubs xenophobic And despite all his globe-trotting, Bombay is where Ferreira's heart is And where his hearth is He would not live anywhere else. It is so exhilarating, he explains

Sharada Dwivedi, author and conservationist, would agree; her partiality for this city has resulted in many books on it — the latest one a coffee-table rendition of the many faces



of Bombay, with over 360 photographs titled, *Bombay — the Cities Within*, which she has coauthored with conservation architect, Rahul Mahrotra.

Her partiality for this city is well known. She quantifies it· "When I think of Bombay I see the sunset on the western horizon. I see the beauty of the flame-red gulmohur trees, the sharp pink accacias in April and May I see the fortitude and the patience of these thousands of commuters who pass my house twice everyday — moving so fast between Churchgate station and Nariman Point. I see them walking under my window everyday. I see a resilience that is so beautiful. I see the children playing with abandon on the beaches."

And she sees hope for the city when she spots the leaf-green parrots chirping on the trees, the butterflies winding their fragrant way back to shrubs on the marble-shored traffic islands and the ferns pushing their way through rocks at fountains spouting cool water.

"For me these are symbolic — the increasing greenery, the birds and the insects returning — they symbolise hope," she adds

This city-lover plans to set aside 10 per cent of the sale proceedings on her latest book towards conservation efforts, the focus of which will be the sprawling maidans (both Oval and Cross maidans) trampled by lakhs of commuters everyday

The publishers, India Book House, have offered to contribute an equivalent amount for the same purpose. Industrial houses would also be invited to contribute towards shoring up the conservation effort with financial support.

And then, maybe, Dwivedi's hope will be realised And she will succeed in her efforts to unravel the palinpsest that makes this city so rich and different "The city has so many different layers acquired over decades — it has so many cultural layers that make it fascinating and different," Dwivedi eulogises.

Unlike her, artist and cartoonist Mario Miranda, who has reproduced the changing faces of this city a million times with his eloquent pen, fumbles with words to explain its magic.

Could it be the Gothic structures looming against a dust-laden sky, or the mint-new traffic islands with their frolicking fountains? Or is it the crowded fort area which is now-cleaned, now-dirtied granite stone facade?

Or is it the new craze to light up the old buildings which shine with renewed vigour now? Or, perhaps, it is just the cosmopolitan nature that everybody talks about and loves in this city that makes it so special? He is not so sure

But love it, he does. It is a friend where all his loved ones are The gang that understands his needs

"There is a side to it that is bad And there is a side to it that is good"

But the best side of the city is the one that allows him to choose his friends.

And then, again, it is a city where cinema is. And he loves cinema. And the movie halls where his sharp ear can distinguish a good sound system from a bad one. The beloved Sterling theatre where he has spent many a movie hour, escaping into the special, fantasy that only cinema can weave.

And he loves Bombay because it is the only city where one can make a choice to be alone or with the crowd. A city where you can never be alone. Yet, a crowded city that has the heart to let you be ■

TOUGH NUTS

Female sleuths gain ground as women mystery writers in England and America make inroads in a genre long dominated by men.
***Arthur J. Pais** unravels the facts*

Long before Sara Paretsky's Bold Vic' began investigating mysteries triggered by Chicago's bedroom deals and backroom politics, before Carolyn G Hart's feisty 60-plus journalist-turned-amateur detective exposed evildoers in seemingly blissful and idyllic southern parts of America, and before Anne Perry's upper class heroine joined her commonplace husband Pitt in exposing deceit and murder in Victorian England, there were Nancy Drew and Miss Jane Marple

It was 64 years ago that teen sleuth Nany Drew began to solve the mysteries in dark houses, secret passages, and underground caves and that the novels by Carolyn Keene became immediate, huge hits among teenagers around the world About the same time, the gentle-mannered Miss Marple also began her fabled career as a sleuth, like the Nancy Drew novels, the Marple mysteries sold in millions

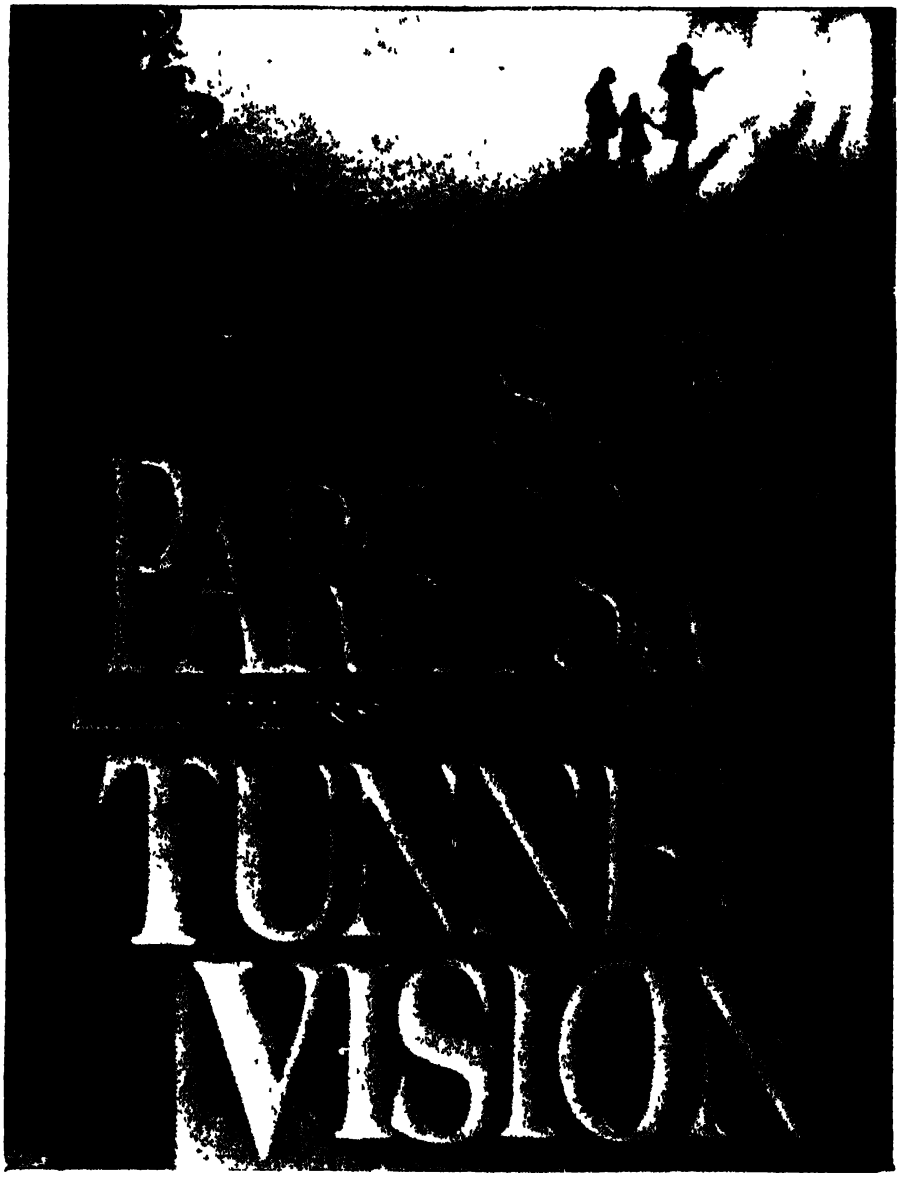
Sara Paretsky



Yet female sleuths remained a rare species for many years Agatha Christie, for instance, was better known for her Hercule Poirot mysteries than for those featuring Miss Marple Female sleuths were a rare sight even in 1964, when Carolyn G Heilbrun, writing as Amanda Cross, created Kate Fessler, a professor of literature who doubled as an amateur detective

It was not until the early Eighties when female sleuths began to appear in significant numbers, gingerly fol-

***Tunnel Vision*: Explosive thriller set in Chicago**



lowing the footsteps of Sharon McCone the gutsy, cerebral character Marcia Muller created in 1977.

McCone, among the first independent private investigators in American literature, is not a "superwoman", says Muller, but "a person with day-to-day problems with which most readers can identify. And she also must deal with the increasingly complex issues every woman faces while making a way for herself in modern society"

Partly inspired by the women's movement and partly spurred by the need to fill a niche, American women ravaged Alaskan parks. American female gumshoes such as V I Warshawski (Bold Vic) would solve complex mysteries, often overcoming the cynicism of male peers and superiors. There are women sleuths who are karate experts, who not only eschew alcohol, but also meat and fish

Self-sufficient, strong-willed, street-smart, generally optimistic and endowed with senses of humour, these women sleuths were a far cry from the male detectives made famous by Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, Robert Parker and scores of others They were also totally different from the macho James Bond-like characters portrayed in many men's books.

As author Margaret Maron says "Unlike the hard-boiled, hard-drinking men sleuths who were often scornful of society, women sleuths were tied to the community from where they came from."

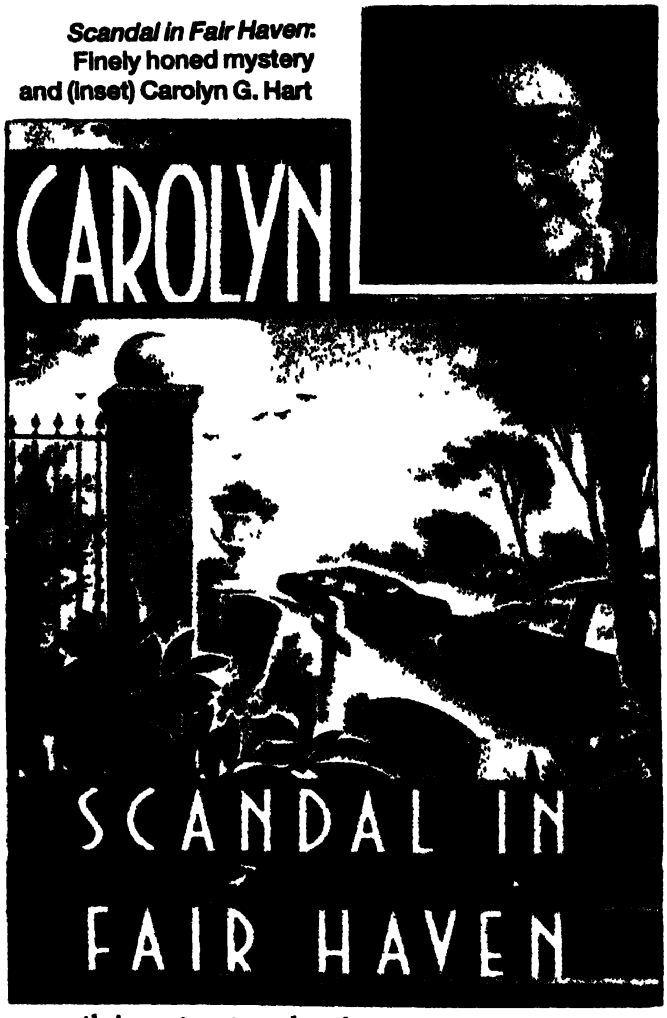
The women characters in the mystery books by most women writers are not prone to brute force: Wit being their most versatile weapon, they were more likely to shoot from their lip rather than from their hip, use brains rather than their brawn.

But they aren't saints either. As Carolyn G. Hart, the bestselling writer of such finely honed mysteries as *Fair Haven*, says: "These were realistic women characters confronting tangled personal relationships."

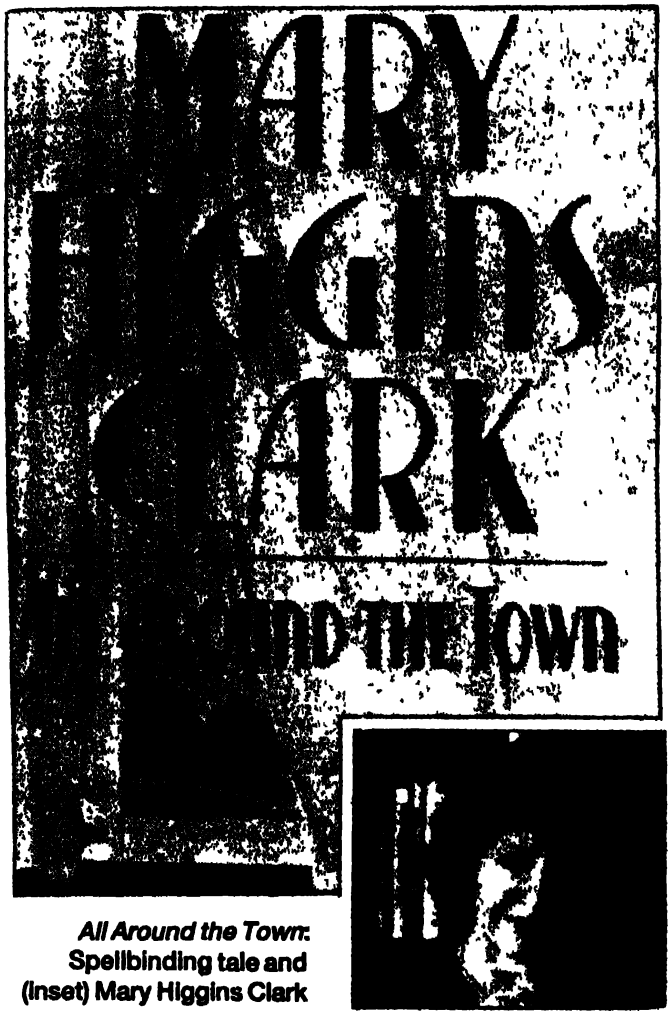
The American women gumshoes were on the march by the mid-Eighties Yet some leading women mystery writers were worried. Crime, they felt, did not pay enough.

Many women were underpublicised by publishers and ignored by the reviewers "Reviewers were utterly necessary for our survival," says Maron "Libraries do not buy books unless they are reviewed by two publications."

The grievances spurred bestselling novelist Paretsky to gather a small group of women writers, editors and readers at the annual world mystery conference in Baltimore, the Bouchercon, for a breakfast meeting. The group expressed an urgent feeling that women mystery writers needed an organisation to promote their work, wring better deals from publishers, and capture the attention of reviewers



Scandal in Fair Haven: Finely honed mystery and (inset) Carolyn G. Hart



All Around the Town: Spellbinding tale and (inset) Mary Higgins Clark

across the country started crafting mystery novels featuring female protagonists. And soon their English sisters would follow them.

While most of the British sisters, including Ruth Rendell and P D. James, continued to create male sleuths, American women explored new territory.

Their female sleuths would soon unravel intricate mysteries in such varied settings as New England university towns, New York's financial district, southern mansions haunted by memories and guilt, and winter-

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TWIST, TURNS AND DECEITS

Fourteen years ago, Sara Paretsky, then a middle-level manager at a major insurance company, and who had a doctorate in history from the University of Chicago, decided to switch careers. She was tired of mystery novels in which only roles women characters played were as punching bags, helpless waifs or sly seductresses.

It was this situation that led her to write *Indemnity Only*, which shook the establishment. "What? A female detective who works alone," said a male competitor. "And uses not only her wits but her fists as well?" Paretsky has written seven more mysteries that have made her a bestselling writer in more than 12 countries.

Four years ago *Ms* magazine named her one of the Women of the Year, Paretsky's latest mystery, *Tunnel Vision*, takes a hard look at the exploitation of immigrants.

"The novel really started with the idea of homeless people living in the underground tunnels of Chicago." Paretsky, whose family has long been associated with social causes, says, "A contractor friend was called in to do some work on a ventilator shaft of a building that was damaged during Chicago's underground flood in 1992. In the course of his work, he found 16 people living in the bottom of the air shaft, which I found totally shocking."

"Also, a few years ago when I was investigating the neighbourhood where I set a lot of action in my sixth novel, *Burn Marks*, I saw a truly gut-shattering, sad experience. There were these couple of guys, who after looking around furtively, squeezed through a narrow, basement window of an abandoned building to go shoot up drugs. I also found out that it was their home. And I found out that there were many places in Chicago where the homeless people went down as much as 50 below the surface of the city so that they could have a' home'"

Paretsky says that life in American cities is like a nuclear explosion. And yet she does not despair much because that means you stop acting.

She says that the contractor she mentioned earlier had started his own job programme for local gang members. "He is training them with skill but he is finding that it takes dozens of kids, perhaps 50 or 60 before he can find five who actually come and stay on the job all day. Many of these kids have grown up without seeing anyone work; they have no job culture. And many of them would not work outside three blocks radius of their

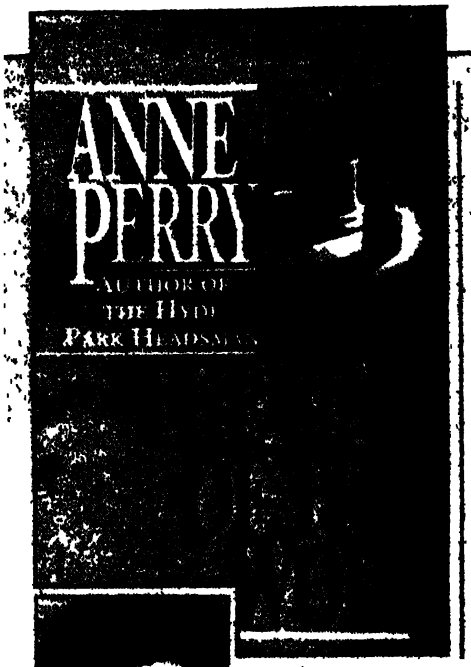
At the end of the day Sisters in Crime (Sin C) was born "Among our aims were creating a visibility for women mystery writers, encouraging them to make personal efforts to publicise their books and produce an annual catalogue," says Sara Paretsky, whose recent bestseller, *Tunnel Vision*, exposes how some of Chicago's powerful bosses lure and exploit illegal immigrants "We have been doing all this and much, much more"

Sin C today has over 1,600 members in 12 countries, at least 15 per cent of the members are brothers in crime—writers, publishers, booksellers, editors and readers The annual catalogue, listing books by members, reaches at least 7,000 wholesalers, bookshop owners, reviewers and readers A glossy 20"×30" map providing information about the settings of Sin C mysteries is mailed widely and being displayed in the front of windows of many bookshops.

Sin C sponsors gatherings at major mystery conferences It also offers a manual of specific tips on how to promote books effectively, and encourages its members to appear as guest speakers in libraries and schools

One achievement that Sisters in Crime takes some credit for is a recent willingness among publishers to arrange promotional tours for writers who are not in the big leagues. "That is because we are indeed selling very well," Hart says "Mystery books by women mean big dollars"

None of the Sin C members is yet to





The Sins of the Wolf. Portrait of secret evil and (inset) Anne Perry

homes because that was their gang territory and they were not going to work on the buildings that a rival gang member would benefit from."

Paretsky says that through her books and personal involvement she is contributing her little bit to improving the city of Chicago. "The enormity of the problems is so great that some of the things that might have worked 30 years ago — fixing educational system, ending segregation — are not going to work now."

Anne Perry sets her mystery novels in the Victorian period. "It

cs, specially involving honesty, compassion and courage, whether a person under stress has the grace to face up to the truth and act honourably," Perry says. "And the Victorian age, which was one of the most prosperous in British history, had a great deal of hypocrisy.

"Appearances and reputations mattered intensely in that age and so much was hidden. There were great many situations where people did not have legal recourse to help or justice. Blackmail often provided perfect excuse for murder.

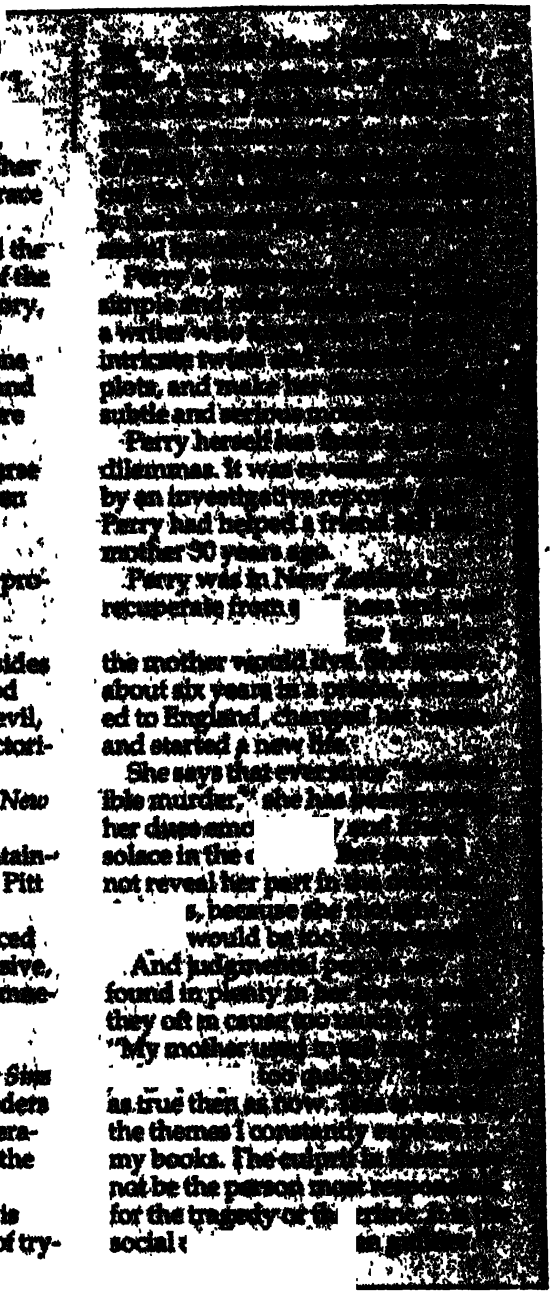
"Unfortunately many of the problems from the Victorian age have continued with us."

Perry is a favourite on both sides of the Atlantic. "Give her a good murder and a shameful social evil, and Anne Perry can write a Victorian mystery, that would make Dickens' eyes pop," raved *The New York Times* book review.

Her first set of mysteries containing 14 titles, features Inspector Pitt and his gutsy, inquisitive wife Charlotte; her second, introduced four years ago, presents an elusive, enigmatic William Monk, an amnesia victim, and a former police officer.

In her newest bestseller, *The Sins of The Wolf*, Perry takes her readers away from London to the venerable Edinburgh, the 'Athens of the North'

Investigator William Monk is saddled with a daunting task of try-



Perry

simple and

a writer who

intricate

plots, and

subtle and

Perry

dilemmas. It

by an investigative

Perry had helped

mother 30 years ago.

Perry was in

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the mother

about six years

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and started a new life.

She says that

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social

match the success achieved by their sister, Mary Higgins Clark, who began writing in her mid fifties, even as she was completing her bachelors degree, her studies having been interrupted years ago by her husband's death and the onus of bringing up half a dozen children

But many Sin C members have not only found a place in the bestseller lists, but also seen their books being made into movies Rochelle Majer Krich, the writer of five bestselling mysteries, sold the movie rights of her *Where's Mommy Now* last year, the film stars Terri Garr Hart says that more than 1 million of her books have sold in hardcover and paperback Recently, she has created a new series involving Henrietta O'Dwyer Collins, a retired newspaperwoman with a zest for life and a talent for trouble.

"Carolyn G Hart is America's Agatha Christie," fellow-writer Susan Dunlap notes "Her *Dead Man's Island*, the first Henrietta mystery is a tightly-plotted page turner with an array of delightfully wicked suspects on a vacation island."

Recently titles by Paretsky and Sue Grafton have remained in the *New York Times* bestseller list for more than three months and their paperback rights have been purchased for more than $1 5 million.

"Women mystery writers are hot as hell," says Steve Rubin, long been associated with *Doubleday* and a respected publisher and editor And their success "has been fuelled by the terrific-

ness of their female sleuths". He adds that women mystery writers are read in significant numbers by men. "Otherwise, writers like Paretsky and Grafton would not be international bestsellers."

Rubin says, with some exaggeration of course, that the male, Anglo-Saxon private eye, always drinking, always after women, and always cynical of the world around him, may soon become extinct.

Meanwhile, says Hart that if Keene, the writer of Nancy Drew mysteries, and Christie, the creator of Miss Marple "could see what has happened to women sleuths and women mystery writers today, they would be more than delighted

"They would be very proud." ■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Rajib De

Wanderer

Lay down tracks, rails your feet can follow.

Essentially alone,
Playing with the deaths of many years.

The face of this clock is yours
Lonely and unrecognisable even to yourself.

Gargoyles leave your brain alone.
Bagpipes screech into your womb.

You are the winged car whose reflection
Is mirrored in every pool

Ghost towns blow dust into your eyes,
Moss on brick walls are corners in your mind

You eat lilies on toast, with roseberry jam,
They build memorials in every spot you pass,
Anterions spring up in the ones they miss

You walk a thousand miles
To shed this skin.

You do not uncoil, settle down and set root,
You are a unicorn, chasing the wind
Your hoofs beating a staccato
On every tin roof

You are the summer
That walks into the arches
Of the avenue of stone.

Mishta Roy

Down the Skyline

The window refuses to sleep.
Pale eyes of the moon
Are wide awake in infatuation.
Blue of the horizon keeps the moon
Awake by nightlong dialogue.

Sometimes it seems worth living
Even without the endeared person beside.
We are always in quest of a meaning
That sometimes makes the living meaningless.

Now the moonshine is lying on my bed
And I am at my desk.
Searching for reasons
For my being here.
Irreversible night flows down the skyline.

Pronab Kumar Majumder

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says focus on work as well as personal affairs, both of which will please you and tax you Now is the time to seek new pastures, if interested Also, you can add a second string to your bow In matters of the heart, a little caution is advisable March 30-31 show the way, so to say

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Thanks to the moon's placing, a journey or a collaboration is likely You could be visiting pilgrimages in 1995-1996 Publicity, ceremony, functions and meets keep you exceptionally busy Many Taureans will be looking for new avenues in their business or profession

Gemini

May 21—June 20



As the sun turns very favourable, you will socialise, converse brilliantly, have friends, win over people, entertain, be amused and thus have a ball March 26-27 is for news, views, ideas, messages, calls, communication, ties and trips Romance is in the air

Cancer

June 21—July 20



A terrific heave-ho for Cancerians and the results will fully justify all your efforts, so go ahead bravely and silently Partnerships, or, at least, the opinion of others, deserve your sympathetic listening Statuswise and moneywise, you do go up a notch or two on and after March 30

Leo

July 21—August 21



Mars regains direct motion in your sign, according to Western astrology That should help you to come down hard and flat on opposition, thus, crushing it, or, at least, crippling it It would be best to work out a plan, as distractions and diversifications will be numerous

Virgo

August 22—September 22



It seems that you will be changing tracks as others change their clothes Ties and connections are suggested by your planetary ruler, Mercury, and these could result in a trip Mars is indicative of expenses, but these will be for a worthy cause

Libra

September 23—October 22



Kicks, kisses, bricks and bouquets sum it up sweetly There are two major influences here Change in the home front right from mere innovation to outright buying, selling, leasing or renting could be one trend Marriage, official engagement, business or collaborations could be the other trend

Scorpio

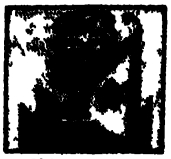
October 23—November 22



Ganesha says, loans, funds, taxes, legacy, lottery, hypothecations, leases and insurances, should have a noteworthy impact on your life Health may not be at its best and an operation could be necessary Pay heed to news and messages now, as these could lead to contracts and big deals

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



The luck of the draw should be with you Go in for a lottery, a football pool or games of chance, if you feel inclined Many of you will be engaging yourselves in new/different activities and shifting mental and work gears very rapidly Romance beckons you bewitchingly

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



While you will be moving fast, organising superbly, managing home as well as office with flair and artistry, see that you do not neglect yourself Health will need attending to and there's a strong possibility of a surgery Many of you will be renovating, buying or selling house

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Take the long shot, be it a job, a loved one, a project in limbo which can be revived and be bold about it Trips and visits are very likely March 30-31 are important in this regard March 26-27 will be highly significant—for personal matters You will receive important news, too

Pisces

February 19—March 20



You will have to pull yourself together and make a very concentrated effort at that It will spell success There are chances of a promotion, socialising, buying, selling and leasing for the next 22 days So be alert for opportunities Time for entertaining and socialising

BIRTHDAYS

March 26: Moon-Jupiter happy placing leads to journey, ceremony, inspirational moves and [illegible] says Ganesha.

March 27: Moon-Venus conjunction [illegible] of beauty, enough money to enjoy [illegible] lifestyle will be [illegible].

March 28: Moon against Pluto [illegible] of [illegible] August 23. December [illegible]

March 29: Moon conjoining [illegible]

your work will finally be done, as Mercury is the negotiator.

March 30: Mercury sextile Neptune making for inspiration, intuition and insight—three exceptionally useful attributes for a grand success in life and love.

March 31: The new moon is excellently placed with Jupiter making you to be an optimist. You will be successful and [illegible]

April 1: Jupiter, the good luck planet, is at a static position; a little time will be required to set things in motion, to [illegible] and thus be satisfied.

IME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-741	0710	3, 5	IC-742	0940	3, 5
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1, 3, 5 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3, 5, 7
[redacted]					
M9-304/109	0855	1, 3, 5	M9-110/301	1900	1 3, 5
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2 4, 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2, 4 6 7
[redacted]					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-721	1300	1, 3, 5	IC-722	1540	1, 3 5
[redacted]					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
[redacted]					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1525	1, 3 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
9W 202	0920	1, 2, 3, 4 5 6	9W-201	0840	1, 2, 3 4, 5 6
IC-273	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W-212	1945	daily	IC-274	1850	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
AI-309	2035	6	D2 103	1925	daily
AI 681	2350	1			
[redacted]					
			IC-262	0815	2, 4, 7
IC-263	0700	daily	S2-025	0810	1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6
S2-026	0845	1, 2, 3 4, 5 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	AI 682	0950	1
IC 812	1515	1 3, 5	S2 015	1015	1, 3, 5
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	4S-806	1115	1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1745	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 6	S2-005	1855	1, 2 3 4 5 7
IC-261	1900	2 4, 7	M9-301	1900	daily
M9-302	1930	daily	IC-811	1930	1, 3, 5
S2-006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	IC-264	2210	daily
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3, 5	IC-704	1430	3 5
IC-703	0800	3, 5	D2-181	1620	1 3, 5 7
D2-181	1135	1 3, 5, 7	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
D2 183	1135	2, 4, 6	IC-702	1630	2, 4, 6, 7
4S-815	1145	1 2 3 4 5, 6	4S-816	1705	1, 2 3 4, 5, 6
IC-701	1240	2 4 6 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-257	1150	4, 7	IC-258	1650	4, 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	IC-712	1410	2 6
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC-704	1430	3 5
PF 705	0730	2, 4, 6, 7	IC-706	1430	1, 4 7
IC-703	0800	3, 5	PF 706	1510	2 4, 6 7
IC 707	0800	1, 4, 7	D2 181	1620	1, 3 5 7
IC-711	0800	2 6	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
D2-181	1135	1 3 5, 7	IC-230	1650	daily
D2-183	1135	2 4, 6	4S-811	1705	1, 2, 3, 4 5, 6
4S-812	1145	1 2 3, 4, 5, 6	PF-736	1730	1

FLIGHTS

[redacted]					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4
[redacted]					

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
IC-257	1150	4, 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC 211	1240	4, 6	IC-258	1740	4, 7
IC-229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4, 6
[redacted]					
S2-023	1045	1, 3, 5	S2-024	1525	1, 3, 5
IC-777	1600	2, 4, 7	IC-778	2100	2, 4, 7
IC-769	1525	1, 3 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-707	0800	1, 4, 7	IC-256	1320	3, 5
IC-255	0830	3, 5	IC-708	1430	1, 4, 7
IC-253	1100	2, 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
[redacted]					
IC-213	0910	2, 4, 7	IC-213	1315	2, 4, 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
[redacted]					
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-542	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
IC-544	1115	2, 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2-171	1045	daily
D2-172	1740	daily	IC-766	2220	daily
[redacted]					
IC-769	1525	1, 3 5	IC 770	2120	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-249	1430	2, 4, 7	S2-015	1015	1, 3, 5
S2-016	1555	1 3, 5	IC-249	1805	2, 4, 7
IC-812	1515	1, 3, 5	IC-811	1930	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-285	0640	3, 5 7	IC-286	1100	2, 4, 6
[redacted]					
IC-249	1430	2 4, 7	IC 249	1805	2, 4, 7
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2, 2, 6, 7	Pf-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
[redacted]					
IC-255	0830	3, 5	IC-260	1110	1, 7
IC-259	0830	1 7	IC-256	1320	3, 5
IC-253	1100	2, 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC-212	1740	4, 6
[redacted]					
IC-213	0910	2, 4, 7	IC-213	1315	2, 4, 7
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
[redacted]					
S2 016	1555	1, 3, 5	S2-015	1015	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-542	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-541	1030	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1

[redacted] INTERNATIONAL

[redacted]					
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 6, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-108	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1805	2, 4, 6, 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RO-076	2005	5, 7	RO-075	1005	5, 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-696	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1 2, 3, 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5
[illegible]					
IC-747	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-748	1455	1, 3, 5
RA-214	1815	1 4	RA-213	1715	1, 4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
LONDON					
BA-142	2050	3, 7	BA-143	1525	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
PARIS					
KB-106	1200	3	KB 105	1040	2 6
KB 106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ-415	2200	2, 5	SQ-416	2040	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13-00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya-Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues, Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16-15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed, Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10-45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun, Arr Wed & Sat	12-50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri-Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat, Arr Tues, Wed, & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun, Mon, Wed & Fri	4-30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9-45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15-30	3050
3039	21-00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5-20	3040
3019	16-05	**Kathgodam Express**	11-55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5-00	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	5-50	3032
3025	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday, Arr Friday	11-35	3026
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6-50	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed, Arr Fri, Sat & Sun	6-50	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4-50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express** Dep Mon, Tues Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs, Fri Sat & Sun	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7-15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gaur Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	3104
5185	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14-10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri, Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21-40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22-15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5-30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8-25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23-20	**Tirupati Express**	4-15	8080
8045	10-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16-40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	—
—	11 05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
—	14-05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	—
6316	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22-35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203496-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THAT BEAUTIFUL DRAGON

The first time I saw a train, I was standing on a wooded slope outside a tunnel, not far from Kalka Suddenly, with a shrill whistle and a great burst of steam, a green and black engine came snorting out of the blackness I turned and ran to my father

"A dragon!" I shouted "There's a dragon coming out of its cave!"

Since then, steam engines and dragons have always inspired the same sort of feelings in me — wonder and awe and delight I would like to see a real dragon some day — green and gold — and because I have always preferred the reluctant sort — rather shy and gentle But till that day comes, I shall be content with steam engines

In India the steam engine is still very much with us In 1855 the East India Railway was opened between Calcutta and Raniganj, a distance of 122 miles By the turn of the century, India had one of the most extensive railway systems in the world Today, the hundreds of trains that criss-cross the subcontinent, panting over desert and plain, through hill and forest, are still pulled by these snorting monsters who belch smoke by day and scatter red stars in the night

Even now, when I see a train coming round the bend of a hill, on a crossing or bridge, or cutting across a wide flat plain, I feel the same sort of innocent wonder that I felt as a boy

Where are all the people going to and where have they come from and what are they really like? When children wave to me from carriage windows, I wave back to them It is a habit I have never lost And sometimes I am in a train waving and the children from nearby villages come running out of their mud huts to wave back to me — well, not to me exactly, it is really the train they are waving at

Small, wayside stations have always fascinated me Manned sometimes by just one or two railway employees, and often situated in the middle of a damp subtropical forest or clinging to the mountainside on the way to Shimla or Darjeeling, these little stations are for me, outposts of romance, lonely symbols of the pioneering spirit that led man to lay tracks into the remote corners of the earth

I remember such a stop on a line that went through the Terai forests near the foothills of the Himalayas At about 10 at night the *khalasi* or station watchman, lit his kerosene lamp and started walking up the tracks into the jungle

"Where are you going?" I asked

"To see if the tunnel is clear," he said "The Overland Mail comes in 20 minutes"

I accompanied him a furlong or two along the track, through a deep cutting which led to the tunnel Every night the *khalasi* walked through the dark tunnel and then stood outside to wave his lamp to the oncoming train to signal that the track was clear If the engine driver did not see the light, he stopped the train It always slowed down near the cutting

Having inspected the tunnel, we stood outside waiting for the train It seemed a long time coming There was no moon and the dense forest seemed to be trying to crowd us into the narrow cutting The sounds of the forest came to us — the belling of a sambar and cry of a jackal told us that perhaps a tiger or leopard was on the prowl



It charged straight at the tunnel and into it, thundering past us like the beautiful dragon in my dreams. And when it had gone, the silence returned and the forest breathed again. Only the rails still trembled with the passing of the train

There were strange nocturnal bird sounds and then silence

The *khilasi* stood outside the tunnel, trimming his lamp, listening to the faint sound of the jungle — sounds which only he could identify and understand Something made him stand very still for a few moments, peering into the darkness and I knew that everything was not as it should be

"There is something in the tunnel," he said

I could hear nothing at first, but then there came a regular sawing sound, just like the sound made by someone sawing through the branch of a tree

"*Baghera!*" whispered the *khilasi* He had said enough to make me recognise the sound of a leopard trying to find its mate "The train will be coming soon We must drive the animal out or it will be run over!"

He must have sensed my surprise because he said, "Do not be afraid I know this leopard well We have seen each other many times He has a weakness for stray dogs and goats, but will not harm us " He gave me his small hand axe to hold and, raising his lamp high, started walking into the tunnel, shouting at the top of his voice to try and scare away the animal I followed close behind him

We had gone about 20 yards into the tunnel when the light from the lamp fell on the leopard which was crouching between the tracks It bared its teeth in a snarl and went down on its stomach, its tail twisting I thought it was going to spring The *khilasi* and I both shouted together Our voices rang and echoed through the tunnel And the leopard, uncertain as to how many humans there were in the tunnel, turned swiftly and disappeared into the darkness ahead

The *khilasi* and I walked on till the end of the tunnel without seeing the leopard again As we returned to the entrance of the tunnel the rails began to hum and we knew the train was approaching

I put my hand down to one of the rails and felt its tremor And then the engine came round the bend, hissing at us, scattering sparks into the darkness, defying the jungles as it roared through the steep sides of the cutting It charged straight at the tunnel and into it, thundering past us like the beautiful dragon in my dreams

And when it had gone, the silence returned and the forest breathed again Only the rails still trembled with the passing of the train

(Sanctuary Features)

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WE SHOW MORE, WE COST LESS...CHECK OUT AND BOOK.

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

CHUGGING THROUGH THE VALLEY

One of my most prized possessions is a railway ticket, cardboard bound in cloth, which reads as follows *AC Class Pass for Gillian Wright with Two Servants in 2nd class and 140 kgs of luggage, valid station to station over Pakistan Railways Available also for Brake-Vans of goods trains and All Locomotives Valid one month*

This is the nearest I have ever come to having the freedom of any railways Unfortunately, I didn't have 140 kgs of luggage or two servants, and so could not make the fullest use of this ticket

But I was able to travel from Karachi to the Khyber — the excuse being to make a film about a railway journey For me, the most fascinating part of this journey was the passage through interior Sind to Baluchistan and the Afghan border at the poetically named frontier post of Chaman

It has to be said, railways in Pakistan have not been given the priority they have in India No new lines have been built and investment has gone into roads and air This means, trains don't run too fast to discard some beautiful, though antiquated, remnants of the Raj These are the solid teak saloons, complete with bathrooms, bedrooms and sitting rooms which are allocated to the seniormost in government and the railways

It was in one of these that I was privileged to have a berth But I didn't start my journey there

We left Karachi on the One-Up Khyber Mail which takes two nights and a day to reach Peshawar 1,700 kms away The station was dimly lit, and the guard swung his lantern high as we pulled out away from the city and into the Indus valley

This was the time when other passengers were settling down to sleep But the film crew and I were in the mail van where the railway mail service was in full swing Throughout the night bulging mail bags were emptied on to the floor of the carriage, the staff picking up letters by the handful and sorting them into pigeon holes

I stepped down for tea at Kotri station, where petromax lamps lit stalls and cries of *garam chae* made plain one thing still held in common between the railways of India and Pakistan

The next exchange of mailbags was at Hyderabad Sind before our sleeper was uncoupled, shunted into a siding

The journey from Hyderabad, through mango orchards and date palm groves, to Rohri was undertaken in daylight once our carriage had been attached to the Awam Express

At Rohri, hundreds of passengers were making their way out of the station by ignoring the footbridges and climbing over the tracks

Rohri is the junction for Quetta, and stands right on the bank of the great Indus river. On the bank opposite is the twin city of Sukkur, and downstream, the barrage opened in 1932 which feeds 10,500 kms of canals and irrigates over three million hectares of land

I made my way down to the river past hundreds of buffaloes proceeding for their morning bath, before taking a boat trip to the islands midstream Just oppsite the dust-coloured houses of Rohri, is the fortified island of Bukkar to one end of which is the island shrine of Shri Sadhbela

Sind is famous for its many shrines of pirs and saints, but I had never before been to a functioning Hindu shrine in Pakistan The priest there was also far from accustomed to seeing foreign visitors

The central shrine was devoted to an alabaster statue of Baba Ban Khandi, the holy man who had settled and died there He was garlanded with gold tinsel, draped in pink silk and surrounded by spiralling tinsel decorations and fairy lights Copies of the Gita and Guru Granth Sahib were also on display, as were images of Annapurna Mata and Durga

Outside in a small shrine the priest was proud to show me a new innovation Instead of an earthenware pot full of holy water, directly above the Shiv *lingam* was a tap

The shrine seemed empty but the priest told me that there was a large Hindu population in Sukkur and that on Fridays, the weekly holiday, families bought their children to the island

The Indus at Rohri is spanned by two magnificent bridges The pale grey, single span Ayub bridge is the present railway bridge The other, The Lansdowne, can no longer be used by trains as it is over 100 years old There are several widely believed legends about this impressive "monstrosity in steel"

One say that the engineer who made it had his hands cut off by the British so that he could never design another

The second is that there is a key which fits into the middle of the bridge and can be turned to make it split in two The engineer, however, is said to have thrown away the key into the Indus

Until the Lansdowne bridge was built in 1889, all rail goods and passenger traffic between Karachi and the Punjab had to be ferried across the river During the years the railway itself was coming into being a magnificent floating institution, the Indus Flotilla, steamed up the Indus from Kotri to Multan, over 1,000 kms away, taking 34 days to complete the journey

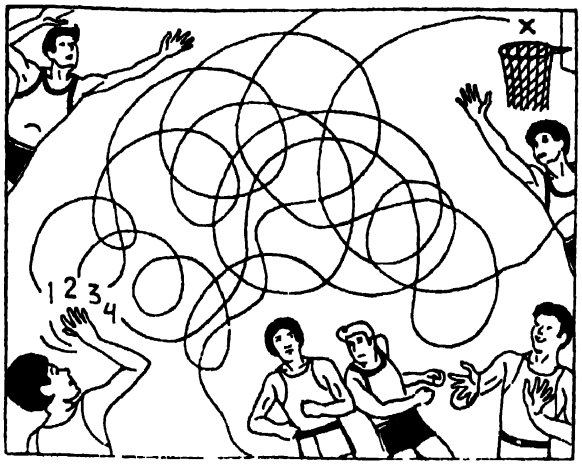
Now barrages have made the Indus only locally navigable I only saw small boats carrying firewood working up and downstream In turn, the railways are being overtaken by roads The cotton and red chillies that were once transhipped on to the meter gauge at Rohri now go by truck

The lines from Karachi through Sind to the Punjab were commercial lines, giving the prosperous province a port for its produce. But the line leading northwards across the Ayub bridge through desert and mountain to Baluchistan was built to guard the Bolan Pass — with the Khyber, one of the two overland gateways to India

[To be continued]

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL HAL KAUFMAN



YES, OR NO! Which route does the ball take to reach the net? Choose 1, 2 3 or 4 Trace line through for answer

BOO-BOO CUE! I am a word of two syllables My first is the result of a poor shot My second is the opposite of give My all is an error in the making What word am I? No fair peeking below

I am the word mistake — mis (miss) take



RUN OF MILL LOG WORDS

TIMBER! A group of six words ending in LOG are incomplete above You are asked to puzzle them out in accord with the following

1 Sales brochure often found in the mail
2 Stand-up comedian's routine
3 Free up a drain-pipe
4 Accumulation of unfinished business
5 A language used in the Phillipines
6 Film associated with distant places

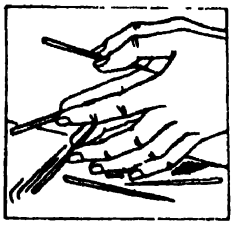
Words range from six to eight letters long Remember, all of them end in letters LOG

1 Catalog 2 Monolog 3 Unclog 4 Backlog, 5 Tagalog 6 Travelog

HANDS ON! Let your fingers do the walking in this dexterity test Object is to pick up toothpicks (or paper clips) using fingers of both hands thusly Pick up toothpicks between two little fingers, grasp next toothpick between two third fingers, continue with middle fingers, index fingers, and finally thumbs

Time limit Two minutes

If another person is present, try having a race



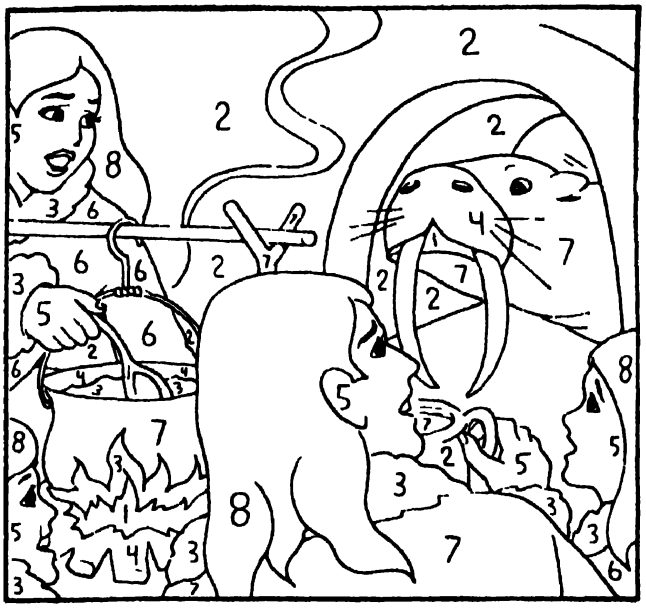
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Tree limb is missing 2 Towel is missing 3 Cuffs are missing 4 Collar is different 5 Club is shorter 6 Hole is missing

FUNSPOT



TUSK, TUSK! Oops, we've an unexpected visitor. Apply colors by number neatly Code. 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Black.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

ESCHEWAL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 30 points

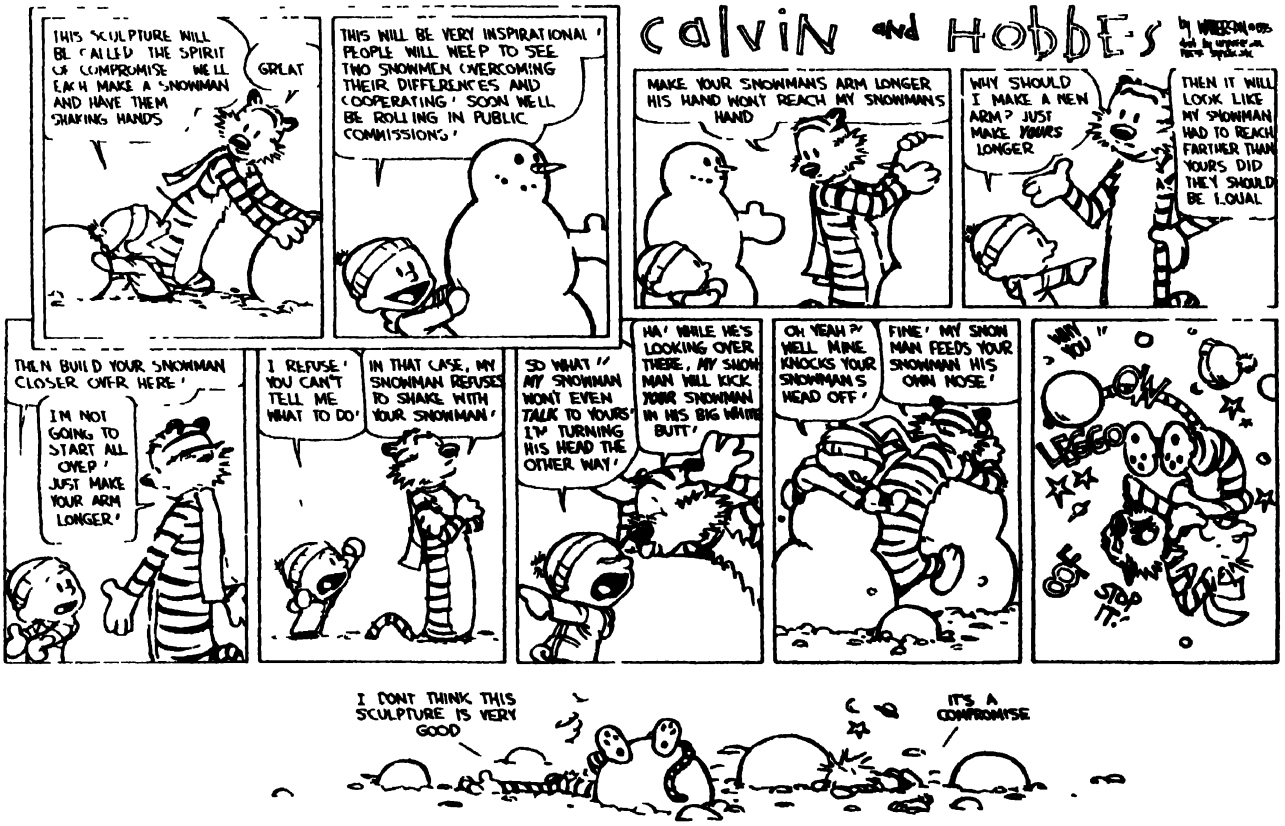
Possible twosome Chew sale

COMICS

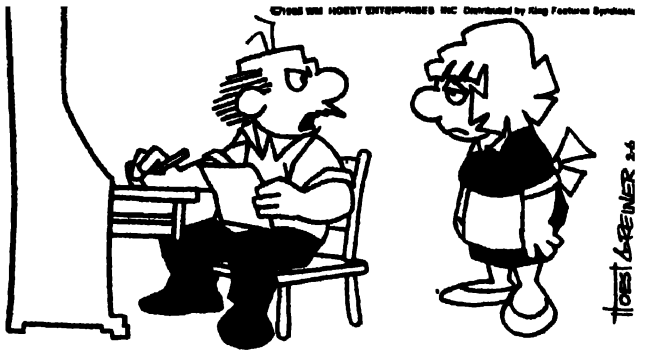
ARCHIE



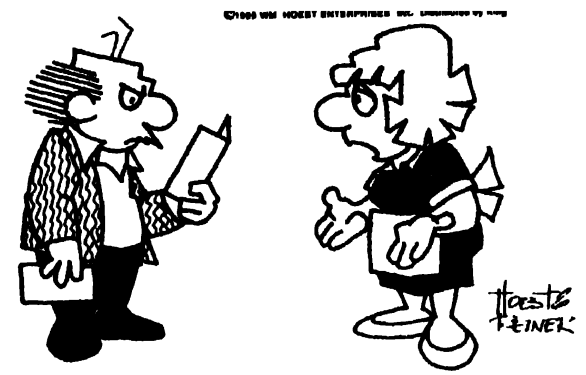
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



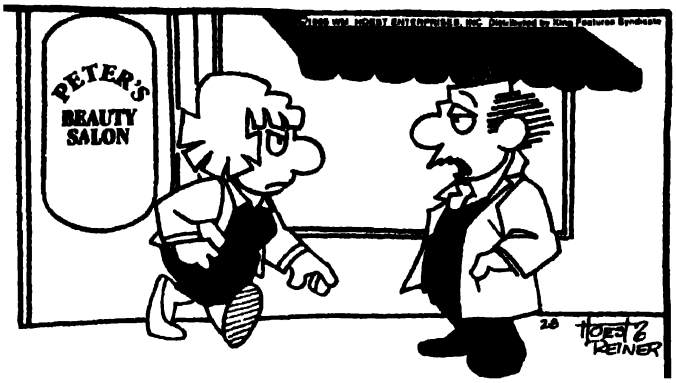
THE LOCKHORNS



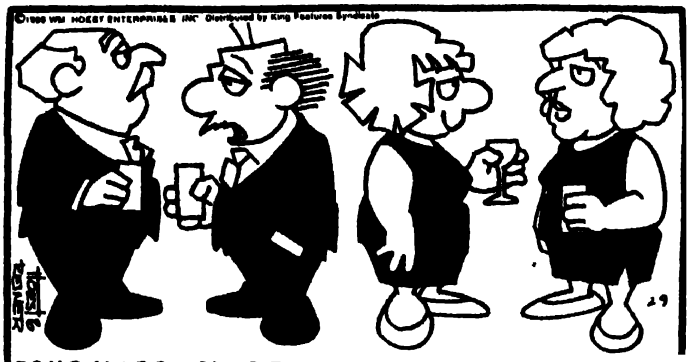
"YOU KNOW, IF YOU'D JUST SPENT $23.17 MORE THERE LAST YEAR, WE COULD HAVE TAKEN THE MALL AS A DEPENDENT."



"'THERE'S NO FOOL LIKE AN OLD FOOL' IS MOTHER'S WAY OF WISHING YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY."

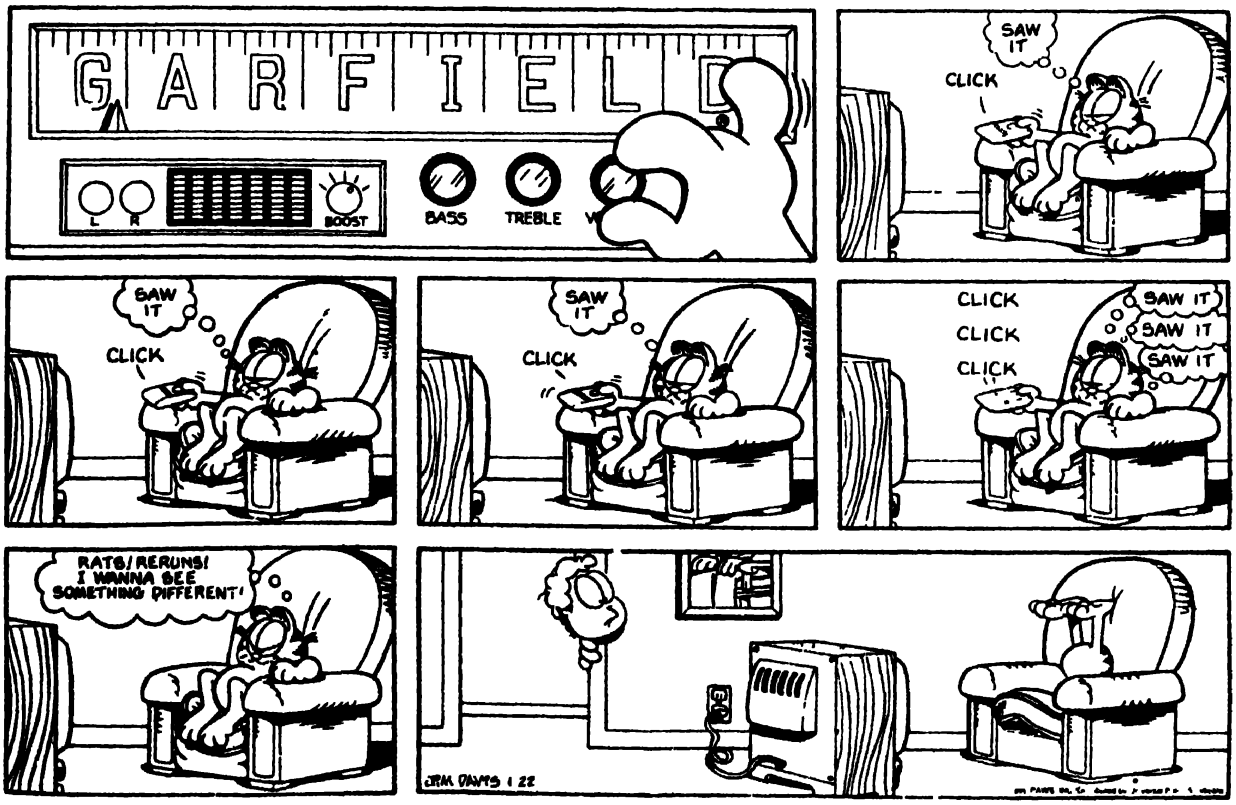


"I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR PETER HE'S NO QUITTER."



"OUR MARRIAGE IS 50-50 LORETTA SPENDS HALF THE TIME TELLING ME WHAT TO DO AND THE OTHER HALF WHAT NOT TO DO"

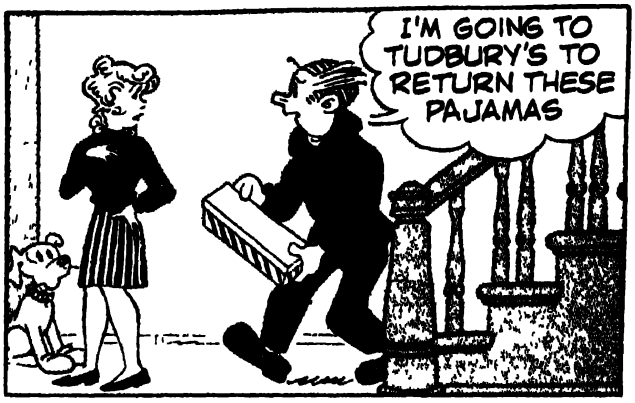
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

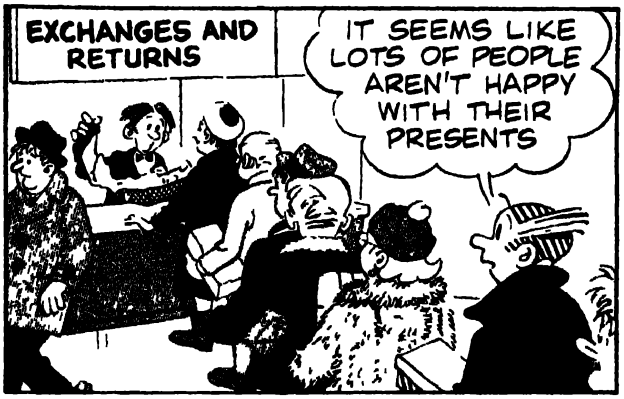


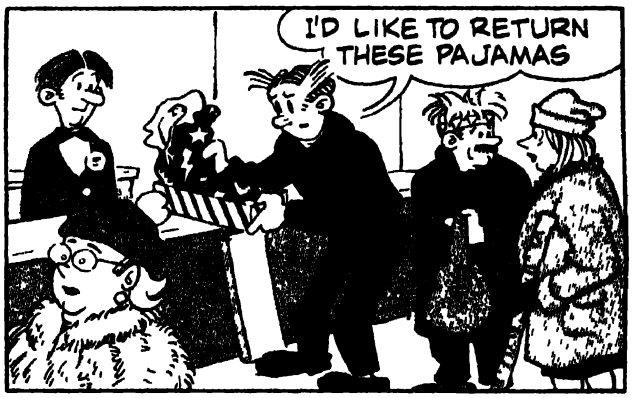
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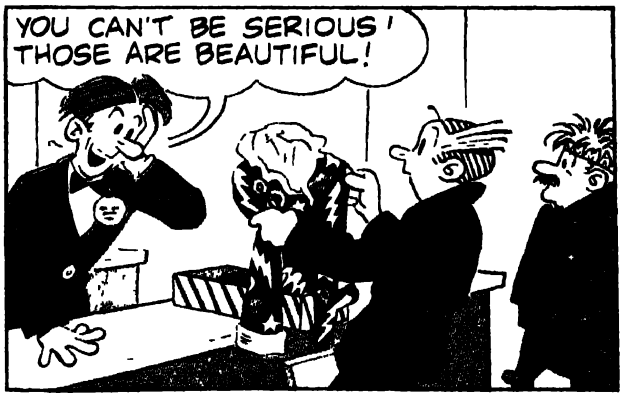


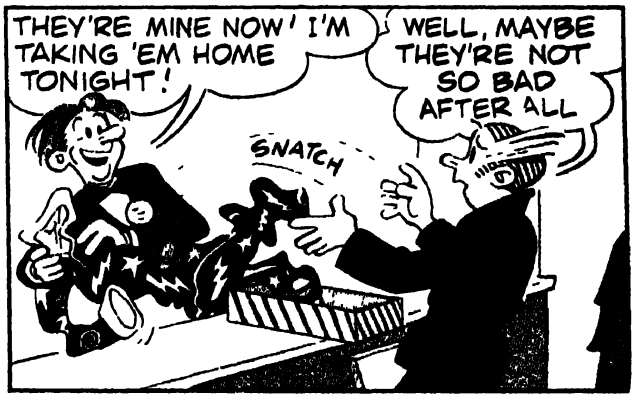


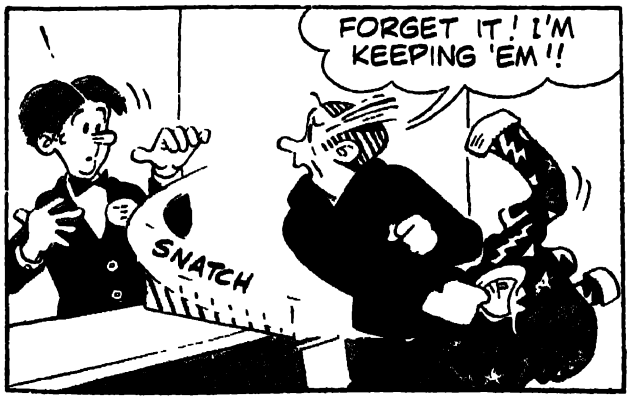


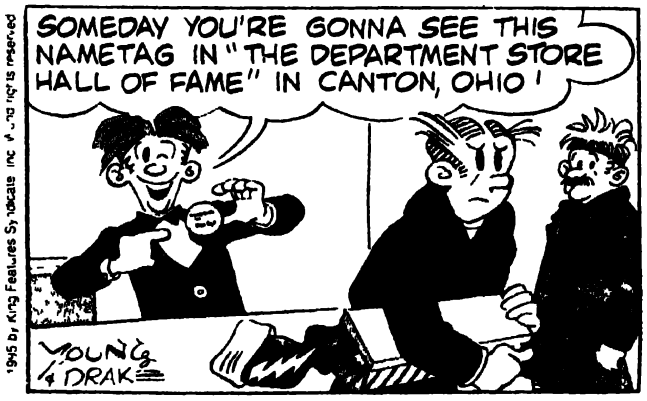












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EVENT

And this award (*yawn*) goes to...

They only forgot to give one more award to the person who wound up the show. A show by a group of publications which has begun putting a silent ban on the press itself! ***Vaishali Honawar*** *sneaked in anyway for a review*

Photographs by Vikas Khot/*Bombay Times*

The starry, starry Filmfare Awards night had all the ingredients of a Hindi potboiler

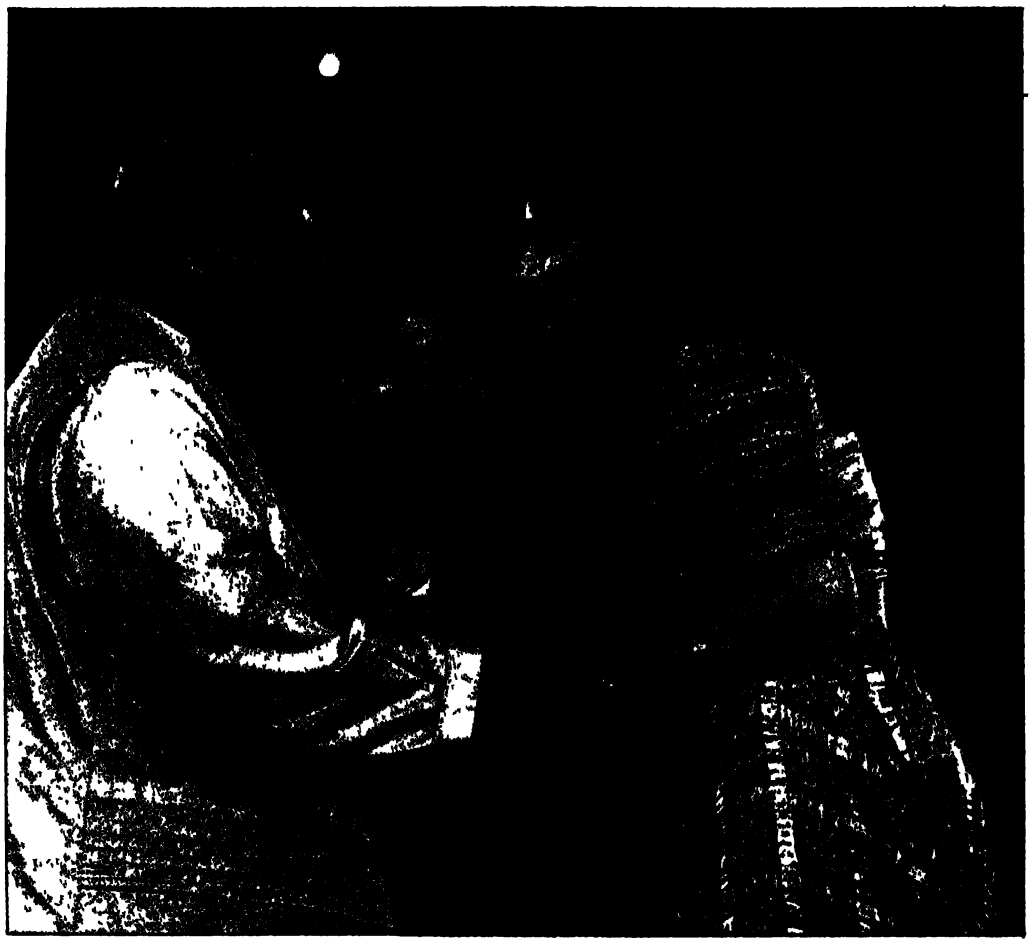
There was sadistic violence wreaked by none other than cult hero Shah Rukh Khan, *jhatkas* aplenty provided by *mast mast* Raveena Tandon, a drippy message for Sunjay Dutt with love from Anil Kapoor (trying to ease your guilt about replacing Sunju in *Trimurti*, Anil?) and a daring stunt on a tightrope by Akshay Kumar

So why was it that the audience at the SNDT grounds at Santacruz that Saturday night seemed to prefer watching the glittering planes flying overhead?

The Filmfare Awards presentation was described by the organisers as "an Oscar-style function"

What one saw, however, after managing to squeeze into the venue, despite a virtual 'ban the press' by one of the country's largest publication houses, and past hordes of rude security guards, was a function that left one hoping one had stayed back home and watched *Santa Barbara* on Star Plus, instead

The awards presentation itself seemed to meander from the onset First came the Marathi awards which were revived this year The entire section was wrapped up in five minutes with hosts Siddharth Basu and Tara Deshpande announcing the winners faster than a bullet train



T N Seshan does not need Madhuri Dixit's identity card; and Shatrughan Sinha is pleased

They couldn't possibly have been short of time as the evening dragged on for almost five hours, ending only at 1 30 in the morning Maybe they ran out of awards to give after that

The much-needed respite was provided by a versatile Shatrughan Sinha doing an excellent bit of mimicry, and a lively acrobatic dance by a Kenyan group calling themselves the Safari Cats

When T N Seshan, the ace up *Filmfare*'s sleeve, came on stage to announce the Best Actress award for Madhuri Dixit, the audience shook off its slumber long enough to listen to his delightful Hindi which, he said, is a language he has never learnt

He also voiced what many others in the audience seemed to feel — why the function was being con-



Jaya Bachchan does the 'Guddi' bit after honouring Lata



Raveena and Akshay Kumar do their 'mast mast' thing

ducted in English when the awards were for Hindi films

That an actor/actress can work his/her way to the Filmfare Award simply by screaming at the top of the voice was proved twice over that evening by Nana Patekar and Dimple Kapadia who won the awards for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress, respectively for the film *Krantiveer*

Madhuri Dixit in the chocolatey *Hum Aapke Hain Koun* ! seemed an obvious choice for the Best Actress award simply because of lack of any serious competition other than from Sridevi in *Laadla*

Shah Rukh Khan walked away with the Best Villain award after throwing a dummy from the top of the set *a la Baazigar* and smashing up a car *a la Darr* before being sent to the gallows



Saif Khan to Dimple Kapadia Remember me?

Shakti Kapoor's crude slapstick in *Raja Babu* paid off, bringing him the Best Comedian award It was only Jackie Shroff, R D Burman, Kavita Krishnamurthy and Nitin Desai, winners of the Best Supporting Actor, Best Music Director, Best Female Singer and Best Set Designer awards for the film *1942 A Love Story*, who seemed to truly deserve their awards

Also, the lifetime achievement award for the graceful Waheeda Rehman (and Shammi Kapoor) and the special award for Lata Mangeshkar were welcome and well deserved ones

Mangeshkar, incidentally, had withdrawn from the competition for the Filmfare Award 25 years ago, leaving the field open to fresh talent

The rest of the time, however, emotion seemed to rule over all other criteria Sonali Bendre, who earlier this year bagged the Screen Panasonic Award for Best New Face, won the same award at Filmfare, too

Even as the compere wondered if she would be coming to receive it, having been in a car accident just days before, she made an appearance and gushed about how important the occasion was and how she couldn't possibly have missed it She had a limp walk and a little bandaid on her chin to prove the point!

Those watching the function on television missed a lot, however, with the so-called 'live' telecast (beginning an hour-and-a-half after the function had actually begun), a repeat of the Femina Miss India telecast fiasco The televised version was also grossly edited and went on into the early hours of the morning, up to 3 am

So much for a 40-year-old function that refuses to grow up ■

RASOI



JIGGS KALRA



Lagoons are as much a part of Kerala as Kathakali, rice boats, swaying coconut palms, *tharavadu* and the ubiquitous Chinese fishing nets A recent trip to Kerala reminded us of the significant role fish and fishing play in the cuisine of the state Some fishermen really dive deep to garner the ultimate culinary treasure — the pearl fish — so cherished by the gourmet

We had our heart's content of the delicious *karimeen* — pearl fish in the vernacular — and other fruits of the water world at the Coconut Lagoon, a wonderfully tranquil heritage resort on the banks of the Vembanadu Lake, an hour-long road 'n' boat trip from Kochi

Although there is only one restaurant at the Coconut Lagoon, you don't really miss anything The spread is rich and varied enough to let you savour the different culinary streams — be they coastal or from the hinterland — that enrich the Kerala cuisine

Frankly, Coconut Lagoon is more than a resort that serves great *khaana* The place is a veritable feast for the eyes Every *tharavadu* — a traditional Kerala dwelling — is steeped in history and legend Some like the reception and the restaurant are 300 years old The youngest is much older than Morarji Bhai — the Gandhian leader who just 'bashed' a century!

These *tharavadu* have been lovingly dismantled from their original sights and painstakingly reassembled — like a jigsaw puzzle — at the Coconut Lagoon — by traditional craftsmen according to the canons of Kerala architecture

It is probably the location which inspires chef Murugaiah to dish out delectable fare like the goodies recipied below

LAGOON CRAB CHILLI FRY

INGREDIENTS

800 g / 1 lb 14 oz Crab (cooked)
90 ml / 6 tbs Cooking oil
400 g / 14 oz Onions
20 g / 2" piece Ginger
2 Green chillies
24 Curry leaves
15 g / 5 tsp Coriander powder
6 g / 2 tsp Turmeric powder
3 g / 1 tsp Red chilli

Lagoon Crab Chilly Fry



powder
Salt
45 ml / 3 tbs Lemon juice

The Tempering
10 ml / 2 tsp Cooking oil
2 25 g / 1/2 tsp Mustard seeds
2 25 g / 1/2 tsp Fenugreek seeds

The Garnish
10 ml / 2 tsp Cooking oil
2 Green chillies

Serves 4

PREPARATION
The crab Run your fingers through the meat to remove pieces of shell
The onions. Peel, wash and slice
The ginger Scrape, wash and cut into juliennes
The green chillies Wash, slit, deseed, cut into juliennes and discard the stems
The curry leaves Clean, wash and pat dry

The tempering Wash green chillies, slit into half and deseed

COOKING
Heat oil in a frying pan, add onions, saute over medium heat until translucent and glossy, add ginger, saute until onions are light golden, add green chillies and saute until onions are golden Then add curry leaves, saute until onions are golden brown, add coriander, turmeric and red chilli powder — all dissolved in 60 ml / 1/4 cup of water — and *bhunno*/stir-fry until the liquid evaporates Now add the crab and salt, *bhunno*/stir-fry for 3 minutes, sprinkle lemon juice and stir until fully incorporated Remove and adjust the seasoning

To prepare the tempering, heat oil in a frying pan, add the mustard and fenugreek seeds, stir over medium heat until they begin to crackle Pour the tempering over the crab and mix well



Karimeen Pollochadu

To prepare the garnish, heat oil in a frying pan, add green chillies, stir for a few seconds and remove

TO SERVE
Remove to a service dish, garnish with green chillies and serve with a bread of your choice

KARIMEEN POLLOCHADU

INGREDIENTS
8 Pearl spot (250 g / 9 oz each)
8 Banana leaves

The Marination
60 ml / 1/4 cup Lemon juice
Salt
30 g / 1 oz Garlic paste (strained)
15 g / 2 1/2 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
4 5 / 1 1/2 tsp Red chilli powder
16 Curry leaves
60 g / 2 oz Buttton onions
60 ml / 1/4 cup Coconut oil

Serves 4
Preparation time: 20 minutes

PREPARATION
The Fish: Clean, trim, wash and pat dry
The Marination: Peel, wash and crush button onions Put in a bowl, add the remaining ingredients, mix well, evenly rub the fish fillets with this marinade and reserve for 15 minutes
The Banana Leaves: Wash and pat dry
The Wrapping: Wrap a fish in each banana leaf, fold the sides and keep aside

COOKING
Heat the *tawa*/griddle, sprinkle water and clean thoroughly Then spread a little oil on the *tawa*/griddle, arrange the wrapped fish fillets on top and grill for 5-7 minutes, turning 2 to 3 times, adding a little oil each time you turn the sides

TO SERVE
Arrange 2 pearl fish on each of 4 individual plates, garnish with fresh grated coconut and serve with *poolu*

NOTE: All weights are nett, that is post preparation, and not gross ■

FIRST PERSON

S ABHU DEVA, *the southern sensation who has rocketed into national attention is now dancing his - o superstardom if one goes by his last couple of box-office hits, specially* Kaadhalan *Born with his dan- s shoes on, he has given special flavour to catchy film ditties with his superlative dancing skills — and h of his dance numbers has been a resounding hit, even if his debut as a hero was a flop But this 2-year-old has bounced back with his seamless movements and indian ubber fluidity*



What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Working
What is your greatest fear?
Everything frightens me Particularly small and sudden sounds They make me jumpy
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My father
What do you dislike most in others?
[No comment]

What is your greatest fear?

Everything frightens me. Particularly small and sudden sounds. They make me jumpy

What do you dislike most in yourself?
Nothing
What is your most precious possession?
My smile
What objects do you always carry?
I am not attached to any particular object
What makes you most depressed?
Seeing vibrant people (like late Tamil actor and former chief minister M G Ramachandran and international dancer Gene Kelly) being reduced to a vegetable existence due to old age
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My eyes They are too small
What is your favourite word?
Okay
What is your favourite journey?
I hate journeys I hate leaving Madras
What is your favourite dream?
To win international recognition for my dancing
What is your nightmare?
Growing old
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Dancing
What is your source of sustenance?
My Ganesha
On what occasions do you lie?
Oh, I lie a lot Can't remember, but it's mostly as jokes and pranks that I play on my friends
What is your greatest regret?
My greatest regret is for the future That I have to grow old one day and will be unable to dance
What has been your happiest moment?
Every time the cameraman says, "Pack up" Particularly, when the day's shoot gets over in half a day!
What brings tears to your eyes?
Old people
How do you relax?
By not doing anything
What do you envy most in others?
Dancing skills of experts like Kamalahasan and the genius of many people in this industry
How would you like to be remembered?
As an international dancing sensation
How would you like to die?
By not knowing that I am dying In my sleep

What is your favourite word?

Okay

Presenting the new Cold Gold Deluxe.

The idea is beauty with an accent on utility



The only 165 lt refrigerator in its class with a soft look and all white interiors. From the flush recessed door handle to the crystal clear vegetable and butter trays, this refrigerator says it all in terms of style. Besides sporting a whole new host of flexible features like the new **shelf-flap.**



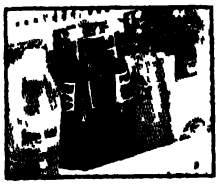
Soft looks.
All white interiors.
And very, very flexible.

That can be raised to create room for additional bottles. Or even a tall jug. A **snugger.** Which holds your bottles in place. So they don't shake or tumble when you close the door.

There's even an **extra mini-shelf** on the door. To hold small items. Or the odd chocolates.

And the **moisture control.** Which lets you adjust the moisture level in your vegetable crisper. So vegetables stay fresh longer. Plus **adjustable shelves** that let you design the interiors of your Cold Gold Deluxe. The way you want it.

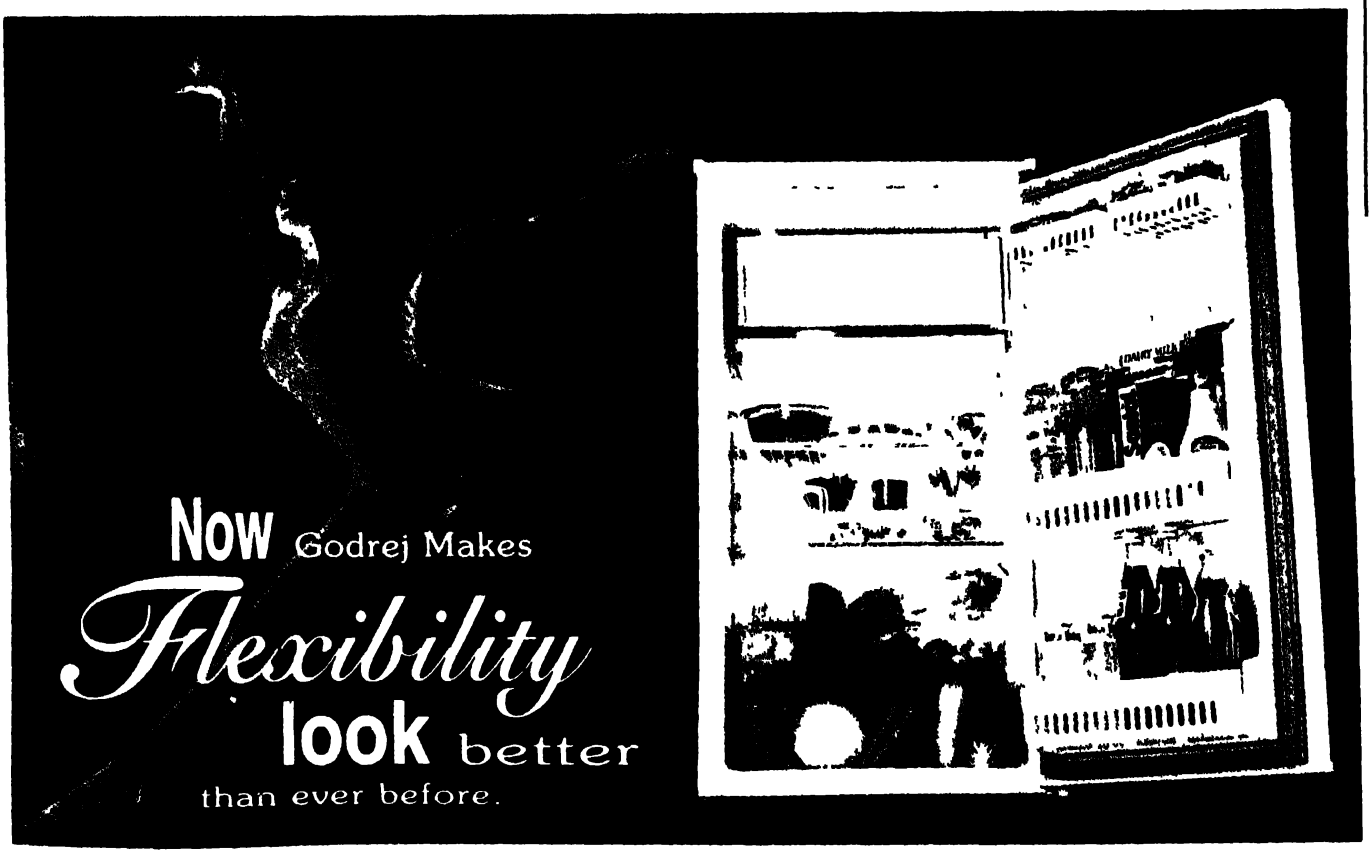




What's more, all this comes with the advantages of PUF.

The new Cold Gold Deluxe from Godrej.

Any way you look at it, it's a winner.

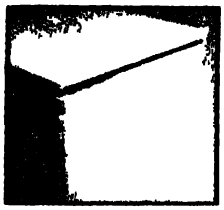


Godrej REFRIGERATORS
THE PROMISE OF GOOD LIVING

COLD GOLD
Deluxe
THE FLEXIBLE REFRIGERATOR

Presenting the new Cold Gold Deluxe

Flexibility beauty with an accent on utility



The only 165 lt refrigerator in its class with a soft look and all white interiors. From the flush recessed door handle to the crystal clear vegetable and butter trays, the refrigerator says it all in terms of style. Besides sporting a whole new host of flexible features like the new **shelf-flap.**



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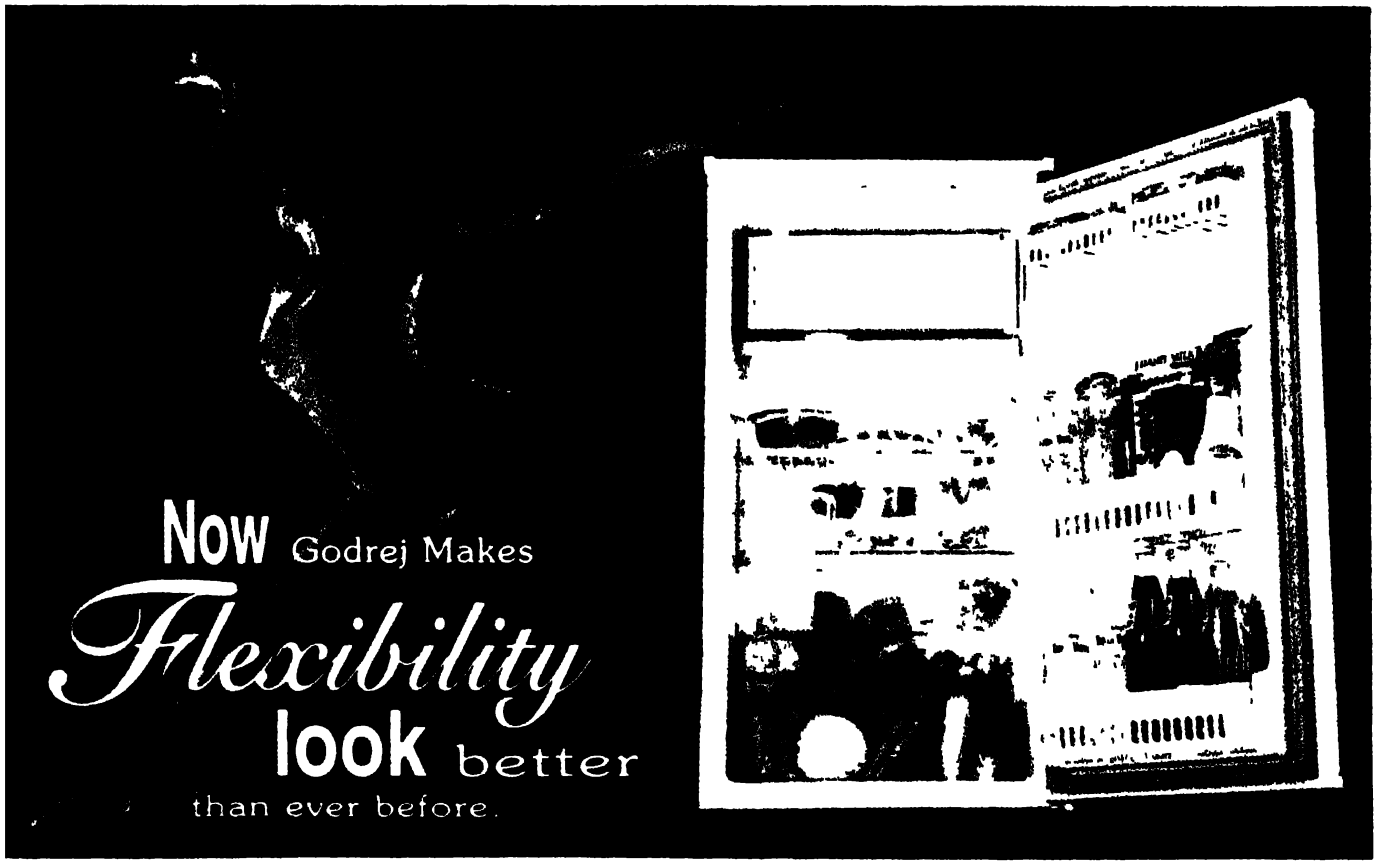
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Any way you look at it, it's a winner.



Godrej REFRIGERATORS

THE PROMISE OF GOOD LIVING

COLD GOLD Deluxe

THE FLEXIBLE REFRIGERATOR

The Telegraph

2 APRIL 1995

POST MORTEM

Turning Serious

■ Thank you for regaling us with Imran Khan's wide-ranging views on Islam, politics, the West and women ('King Khan', February 5) However, most of his utterances reek of chauvinism and arrogance so typical of this cricketer

It seems Imran has traversed a long way from a star at the crease to an orator on the political pulpit It is heartening to learn he has finally woken up to his origins and identity

If he is really patriotic and altruistic he should make use of his tremendous popularity to effect certain social changes in his country

Instead of merely harping on the demerits of corruption, capitalism and the nefarious influence of the West, he should translate his thoughts into action and work for the social, if not political, amelioration of his country

Shabina Omar,
Calcutta

■ Imran Khan's political statements and increasing popularity show that he is emerging as Pakistan's



new godfather

Imran cleverly manages to stay in the limelight with his fiery views which he makes public from time to time

He says in Islam when a couple divorces, the husband leaves the house to the wife But does it actually happen in reality? Feminists must think about this

He has been very firm about not joining politics Yet he never spares an occasion to make a political statement It is to be seen how he deflects the political bouncers in his country and succeeds in swinging them in his favour

Debjyoti Das,
Calcutta

■ I appreciate Imran's views on women and motherhood What are we actually doing in the name of women's emancipation? Permissiveness and immorality have become synonymous with women's lib even in conservative societies like India

Niraj Kumar,
Patna

■ Handsome, charismatic and noble That is how Imran's fans like to remember him Politics is a different and dirty game altogether Should Imran venture into it and lose the goodwill of millions of his admirers?

Tania Chakrabarty,
Kharagpur

■ The cover story showed why the playboy cricketer is adored and idolised the world over Despite his Westernised background and urbane upbringing he has not been influenced by the West's mores

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore

■ It was encouraging to see a cricketer like Imran, born and brought up in a most Westernised, affluent ambience, still harbouring respect for his faith, culture and nation

His views on the West, Islam and women should be an eyeopener to Indian youth who spurn Indian culture, heritage and values, and swear by everything American

Supratik Biswas,
Durgapur



Jitender Gupta

PAGE 4

RAVI SHANKAR, the Sultan of the Sitar, turns 75 this Friday Some leading music exponents reintroduce the maestro to us A Ravi Shankar Special

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21 JUNIOR WHIRL
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Cover Jitender Gupta

COVER STORY

Alaap

Pandit Ravi Shankar turns a handsome 75 this Friday. Three music exponents, who have known him personally, reintroduce the maestro

IT SEEMS JUST LIKE YESTERDAY THAT I GARLANDED PANDIT Ravi Shankar at the celebrations marking his 70th birthday. Five years seem to have flown in a blink.

There is a bond of love and affection between Pandit Ravi Shankar and me, despite the fact that we meet infrequently and are deeply involved with our individual musical pursuits. Indian traditions lead us to believe that the given name sets the future path for the individual.

Ravi, or *surya*, is synonymous with spreading light. So, too, Panditji whose artistic fame has spread through the



Jagdish Yadav

By

Jitender Gupta


Ravi Shankar: Spreading light

world just like sunlight And, quite significantly, the different dimensions of his music can be likened to the rays of the sun *Surya jaise hi shakti hai un mein*

Panditji becomes more admirable considering that he only learnt to play the sitar after he turned 18, but established himself as the symbol of the sitar and of Indian music worldwide Today he is the most successful musician of the country, which speaks volumes of his talent and dedication

So much so that the sheer magic of his sitar has created the famous Ravi Shankar style of instrument and the Ravi Shankar style of playing the sitar

Ravi Shankarji is among the most disciplined musicians the country has known He is very alert and continues to infuse new dimensions into his music It is his great spirit that enables Panditji to create something new at each concert, unlike so many other artistes who tend to take their fame and popularity for granted

The *sitar* and *sarod* are Persian words meaning *mausiki*, *naghma* or *tarranam*, or simply music It is history that passes down generations Panditji's greatest achievement has been that despite the fact that the sitar had been played for decades before him by great musicians, his *andaaz* of playing the instrument has been completely different

There are many prodigies who fade into obscurity though they appear to have a very bright future I have great respect for those students and musicians who have determination and grit And Ravi Shankarji is the classic example of such an artiste who did not play the instrument till he was 18 For he was a dancer in his brother Uday Shankarji's world renowned dance troupe

Panditji is always prepared and immaculately plans all his recitals Before a performance one always finds him tense Concentration, which is an inherent and integral part of an artiste's personality, is ever pervasive in his performance Panditji gives a lot of respect to each occasion and great thought and planning goes into all his concerts So it is not surprising that out of 100 performances, at least 95 were extremely successful

I respect Panditji very much as my *dada* (elder brother) His guru, Ustad Allauddin Khan Saheb, and my guru and father, Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan, were contemporaries and both popularised the sarod Though we may appear to hail from different *gharanas*, we actually belong to the same *gharana*

Panditji's contribution to Indian music has also been his untiring effort in propagating music internationally and introducing the world to the sitar, almost acting as India's cultural ambassador And in doing so he has had to struggle hard and against odds

Ravi Shankarji has added a new dimension to our music with his pioneering work and zeal and his experiments and fusions have met with phenomenal success

He had made an optimum use of his talents in a manner that is beyond an artiste's imagination. He also manages to keep abreast of things connected to his art and performances — the media, auditorium, lights, microphones, management and organisation

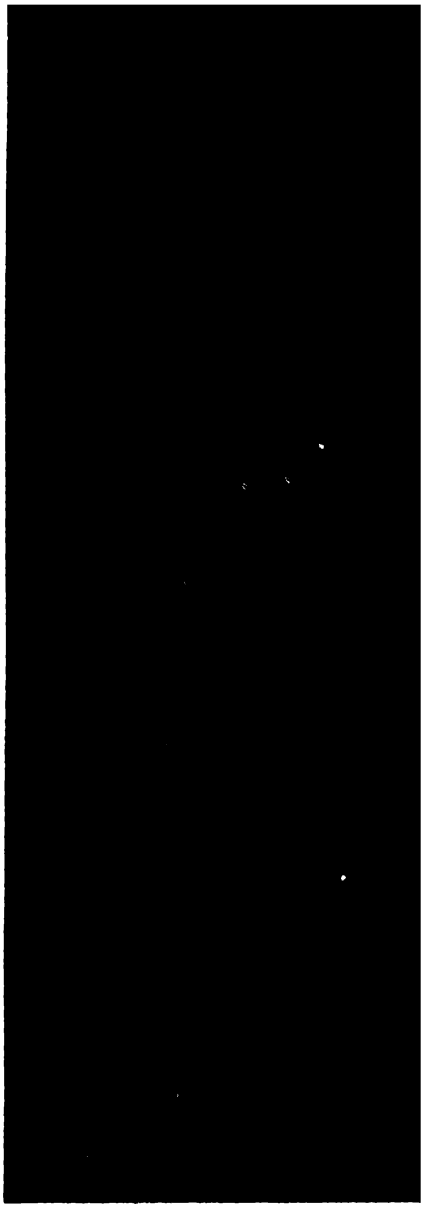
In response to criticism levelled by some that somewhere down the line the essence and purity of Indian music have been lost, I categorically state that this is not true

It appears to me that those people who know little about *laya* and *taal* discuss music the most And it is these people who form their baseless and damaging opinions For instance, we musicians have frequently been accused of playing to the gallery when we indulge in *layakari* in a concert *Layakari* or *layakari* is, in fact, an ancient form of *dhrupad*, which is something that these people do not realise

I have great admiration for Panditji and his capability to successfully handle so many different aspects of his life He had made an optimum use of his talents in a manner that is beyond an artiste's imagination He also manages to keep abreast of things connected to his art and performances — the media, auditorium, lights, microphones, management and organisation

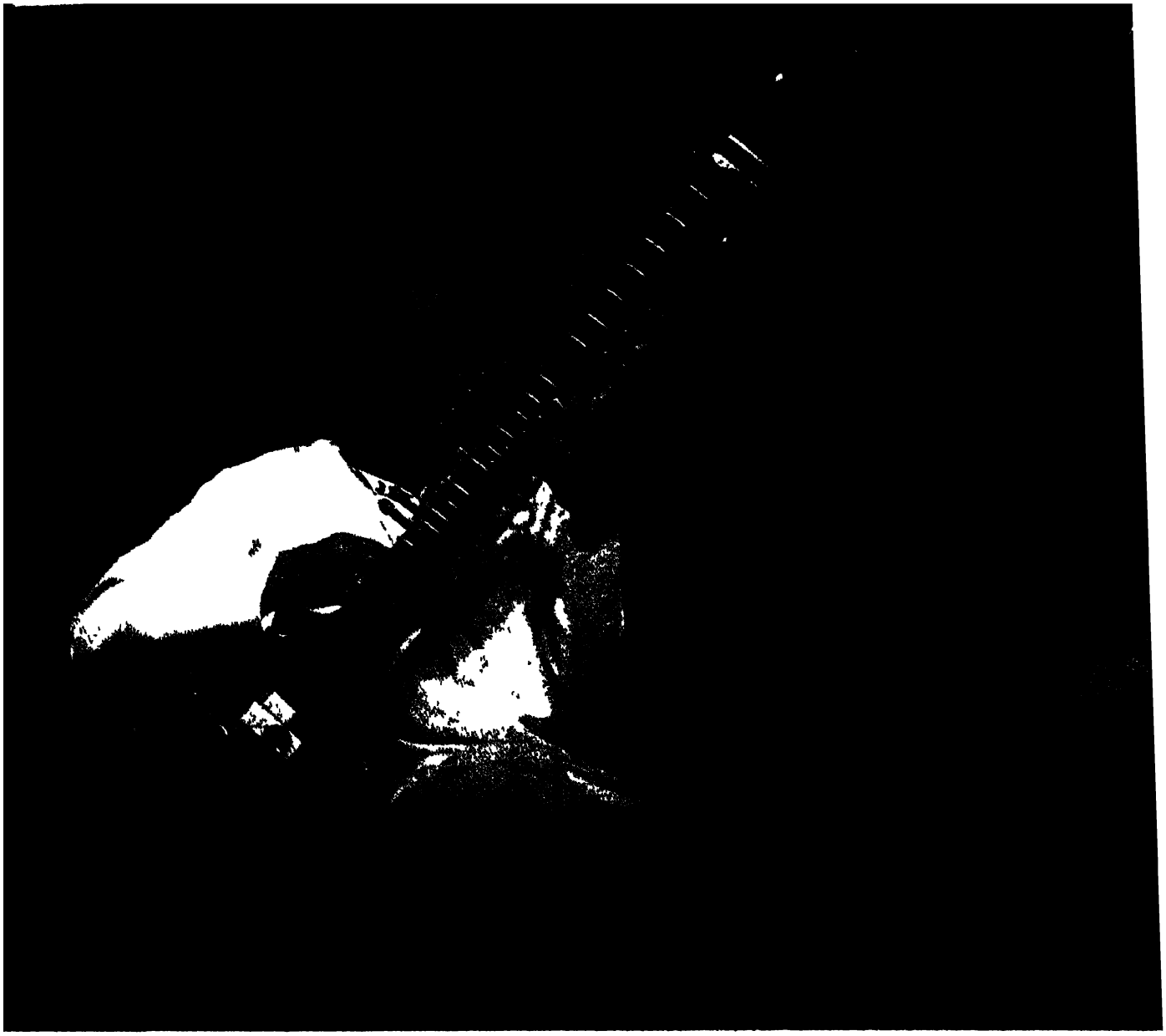
I have heard many recitals of Panditji, in practically every city — Delhi, Calcutta, among others And likewise I recall Panditji having sat through many of my performances I recall an occasion when Panditji made an effort to attend one of my recitals in Birmingham

Another event etched in my memory dates back to 1964 It was an unforgettable night in Calcutta when I played a *jugalbandi* with him The Sarva Bharatiya conference, had as many as 10,000 people thronging the *pandal* and since I had only just begun my career, the memories of the night are vivid



Jitender Gupta

'Immaculately planned recitals'



Among the most memorable recitals I have given was also one that was part of a festival organised by Panditji himself The festival was held under the auspices of an institution opened by Panditji in Varanasi which had brought under its fold all the great musicians our country has known Ustad Bismillah Khan Saheb, Ustad Alla Rakha Saheb, Pandit Kishan Maharaj, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi and Ustad Zakir Hussain were all there That was, perhaps, the most memorable recital that comes to mind

On another occasion Pandit Kishan Maharajji had a small all-night musical function way back in 1966 at his residence when he unveiled a huge statue of Ganesh that he had crafted himself He had invited Pandit Ravi Shankar, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi and me to perform at this *udghatan* The audience was very inspiring and attentive

After Panditji had played for 15 to 20 minutes, much to his annoyance, Kishan Maharajji came into the room and asked Panditji to stop playing That was an occasion when I saw Panditji really very angry as he wondered what message it was that could not wait for him to complete his performance

But this was before we were told that Lal Bahadur Shastri had passed away But everyone was very disappointed not to have been able to hear the end of the recital

Yeh badi yaadgaar batein aur kisse hain

Today, all eyes and hopes are pinned on his youngest daughter, Anoushka What is more, she even looks like a replica of her father It is a matter of great joy that she is following in his footsteps Recently she performed with him in a rare get-together in the Capital

Ravi Shankarji is a Bengali and the Bengali mind in itself is very sharp -- there is a great *shakti* in it His daughter Anoushka is a combination of the south and the east and I am sure that she will be even more energetic and talented than her father

It was destiny that the country has produced an artiste of Panditji's calibre I am hopeful that our tradition, which is so rich and vast, will bring forth more talent

Besides having a great fan following, Panditji has also taught many aspiring musicians, his *shagirds*

It can only be said that a person who puts in a back-breaking effort, gives himself up to his work almost as an act of surrender, has the true blessings of his *guru* and adheres to the *guru shishya parampara* will find the success that he seeks

(As told to Samita Bhatia)

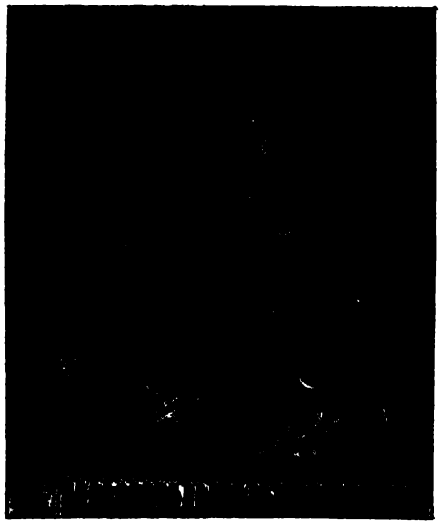
The first time I met Pandit Ravi Shankar and heard him play was in my hometown, Jammu. It was 1955 and not many people had heard of the santoor, leave alone listened to it.

Pandit Ravi Shankar, who was already a big name in Indian classical music, had heard that there was this new instrument and this new performer and was curious to know more.

Incidentally, I learnt to play the tabla and vocal music before I began to play the santoor, and when Pandit Ravi Shankar came to Jammu to perform for All India Radio, I had been commissioned to play the tabla at his concert.

Later on, after coming to Bombay sometime in 1961-62, I gave up playing the tabla. My association with Pandit Ravi Shankar continued, however, and I used to meet him often as he too was living here. In 1968, Pandit Ravi Shankar organised the festival of Indian classical music. He invited me to join him and we toured the US together.

Then again, in 1974, I joined him on another tour of the festival of Indian music. Ustad Alla Rakha was playing with him at the time and we were on tour for nearly three to four months.



By Shiv Kumar Sharma



Phal S Girota

With daughter Anoushka: 'A combination of the south and the east'

About his music, I would say that Pandit Ravi Shankar is a great authority on the system of *raga* and *tala*. On hearing him play, one realises that he strives to maintain the purity of the *raga* he is rendering. He has a complete mastery over the intricate rhythm cycles. To put it simply, he is a master musician.

As a person, he is equally great. He has lived abroad quite a lot and this has inculcated in him an attitude towards life that is not limited.

He has had a wide exposure, but is also very traditional at the same time. He is a very refined and cultured person. He has brought sophistication to the world of music and musicians. Even his style of talking and living are exemplary.

His greatest contribution to the world of Indian classical music has been, in my opinion, the fact that he has taken it to every corner of the world.

In India itself, Pandit Ravi Shankar has played all over the country. Today, his name is well known all over the world.

I have now known Pandit Ravi Shankar for nearly 40 years and watched him perform numerous times. But each time what has amazed me has been the freshness of his approach. I particularly remember one concert, around five years ago, which I saw in Calcutta.

He must have been over 70 then, and had been playing for over 50 years. At that age and with so much experience, any other musician might have taken his performances lightly. But not Pandit Ravi Shankar.

That day in particular it was an experience to watch him play. He was like a young man on stage, trying to give his best. There was no weakness in his hands, considering his age, nor any flaw in his *tayyari* or the tone of his instrument.

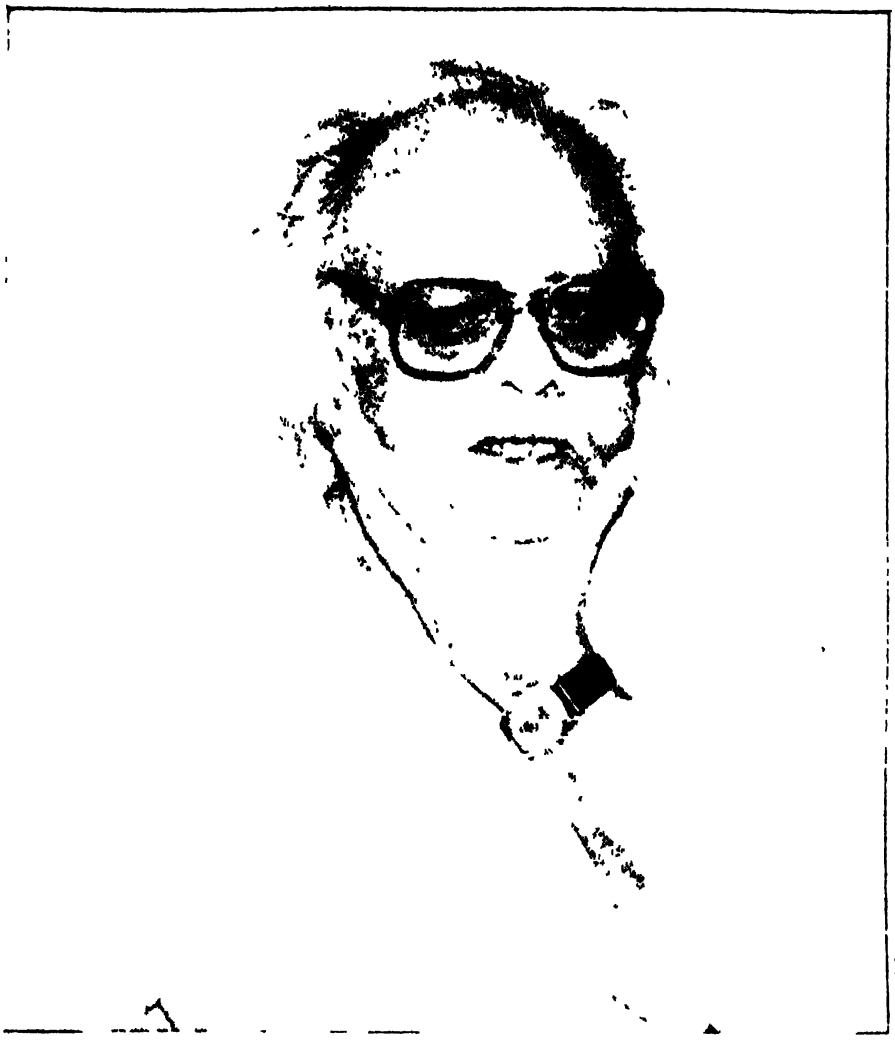
That is the sort of dedication he has, the seriousness he shows towards his music. That spirit is still intact in him.

The only two other musicians in India whom I would put on par with Pandit Ravi Shankar are Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and Ustad Vilayat Khan. They are the three pillars of our music belonging to one generation. Each one has his own identity, his own personality and each has contributed a great deal to the world of music.

The only two other musicians in India whom I would put on par with Pandit Ravi Shankar are Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and Ustad Vilayat Khan. They are the three pillars of our music belonging to one generation

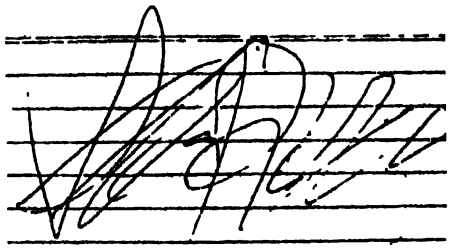
In the present generation, the sitar player who could be said to be following in Pandit Ravi Shankar's footsteps is Shahid Parvez, the nephew of Ustad Vilayat Khan. He has the potential to become a great sitarist and his music, too, has a great deal of balance and rhythm.

I would like to conclude with my best wishes to Pandit Ravi Shankar on his 75th birthday. We pray for his long life and may God give him many more years of active participation in Indian classical music and the energy to continue this tradition for a long time to come.



Ajay Kumar

By



He is perhaps one of the major reasons why people respect Indian music so much today all over the world. He was the first musician to take it around the world, make it intelligible to the masses. That is his *yogdaan* to music

For 25 years, since we met in 1963, Pandit Ravi Shankar and I have been inseparable like brothers And though we have not been performing together for almost eight years now, the love and friendship we share is as strong as ever

I first met Ravi Shankar when he was a struggling artiste for All India Radio. In 1938, we were to play together At that time itself I could sense that he would go places, and he too, in return, respected me and my art

After that we played together on and off, at several places The first major world tour we undertook together was to Japan in 1958 Following that we toured the US and Europe together.

Throughout the length of our association, we have been more like brothers — Ravi Shankar is like a younger brother to me, being one year younger. I believe this sort of love and understanding is very important to create the right atmosphere for art to flourish. If there is no love between the artistes performing together, the art becomes an orphan

We toured the world together, taking Indian classical music to every corner There was no place in the world where the names of Ustad Alla Rakha and Pandit Ravi Shankar were not known Indeed, I don't think there is any other duo in the world of music that has stuck together the way we have for 25 years Most associations just break off after four to five years

The greatest thing about Pandit Ravi Shankar's music is the fact that he has great knowledge about it — his handling of the *raga* and the *tala* is impeccable What is equally important is the way he manages to take it to the masses When we used to organise lecture demonstrations, I used to watch him establish a rapport with the public He knew exactly how to use his music, so to say

He is, perhaps, one of the major reasons why people respect Indian music so much today all over the world He was the first musician to take it around the world, make it intelligible to the masses. That is his *yogdaan* to music

As far as his memorable performances are concerned, I would say that almost each and every one has been memorable How many can I name? But the one I would say was the most striking was our performance together at Woodstock in the Seventies — I don't remember the exact year

Three million peeople were attending the concert and there was no way we could get to the venue by road So what the organisers did was to take us to the venue from the hotel in a helicopter We landed on stage in a helicopter and left in a helicopter after the performance It was truly an experience

I cannot say there is any young artiste today who can follow in Pandit Ravi Shankar's footsteps He has many good students, but it is up to them to prove themselves A guru is better known through his students, I feel But a genius like Pandit Ravi Shankar is not born in a 100 years

(As told to Vaishali Honawar)

FOCUS

PRIVATE PERSON

Annapurna Devi, the former wife of Pandit Ravi Shankar and daughter of Ustad Allauddin Khan, remains incommunicado for most part. ***Swapan Kumar Bondyopadhyay*** *meets her husband, Rooshikumar Pandya, for a glimpse of the great artiste who lives in Bombay with her music and school*

Meet Professor Rooshikumar Pandya — middle-aged, stockily built management consultant, conductor of 'executive seminars' in India and abroad Known as a 'trainer's trainer' in the corporate world, author of several audio and video cassettes on assertive management, stress management, body language, self-hypnosis, interpersonal communication and an exponent of the 'art of relaxation', the executive's *nirvana*

Prof Pandya is a Fulbright Scholar and a recipient of the Golden Eagle award for his film, *The S 'ar* (New York, 1974) A musicologist and a writer, he is at present the patron of Acharya Allaud din Music Circle, Bombay He was awarded the honorary title of Fellow of the College of Human Sciences (FCHS) by the International Institute of Integral Human Sciences, Montreal, Canada, 1982, "in recognition and appreciation of an outstanding contribution to the cause of human psychophysical and psychospiritual awareness"

But for the present writer, above all, and beyond everything, he is the husband of Padma Bhushan Annapurna Devi, the former wife of Pandit Ravi Shankar, one of the greatest instrumentalists of our times

Annapurna Devi, the daughter of Ustad Allauddin Khan Sahab, is an enigma shrouded in mystery She is out of bounds in her sixth floor flat in Bombay She has her own reasons for the self-imposed exile No one has been able to penetrate the iron curtain around her

The telephone — if it exists at all — is an anathema to her Even Ustad Ali Akbar Khan Sahab, it is said, rings up S Vyas to pass on any information to her The few who brave the way up to the door bell find it mostly unanswered The door opens only to the genuine seeker of music with a lifetime involvement She has been uniform in her stubborn refusal to meet the rest of the world

But she is a fascinating study both as a musician and an individual It is now universally acknowledged that she has imbibed, absorbed and retained Ustad Allauddin Khan Sahab's *taalim* in all its purity since she has refused to commercialise it by playing to the gallery or for the cassette companies for a livelihood She played solo and in duet with Pandit Ravi Shankar in a few concerts in the Forties and Fifties whetting music lovers' desire to listen to her more frequently specially at a time when there is an all-pervading disenchantment with stereotyped and soulless concert recitals from the senior as well as the junior artistes

The little of her *baj* that has been filtered through her *taalim* to artistes like late Pandit Nikhil Banerjee and Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia speaks volumes about her virtuosity

As an individual, she is a wonderful combination of sincerity, devotion and Brahminical austerity Her granite-like exterior, however, hides an acutely sensitive mind prone to tears at the slightest context

Now that is what has been gleaned from people who are, though, out of touch with her for the last 30 years It would be more profitable to talk to one who has been by her side since 1982, I thought

So, the ne :t day I found myself waiting for Rooshiji at Bhargava's music shop near Haji Ali Circle, Bombay, in an attempt to see 'her' through his eyes Rooshikumarji sailed through the glass panel like a character walking straight out of the mirror in a Bunuel film

"This [China Garden at Kemp's Corner] is my favourite Chinese restaur-



I think her techniques are a means to an end — she has transcended all techniques. The essence of her supreme musicianship is her application of the techniques. Her complete command over the surbahar makes the instrument a medium for the expression of her feelings. It is a heart-to-heart communion



With Ravi Shankar: A file picture

ant in town," Rooshiji said with a gentle smile rippling through his lips, "whenever Ustad Ali Akbar Khan Sahab happens to visit, we spend a few quiet hours here."

I shared Korean rice in red chillies and button mushroom in garlic with him With a plateful of soft prawn sizzling on the plate before me (Rooshiji is a vegetarian), I plied through my queries about Annapurnaji:

Where were you before you met her? And how did you meet her?

I was born in a middle-class Hindu family in Ahmedabad in 1940 I left for America in 1964 on a Rotary Fellowship I was studying American literature there, I was also a student of the sitar I met Ustad Ali Akbar Khan Sahab in California in the Sixties I started learning the sitar under him. But then I was frequently out of America, visiting Bombay to do 'executive seminars' at the invitation of the Indo-American Society So it is he who suggested that I take *taalim* from his sister in Bombay And I met her here

When did you get married?

On December 9, 1982

How did it come about?

In my life everything has happened by accident My going to the US, my coming back to India for lectures . This marriage also was a happening without any design or any plans.. . As you say, to others it might appear to be a 'phenomenon', but to me it was just a vagary on the part of nature.... Maybe, there is some master plan up there But for me the marriage was just a happenstance We got married quietly in our drawing room by a simple Arya Samaj ceremony

Subsequently I resigned my post as a member of the Humanities Faculty, John Abbott College, Montreal, closed my consultancy firm there, became an Indian resident and settled in Bombay in 1983...all as a matter, of course.

What is special about her as a person?

Her fantastic 'feel' for others Her ability not only to survive, but also to bounce back She is extremely resilient Despite everything, she has remained intact and full, allowing us a tremendous insight into human psyche

What was her source of income during the lean period, when she was estranged from Panditji?

I am not aware I never asked her how she survived But I am told that Panditji used to send her some money .and she also received an honorarium from the National Centre for Performing Arts, Bombay, where



As a teacher she is very patient and exacting. She will sit for hours working out each phrase, each nuance and getting it perfected in her student. She teaches one to one. By singing. There is no time limit. But each phrase has to be perfect.

she was teaching Masters classes

What about her technique or style of playing on the surbahar?

I think her techniques are a means to an end — she has transcended all techniques The essence of her supreme musicianship is her application of the techniques Her complete command over the surbahar makes the instrument a medium for the expression of her feelings It is a heart-to-heart communion

There is something very unique about her music Even when she plays a single straight note without any arty embellishments, it touches your very being When you listen to her play you, too, transcend the mundane and apprehend the divine

How do you find her as a teacher?

Phenomenal One of her qualities is that she can guess the level and the requirement of the disciple almost by intuition and then give him/her as much as needed Next, she is very patient and painstaking as a teacher

Unless the phrase is perfectly imbibed by the student she never relents She goes on and on She compels the student to play it over and over till it is perfectly executed I also profited much by listening to her teach stalwarts like late Pandit Nikhil Banerjee and Pandit Hariprasad*ji*

As a teacher she is very patient and exacting She would sit for hours working out each phrase, each nuance and getting it perfected in her student She teaches one to one By singing There is no time limit But each phrase has to be perfect She takes up one major *raga* and then proceeds systematically through *alaap, jod, jhala, vilambit gat* and *drut gat* The process might take years



Why is it that she keeps herself aloof and away?

I think it is only partially true to say that she keeps aloof and away from people While it is true that she does not meet people socially, as far as music is concerned, she is very much involved with her students and their progress

She has a number of students whom she teaches regularly and she is very committed to spreading Baba's music Teaching music takes most of her time The rest of the time she spends doing her *puja, riaz* and household work and all this does not allow her the luxury of socialising This is her choice, her chosen lifestyle, and she is comfortable and content with it

Her present students?

They are Ustad Aashish Khan (sarod), Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia (flute), Dr Vinay Bharat Ram (vocal), Nityananda Haldipur (flute), Shashwati Ghosh (sitar), Amit Hiren Roy (sitar), Amit Jotin Bhattacharya (sarod), Sudhir Phadke (sitar), Sandhya Apte (sitar), Suresh Vyas (sarod), Dr Hemant Desai (sitar), Daniel Bradley (sitar), Peter Van Gelder (sitar), Basant Kabra (sarod), Pradeep Barot (sarod), Stuti Dey (sarod), Uma Guha (sarod), Prabha Agarwala (sitar) and myself (sitar)

How does she spend her day?

She is very meticulous about everything She does all the washing and cleaning herself I also help her She spends a part of her time praying Then she plays on the surbahar That takes up a lot of her time She also spends a lot of time teaching her students And she reads a lot She is always up-to-date, alive to all that is happening around her Then she has her own garden on the balcony She waters the plants, tends them She has green fingers, you can say

And feeding the pigeons...

Yes, they come in hordes That is a regular habit Almost a ritual She has a fixed time for feeding them And then she is completely engrossed, completely oblivious of what is happening outside ■

INNER EYE ◻ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

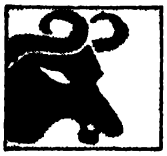
March 21--April 20



Ganesha says, journey, ceremony and luck of the draw characterise the week Your popularity reaches a new high, and very possibly, you will be offered a position of responsibility in social circles, public events, job, profession, and status in business associations

Taurus

April 21 -May 20



Negotiations, secret and open deals, a lot of commuting and travelling make this an interesting week You will be tying it all, collecting loose ends and that should stand you in good stead Expenses will zoom, but your income will keep pace with it

Gemini

May 21--June 20



An excellent chance to make a fast buck, build contacts, win friends and influence people Make the best of these positive influences by going all out to get what you want Socialise, converse sweetly and enlist in clubs and organisations Promotion, perks, profit and pleasure are foretold

Cancer

June 21- July 20



You can fly to the moon if you set your mind on it, so good and grand is this week A period of outstanding success and glory Work with a will, keep fit and go about it in the right way with complete dedication and imagination Sunday through Wednesday are highlighted

Leo

July 21—August 21



Like the Aries, the luck of the draw will be with you and this luck should apply to practically everything you do Those in arts, research and creative pursuits will have an edge on all others That children will play an important part in your life one way or another is absolutely certain

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Financially, this could be a very important week If seeking a loan, capital investment, playing the stock market, buying or selling house, office or vehicle, you may get the deal you want Also, do get ready to welcome visitors strangers or relatives who may descend in droves

Libra

September 23—October 22



Wedding bells, official engagement, collaborations, ties, and close connections are the highlights of this week Brokers, lawyers, politicians, actors, editors, and those dealing with the public as such hit the high spot Be sure, the week will be opposition free

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Those in employment could get a promotion, a pat on the back and perks of office, says Ganesha Your prestige and status will soar A job-hop is possible, if that interests you The outlets of making money will multiply At the same time, taxes, rentals, penalties may have to be paid too

Sagittarius

November 23--December 20



Romantic impulses and play will possess you Poems, paintings, music, research, new and varied media of communication could fascinate you Time to explore, innovate and execute your plans This is also the week to make the most of travel opportunities and to socialise

Capricorn

December 21--January 19



Help is at hand, so do not worry overmuch The hand of God is on your head in a mysterious way A home away from home, renovation, decoration, a major move in terms of house or office are foretold This is a week when events and happenings shape your life

Aquarius

January 20--February 18



Happy days are here again Love blooms Friends rally for support Teachers guide you You in turn will be in a mood to help and let bygones be bygones That would be a good new way of looking at things Marriage, business connections, trips and ties give joy

Pisces

February 19--March 20



An influx of money, or, to be more precise, opportunities of making money come your way It will also include lottery, loans, funds, stocks, investments and fixed deposits Venus in your sign, according to Western astrology, helps you to be attractive to the opposite sex

B I R T H D A Y S

of good times. Buying, distributing, [illegible] foretold.

[illegible] Moon-Saturn happy placing leads to [illegible] gain planning, success in [illegible] or a factory.

[illegible] Sun-Mars fine positioning leads to [illegible] ventures, says Ganesha. This is a good time to [illegible] A go-ahead year.

[illegible] Sun-Jupiter placing leads to power, [illegible] the style your work will be done. [illegible]

business alliances are definitely on the cards.

[illegible] You will be the master of your destiny, at least, up to a point. Marriage and travel are definitely foretold for you this year.

[illegible] Moon-Venus in good placing leads to joy and [illegible] Trips will be beneficial. It could mean a

[illegible] quarter helps you to get used to a different [illegible] which means there could be changes in your

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Fear

Is it a black dog with white spots
And monstrous paws clutching the earth
Or black sky with white clouds
With no sun like a summer's hearth

Is it fish trapped in blue eyes
Where water is only tears
Or the anguish of a live body
With soul dead in the gone years

Is it painful separation of mother and child
Whom nature throws out of the womb
Or the hapless look of the emperor
Crying over the mistress' tomb

Is it the plight of the archer
When teacher asks for a right thumb
Then the world claims the remaining fingers
In barter for bread crumbs

Or is it the painter's distress
Whose blood contaminates his colours
Or the fear in the poet's eyes
When words disappear in the mirrors

Vasudha Chhotray

Hunted

My severed head
stares among host of others,
preserved in a subterranean vault,
by a savage huntress,
after each conquest
and a barbaric ritual.

Only my decapitated trunk
stalks the city pavements
unnoticed

Soumitra Sinha

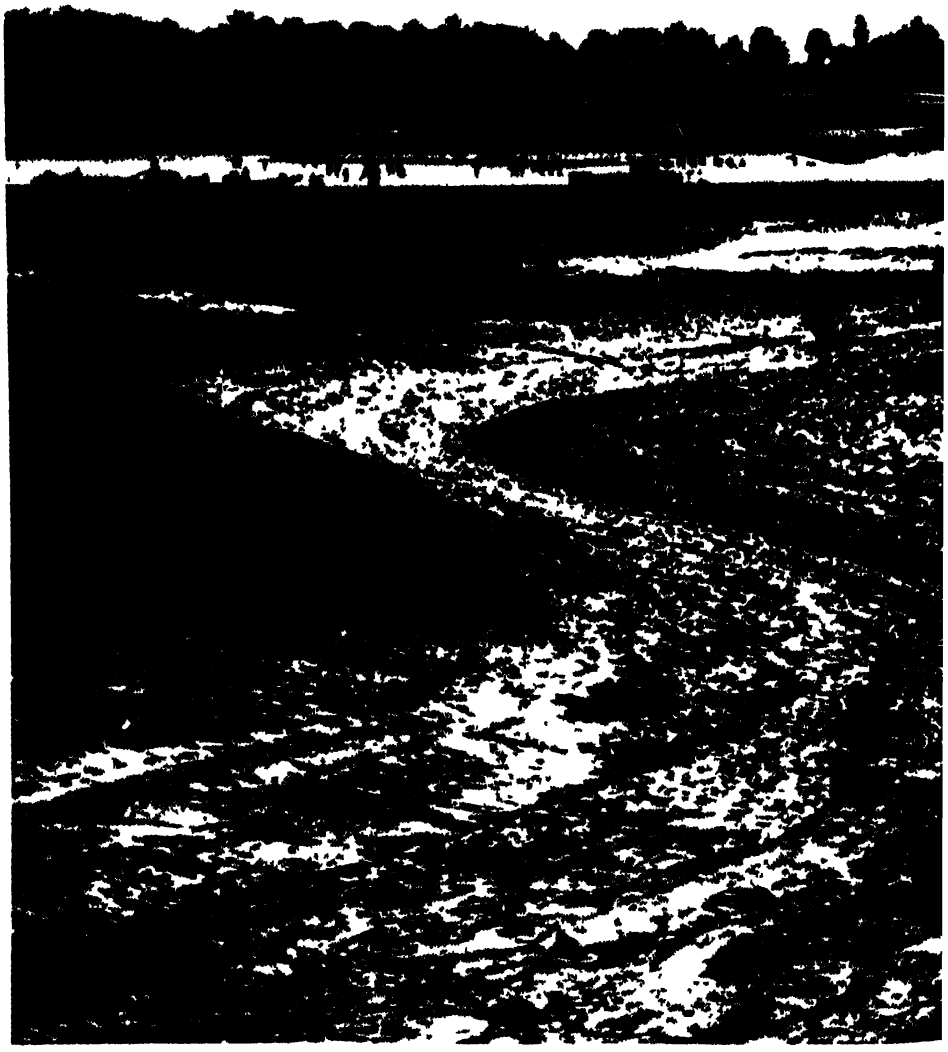
The Dream

"Him the sun does not illumine,
nor the moon "
Katha Upanishad 2/2/15

And then you realise that you had been dreaming all along
that the sun which kindles the sky
is an ordinary star
a mere speck of the unalloyed Light
that radiates Within—
that the fair moon
is but one of the infinite celestial bodies
that orbit the Self—

And yet the imagination conceives no fire greater than the sun
no beauty greater than the moon!

Anirban Mahapatra



The Dark Continent

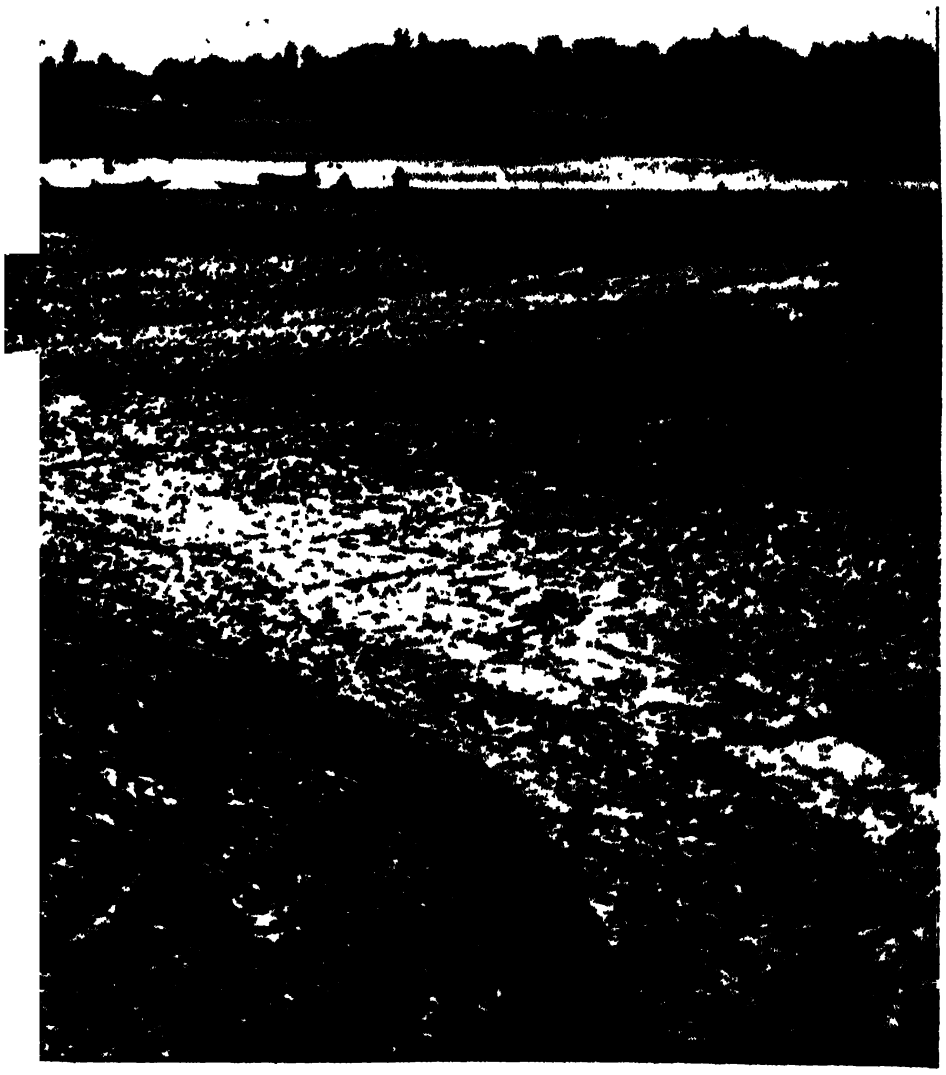
When all is asleep on mother earth,
Only sleepless is the nightqueen,
And the moon wanes above the silent city,
A lion roars in the jungle,
Beware of cubs birth.

Sleeping is the beautiful land of Africa,
The hills and lakes are quiet,
The walls of slavery cracks,
The night gives way to day.

Those who ruled still the state with chain in hand,
With rifles and bombs, bullet and guns.
Never knew that slaves will fight for their native land,
They thought it was all joke and fun.

When the birds were sleeping in their nest
Only the sleepless was the night-queen and the moon
The rulers did not know that the day was near
When a hungry lion roared in the jungle

Narayan Sen



Goutam Kumar Sen

Material Girl

The red phallic-symbol lipstick
grabs at her lips, sucking them dry
The powder, like an evil wind,
Blows away the spring from her cheeks,
Leaves behind the wrinkly desert
The mask takes longer everyday

Practising her walk in vast empty rooms
Her eyes linger on the cobwebs in the corners
Her thirsty, narcissistic self breaks up
Into a hundred splinters
In the mirrors of her bedroom
The mask takes longer everyday

She grows old, she grows old,
A faded maneater with dentures of gold.
Will she have to dye her hair? Do a face lift?
The withered old hag in the moon beckons,
"Come away sister, I am the future"
She hides behind the marble pillar
But the marble is cold
In her dreams she hears the applause
But then the silence awakens her
And she cries
(While crowsfeet form round her eyes)

Sucharita Bagchi

Seasonal

I touch upon the season
Amidst the rustle
Of faraway things
That haunt my memory

Velvet
The voice of the weather
Carrying the song of my soul.
A new meaning breaks out
Of its seventh season

I am
An equation
In the infinity of stars
A speaking sentence
In a book of remembrances

Soubhagyabanta Maharana

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC-741	0710	3, 5	IC-742	0940	3, 5
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1, 3, 5, 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3, 5 7
[illegible]					
M9-304/109	0855	1, 3, 5	M9-110/301	1900	1, 3, 5
[illegible]					
PF 705	0730	2, 4, 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2 4, 6 7
[illegible]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-721	1300	1, 3, 5	IC-722	1540	1, 3 5
[illegible]					
IC-771	0800	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
[illegible]					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2, 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
[illegible]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
9W-202	0920	1 2, 3 4 5 6	9W 201	0840	1 2 3, 4 5 6
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-306	1840	5
9W-212	1945	daily	IC-274	1850	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
AI 309	2035	6	D2 103	1935	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
[illegible]					
			S2-025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 263	0700	daily	IC-262	0815	2, 4, 7
S2-026	0845	1, 2 3 4, 5, 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	AI-682	0950	1
IC-812	1515	1, 3 5	S2-015	1015	1 3, 5
S2 016	1555	1 3, 5	4S-806	1115	1 2 3 4, 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S 805	1745	1 2, 3 4 5, 6	S2-005	1855	1, 2, 3 4 5 7
IC 261	1900	2 4, 7	M9-301	1900	daily
M9-302	1930	daily	IC-811	1930	1, 3, 5
S2-006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	IC-264	2210	daily
[illegible]					
PF-737	0730	3, 5	IC-704	1430	3, 5
IC 703	0800	3 5	D2-181	1620	1 3 5 7
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2-183	1620	2, 4, 6
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	IC-702	1630	2 4 6 7
4S 815	1145	1 2 3 4 5 6	4S-816	1705	1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6
IC 701	1240	2 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
GORAKPUR					
IC-257	1150	4 7	IC 258	1650	4 7
GUWAHATI					
PF 735	0730	1	IC 712	1410	2 5
PF-737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 708	1430	1 4 7
IC-703	0800	3, 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
IC 707	0800	1 4 7	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
IC 711	0800	2, 6	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2-181	1135	1 3 5 7	IC 230	1650	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1705	1 2 3 4 5 6
4S-812	1145	1 2, 3, 4 5 6	PF 736	1730	1
IC 257	1150	4 7	PF 738	1740	3, 5
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 258	1740	4 7
IC 229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4 6
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	1045	1 3 5	S2-024	1525	1, 3 5
IC 777	1600	2 4, 7	IC-778	2100	2, 4, 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1, 3, 5
IMPHAL					
IC 707	0800	1 4 7	IC-256	1320	3, 5
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC 708	1430	1 4 7
IC-253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2, 6
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	2, 4 7	IC 213	1315	2 4 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1, 3 5
MADRAS					
IC-542	1115	1, 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3, 5
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2, 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2 172	1740	daily	IC-766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1525	1, 3, 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3 5
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2, 4, 7	S2-015	1015	1, 3 5
S2-016	1555	1, 3, 5	IC 249	1805	2 4, 7
IC-812	1515	1, 3, 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3, 5 7	IC 286	1100	2, 4 6
RANCHI					
IC-249	1430	2, 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4, 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 2 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4, 6, 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC-260	1110	1, 7
IC-259	0830	1 7	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 212	1740	4 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2, 4, 7
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	S2-015	1015	1, 3, 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3, 5
ZERO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL-876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7
BANGKOK					
IC 731	0855	2, 4 6, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB 105	1125	2 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3 6
TG-314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2, 4, 6, 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RO-076	2005	5, 7	RO-075	1005	5, 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2, 3 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG-095	2020	1 5
[illegible]					
IC-747	1115	1, 3, 5	IC 748	1455	1, 3, 5
RA-214	1815	1, 4	RA-213	1715	1 4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA 143	1525	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1855	4	SU 537	1655	4
PARO					
KB-106	1200	3	KB 105	1040	2 6
KB 106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ-415	2345	2, 5	SQ 416	2230	2, 5
UDPA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16-15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues, Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16-15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs, Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun, Arr Wed & Sat	12-50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5-20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11-55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5-00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	5-50	3032
3025	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday, Arr Friday	11-35	3026
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6-50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13 40	**Teesta-Torsa Express** Dep Mon, Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed, Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12-55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
7421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	-
--	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	--
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
-	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	--
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
--	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545 54 for in coming trains, 2203535 44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203406-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535 37

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

A NIGHT AT SAVOY

On a wet and windy night last January, I was sitting at the Savoy Bar, warming my feet with the memory of old fires (firewood being scarce and expensive), when in walked the Man from Sail, shaking snowflakes and dandruff from his coat

He was followed, minutes later by Heaven-Born the actor and Heaven-Sent the publisher, both well-preserved men in their late fifties

Great buddies all of them, their wives had better things to do than prop up the Savoy Bar Heaven-Sent usually had one or two ex-Cabinet ministers in tow (he owned a newspaper at the time) but on this occasion he was mercifully free of his entourage

Heaven-Born had left his purple robe at home (you can see it in the famous picture taken by the Man from Sail), which meant that he was wearing the off-white ummer suit that he had worn to such effect in his big hit *Two Tickets to Howrah*

Heaven-Born has this wonderful idea for a period movie set in the Savoy which of course was the ideal sort of place for a Far Pavilion-type epic Heaven-Born was to act and direct, while the Man from Sail, who is something of an all-rounder, was to help with the script, the casting, the props, the catering, the still photography and the make-up

Nandu and I were offered bit parts as decadent nawabs Heaven-Sent was to provide financial backing Or, at least, that was the idea

Nandu wasn't too happy about the whole thing, specially as the climax of the film (as envisaged in the script) showed the hotel going up in flames The old hotel with its rhododendron beams, pinewood panelling, walnut wood doors and deodar floorboards, was really quite vulnerable and it wouldn't have taken much to turn a studio fire into the real thing

"You're insured, aren't you?" said Heaven-Born, determined to override Nandu's protests He loved a good fire — the next best thing to a good funeral "Or we could use a model," he added

"Your house should do," said Nandu "It's small enough for a model"

I steered the conversation away from arson and incendiarism to the traditional Savoy Queen dinner and dance held every summer Next year's winner was to receive a free trip to the Andamans, one way only

Nandu asked Heaven-Born if he would like to officiate as a judge for the Beauty Contest and he graciously consented

Heaven-Sent felt that there sould be several judges and more names were proposed — Tom Alter, Prem Chopra, Hugh and Colleen Gantzer, Prince This and Princess That, Khushwant Singh and Sunderlal Bahuguna

Heaven-Born looked a little put out and said he could manage without so much help Heaven-Sent proposed the name of one of his ex-Cabinet ministers I suggested the local coffin-maker — a good judge of shape and size — but was shouted down

The discussion was at this interesting stage when in walked three old Doon School boys, vintage 1950s, all known to Nandu They went to a table not far from where I was perched and the conversation went something like this

"Remember old Suri?"

"Hyderabad House wasn't he?"



Everyone remembered Nandu. He was in Tata, of course, or was it Jaipur? Anyway, they chatted amiably about old Housemasters — Holdsworth and Huges, Hensman and Gurdial — and someone recalled old...who had a beautiful daughter, the only girl in the school

"No, Tata"

"I must be confusing him with Hari"

"Hari was Kashmir House We were in the same dorm"

"Oh, I thought you were in Jaipur House with Ritu"

"No, you're confusing me with Chuckles Ritu was in Hyderabad, weren't you in Kashmir?"

"No, Jaipur"

Nandu strolled over to take part in this stimulating conversation

Everyone remembered Nandu He was in Tata, of course, or was it Jaipur? Anyway, they chatted amiably about old Housemasters — Holdsworth and Huges, Hensman and Gurdial — and someone recalled old who had a beautiful daughter, the only girl in the school



Of course, it was drinks on the house for the Old Boys, as a result, I went one drink short as Nandu was running out of whisky and gin and wasn't about to serve his VSOP cognac

Heaven-Born had been eyeing the cognac bottle for some time It was his favourite, indeed his only drink, except when times were bad But the glint in his eye had been detected by the Man from Sail, who whisked the bottle way in the interests of justice and fair play

Heaven-Sent had been a silent but appreciative spectator and now, always a man who struck while the iron was hot (even if he got singed in the process) announced his intention of publishing a book on the public schools of India

"A surefire bestseller," I said Just take 50 schools and you'll have tens of thousands of old boys and girls queueing up for copies!"

The old boys in our midst met this proposal with frosty silence *Were* there *really* other public schools in the land, they wondered? Well, possibly Mayo, Jack Gibson had gone there after leaving Doon, hadn't he?

Nandu looked across at me and asked, "And where did you do your schooling Ruskin?"

"Greyfriars," I said without hesitation

They took it quietly There was a familiar ring about Greyfriars A place of strong traditions, no doubt, tucked away in the heart of old England, it had of course been the physical and spiritual home of Billy Bunter, Fat Boy of the Remove, but I did not tell them that Why spoil the good impression I had made! And, of course, Heaven-Sent was hellbent on getting me to write his book

(Sanctuary Features)



JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems. All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and **not** to The Telegraph. Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper. Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned.** All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates. No enquiries will be solicited.

Fill in the coupon below and send with your contribution

___ Block letters please ___

Name_____

_____

Age_____

Address_____

_____

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

DEEP INSIDE SIND

The elite of Islamabad do not find interior Sind attractive It is said, there is nowhere to stay in Jacobabad, which is populated by huge mosquitoes, while Sibi, they say, is the hottest place on earth You must have heard of the man from Sibi found shivering in hell

But despite warnings of bedlessness, malaria and heat, here I was, with a small team of foreigners and railway officials, chugging northwards from the Indus towards the mountains of Baluchistan

On both sides were paddy fields irrigated by the great river So far we were surviving This was Sukkur division, the most accident-prone of Pakistan Railways If you ask officials why, they will tell you that it is increasingly difficult to maintain old standards of discipline, specially when employees get their positions through *sifarish*

One of my companions, Shah Sahib, was still a stickler for discipline In his younger days, his night-time surprise inspections had been the terror of his division Once he had found a lone woman operating a signal box "My husband is not feeling too well," she told him, "so I am handling the points for him"

Shah Sahib was shocked and told her she could cause an appalling accident "But I know all the work," she explained and proceeded to tell him exactly what each handle in the signal box did Perhaps, what Sukkur division needs is signal women

It was evening as we drew to a halt in Jacobabad, the town which has refused to change its name Lyallpur may have become Faisalabad, but so far Jacobabad remains loyal to the man who brought back its prosperity

John Jacob was the rebellious son of an English parson, who warned of 'the Mutiny' long before it happened, and who dedicated his life to this town — negotiating peace between Baluch tribesmen and locals, building roads and reopening canals

The mosquitoes here did not match expectations and in the yellow light of the new day, Jacobabad was revealed not as a one-horse, but as a multi-donkey frontier town Past the sweepers with their faces covered against the dust and the *bhisties* sprinkling water on the road, trotted innumerable donkey carts carrying people, goods, and water Their passengers were mainly men, rather lined and unshaven and wearing finely embroidered caps inlaid with dozens of glinting glass pieces

The self-effacing SDM, Ramesh Kumar, took us through the market to the centrepiece of the town, the Victoria Tower As we climbed to the top of this Gothic edifice, Khaksaar volunteers led by a blind, octogenarian bagpiper, Ghaus Baksh, piped for all they were worth

We were given a warm reception too at the tomb of John Jacob, now looked after by Bashir Ahmad Sumroo who doubles as the additional chief sanitary inspector of the Municipal Committee "We all believe Jacob Sahib was a *faqir*, a holy man," he said "He never married and he died here Now everyone visits his grave to prevent or cure fever, or childlessness A thread measured around his grave and worn around the neck is specially effective against disease," he continued, planting a handful of *agarbattis* at the head of the grave, and sprinkling rose petals over it

By this time the steam-hauled goods train at Jacobabad was impatient to cross the great stretch of desert to Sibi I travelled on the footplate as we hissed and puffed up the track which runs parallel to the road

This was the stretch of track built between 1879-1880, 214 kms were laid in 101 days across the sandy waste, where 5,000 men and animals had to be fed and watered The water was very low in our boiler by the time we reached our destination at the foot of the Bolan Pass

The diesel-hauled 24 Up Quetta Express was the train we rode through the Bolan Pass, the railway built by the British to bring troops and supplies to the Afghan border The calculation was that one train a day would do what 2,500 camels could do in a fortnight This is the less famous of the two main passes into Afghanistan, the other being the Khyber That, too, has a railway, but it was built later and proved less easy to maintain

The Bolan Pass is 96 kms long and rises from 137 to 1,830 metres above sea level A straight track from the plain leads directly into the wall of barren mountains ahead, and the train shoots through saw-tooth ridges in quick succession before entering the long Panir Tunnel which cuts through into the valley of the Bolan river

The railway crosses ravines and runs along cliffs at the side of the wide, dry stony river bed which is flanked by earth-coloured mountains At Ab-i-Gum we crossed the riverbed and began the ascent to Mach, notorious for its prison

From Mach the gradient is 1 in 25, and soon the track had to negotiate the narrow gorge of the upper Bolan, crossing the river nine times in six kms before the station of Kolpur, named after local coal mines From Kolpur we coasted downhill over the barren plateau, dotted with green irrigated patches, to Quetta

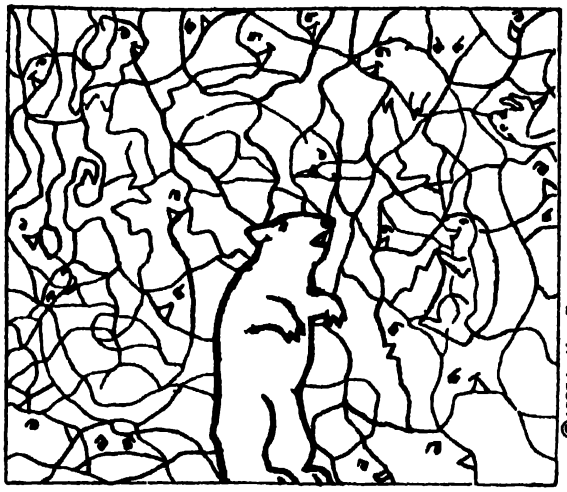
We were still some way from the Afghan border at Chaman The route there is the most famous in Pakistan simply because on it lies the twin-turretted, 4-km-long Khojak Tunnel, the longest in the country It appears on the back of every five-rupee note

From here to Chaman the train does not need an engine, just brakes, as it runs steeply down the mountainside on to the plain of Afghanistan beyond And is there a garden in Chaman? No It is a tiny trading town, which sits like a dusty oasis in the desert, waiting for wars to end so that it can once again become prosperous

(Concluded)

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL HAL KAUFMAN



CHUCKFULL! While a lone woodchuck is in sight above, five more whole woodchuck figures are hiding Can you find them?

EGG NOGGER! "A — lays thousands of eggs without anyone knowing, but when a — lays an egg, the whole country is informed" — Malaysian proverb Fill blanks

Turtle hen respectively



ANAGRAM WORD TO PONDER

LETTERS of many words may be anagramatised (rearranged) into other words or phrases PUNISHMENT into NINE THUMPS, for instance Just for fun, try rearranging letters of capletter words below to complete two-word anagram answers to questions

1 If a rabbit won't sit for a PHOTO, what else might it be prompted to do?

2 If POSTAGE won't stick to a letter, what can the sender do?

3 If an ELEPHANT won't walk through a puddle, what might its trainer suggest?

Limit Two min each

1 TO HOP 2 CO PASTE 3 THEN LTAP

SUM MAZE! *Study this* arrangement of 16 numbers (see below) and then, beginning with the number in the square marked START, draw a line through 12 numbers, ending at the square marked FINISH, so that a total amount of 50 is achieved

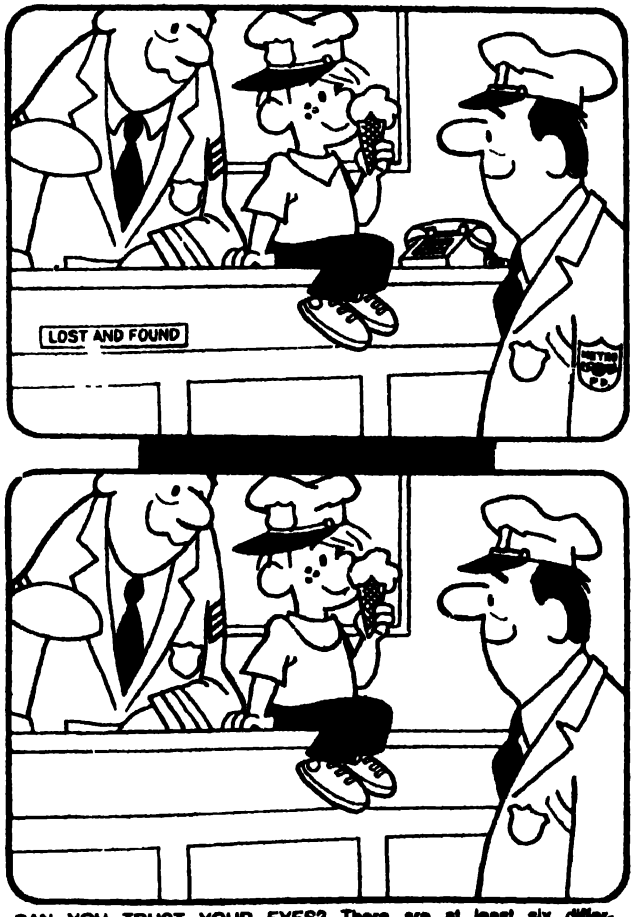
Line may be drawn horizontally, vertically or diagonally It may not cross itself at any point

Remember, sum of 12 numbers is to be exactly 50

Numbers 5221526792631 in that order will do if Other answers may be possible

5 START	3	2	4
2	6	9	3
2	1	7	6
3	4	5	2

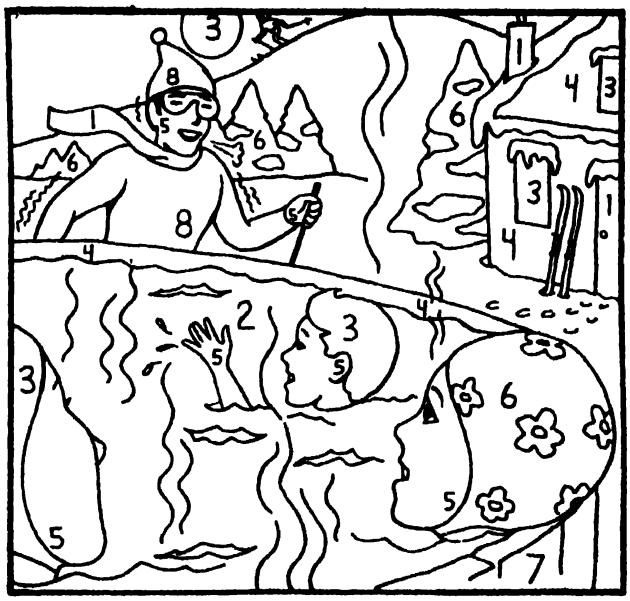
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Collar is missing 2 Sign is missing 3 Neckline is different 4 Phone is missing 5 Cap is different 6 Arm patch is missing

FUNSPOT



HOT SHOT! Come on in, the water's fine. Apply the following colors neatly by number: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

INTEREST

- - - - - - - -

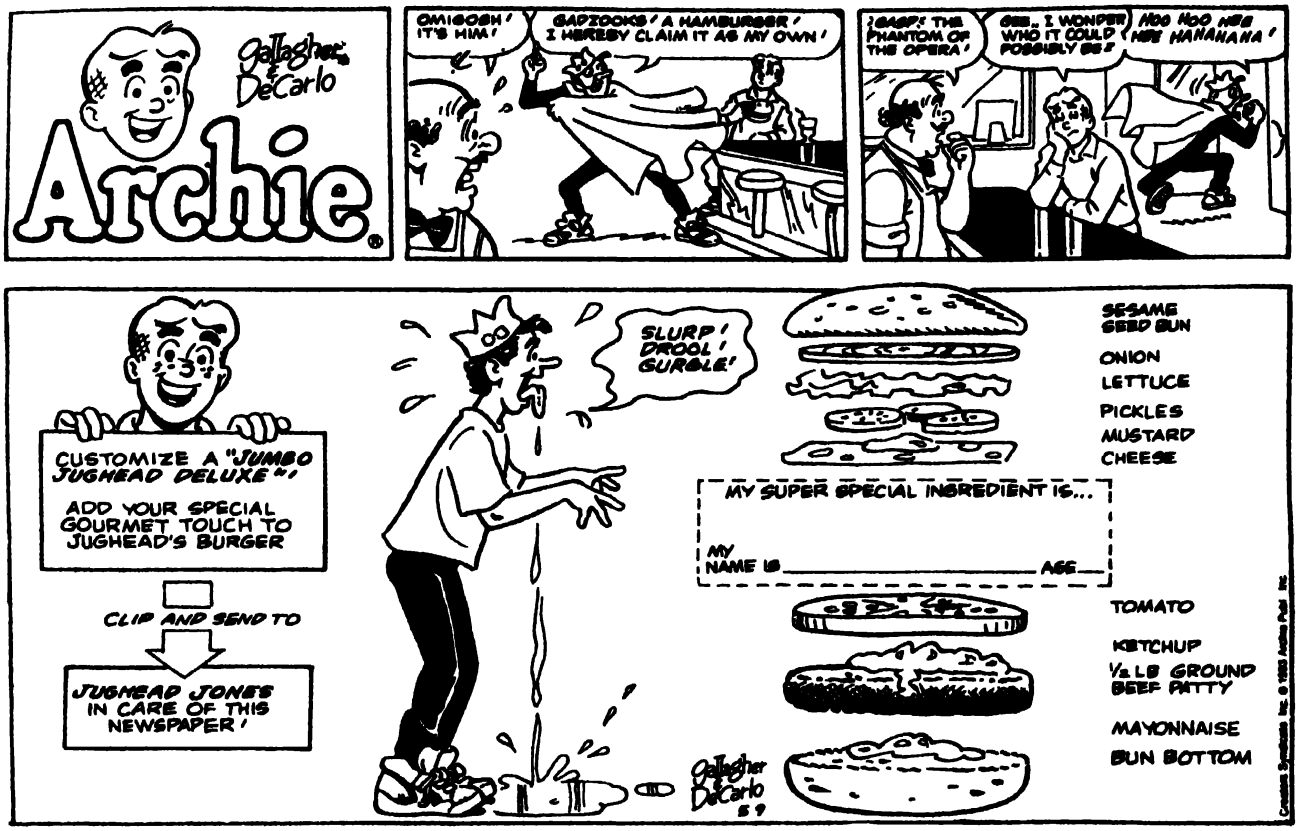
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 30 points

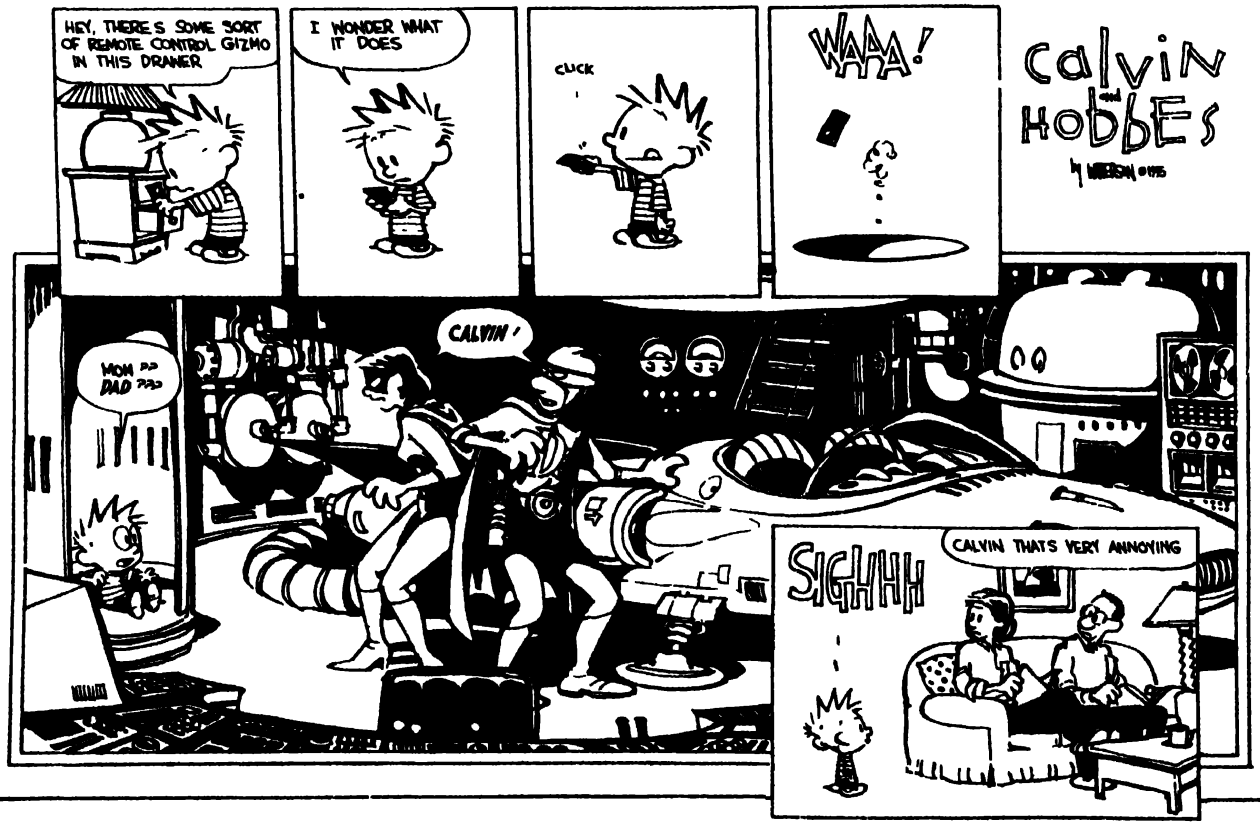
Possible twosome Rent, ate

COMICS

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

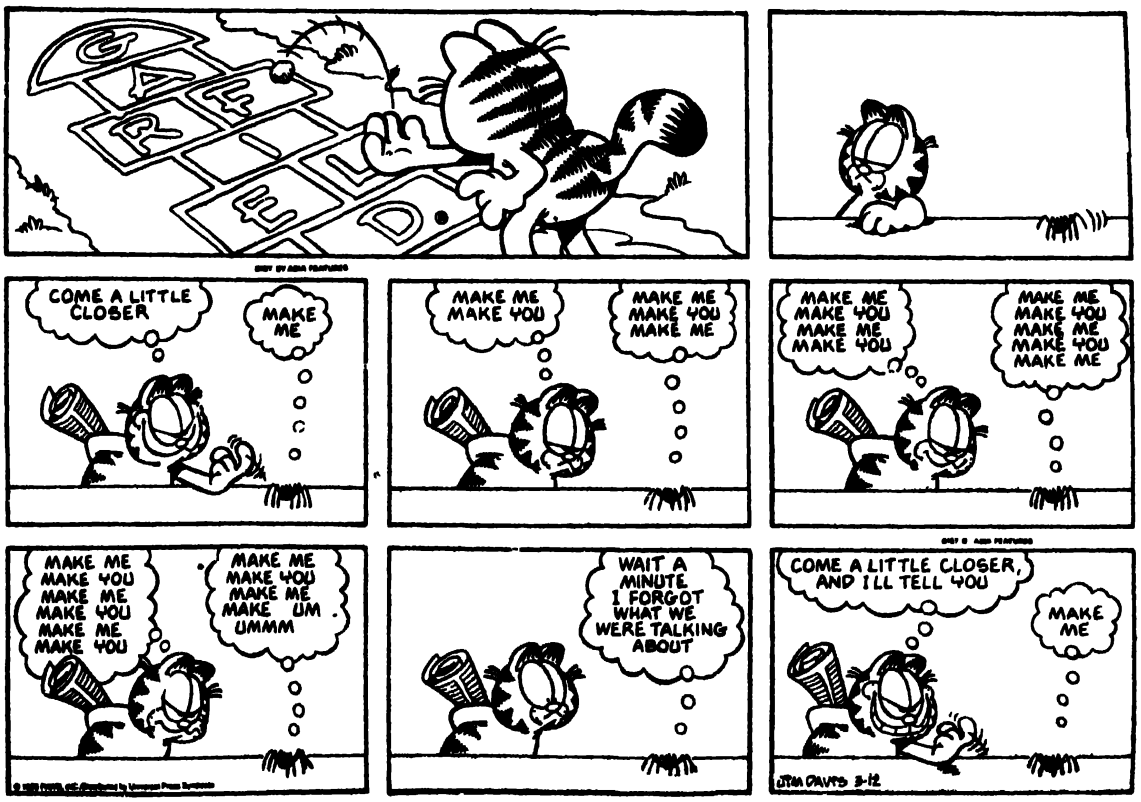








GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

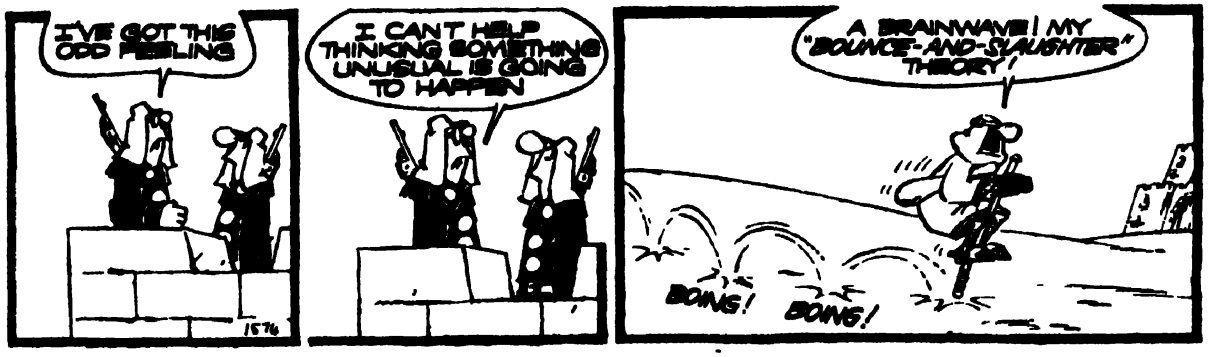


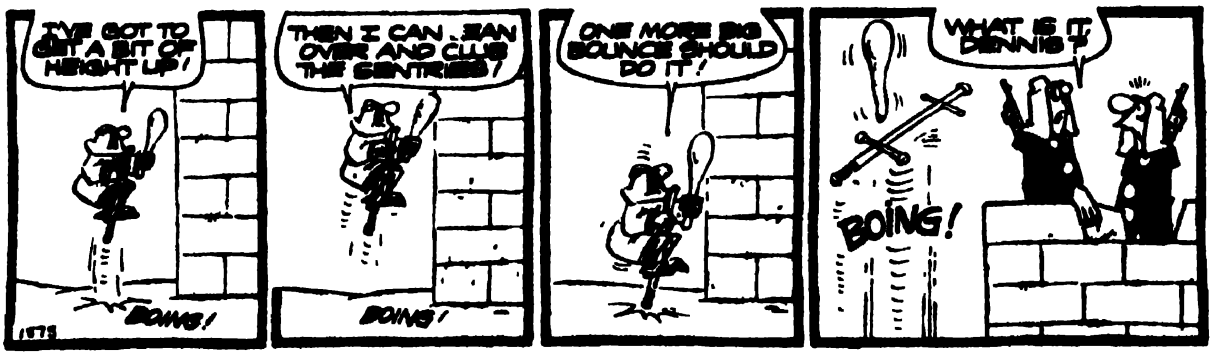
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

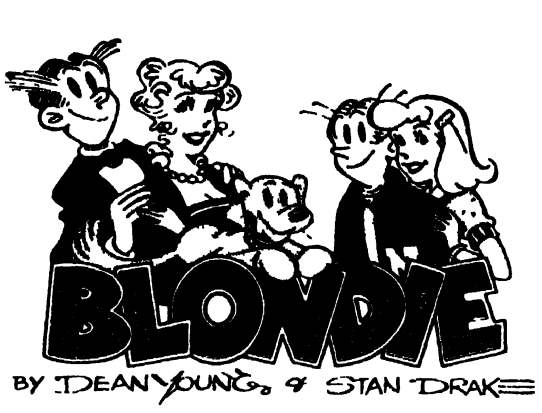


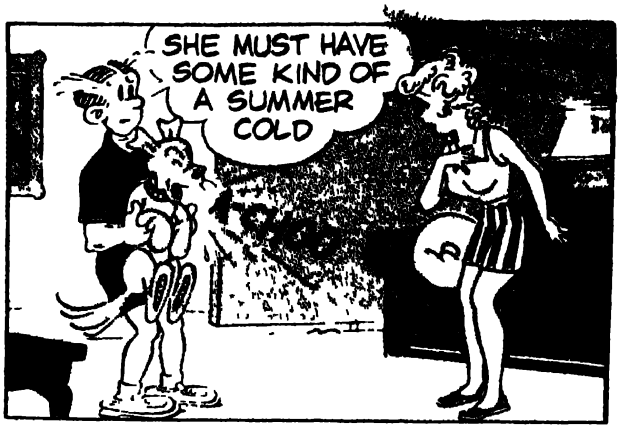


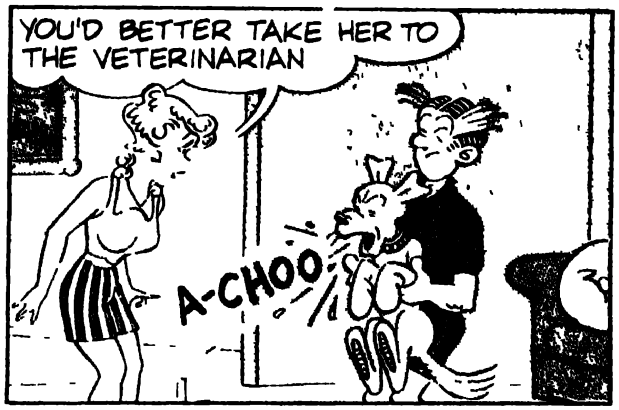


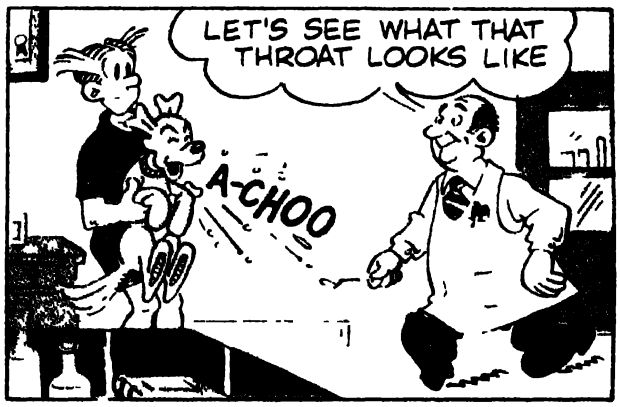


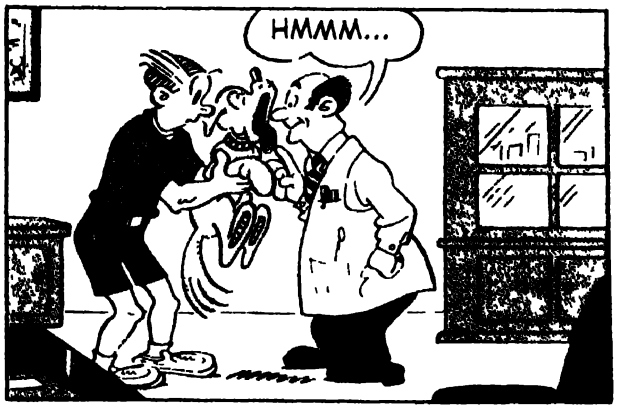


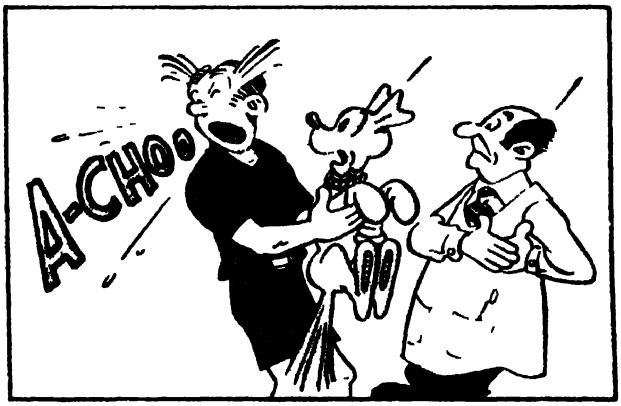


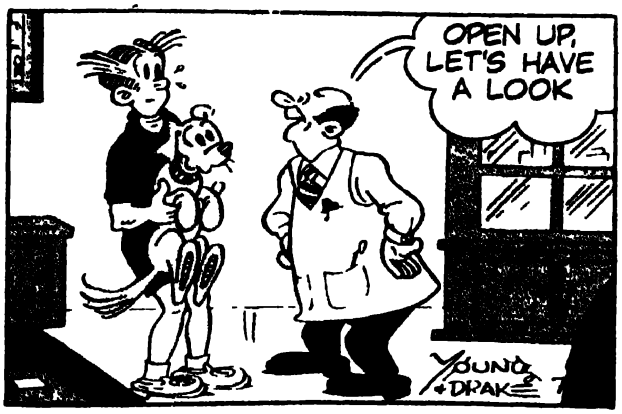




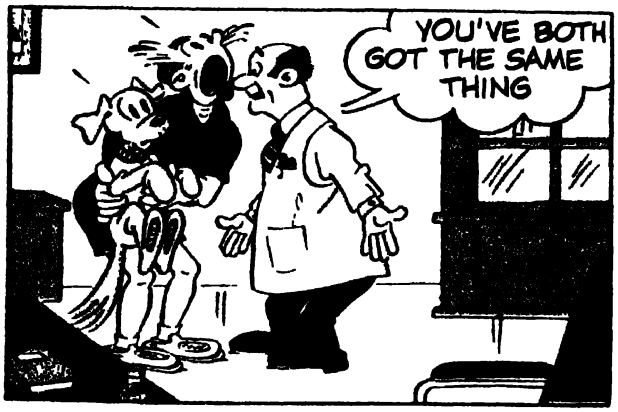






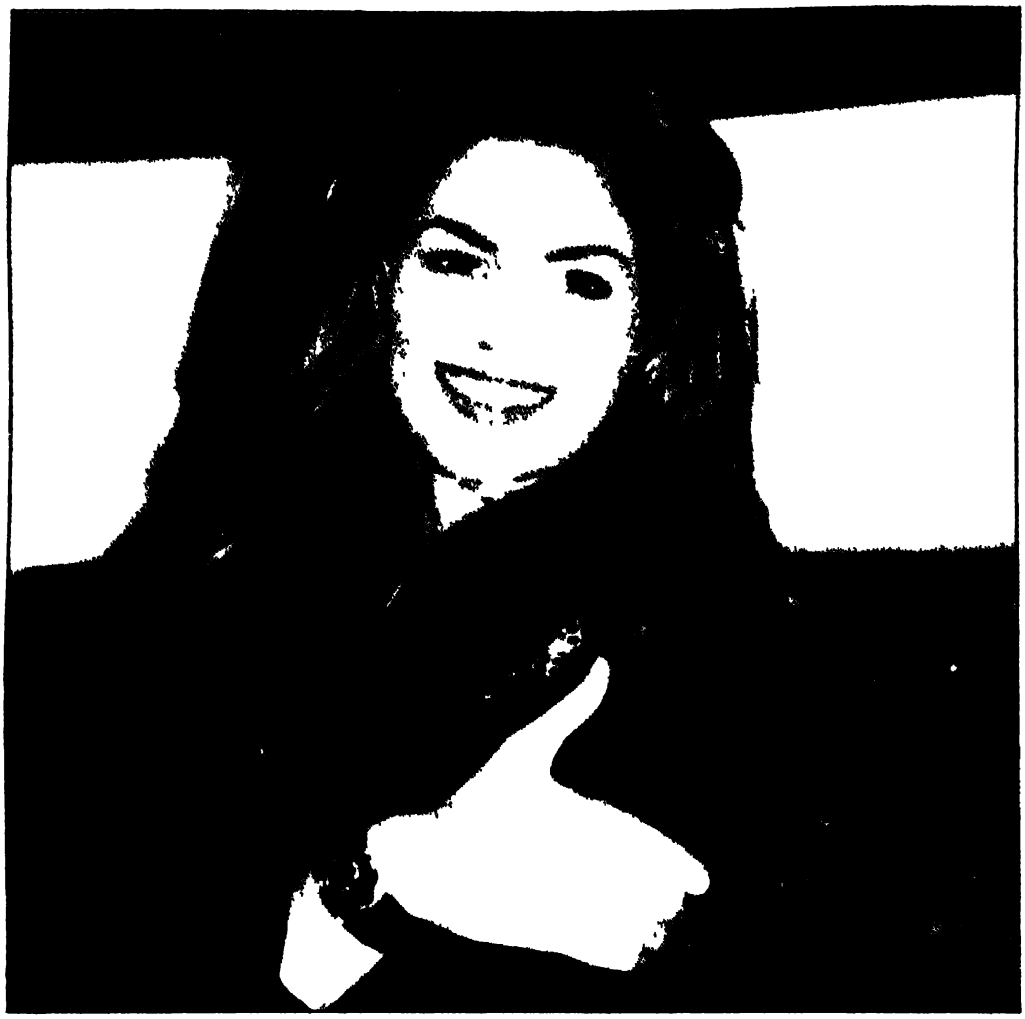


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PIN UP

Beauty Plus Plus Plus



Call her the sultry siren Call her exotic Call her sexy Or simply ex-Mrs Richard Gere

She's the world's most celebrated supermodel who's been posing before the cameras since her teens and who's graced the covers of over 300 magazines (including *Vogue*)

She's Cindy Crawford, the 28-year-old, 5'9" American glamour girl who's recently been declared the wealthiest beauty in the world by *Forbes*

Cindy, who earns anything between $ 2 million and $ 15 million annually, is reported to have accrued $ 6 5 million in 1994 alone from her innumerable modelling and other assignments

The quality for which she is better known apart from her ravishing good looks is her incredible marketing savvy which has not only helped her mint millions of dollars, but also earned her the sobriquet 'Cindy Inc'

She's always been enterprising Between her junior and senior years in high school, Cindy was earning $ 1,000 a day modelling for Chicago's Elite Model Management

She is rumoured to be collecting a fat cheque for $ 1 million from Revlon annually from her contract which will extend upto her 30th birthday

"Revlon liked the whole package," says Michael Hammond, president of Revlon, North America, explaining why the cosmetics company chose her as its corporate spokesperson "She has the looks that allow her to transcend all age groups"

Cindy has been the corporate spokesperson for Pepsi, too And add to that her fashion show for MTV, *House of Style*, and fitness video *Shape Your Body Workout* which sold 2 million copies in 1993 alone, and she doesn't really need much college degree

But it's not her good looks this Midwest-born beauty solely relies on She's hardworking and professional and ambitious, say friends Very ambitious "I like to call the shots," says Cindy "In modelling women have more power than men"

And that's one reason why she loathes Hollywood, because "it's really boys town out there" After two unsuccessful attempts with *Singles* and *Flintstones*, Cindy is trying another comeback with *Fair Game*

Although she has everything to make her a supermodel — the look, the SA, the elegance — she is candid about her appearance and career "I'm made to look better than I'm"

She's aware also that her popularity will wane some day But then, "I don't want to be beautiful all the time" ■

Other Top-Paid Models

Thus is the *Forbes* list of other top-paid models· Germany's **Claudia Schiffer, 24, $ 5.3 million, America's Christy Turlington, 26 $ 4.8 million; Canada's Linda Evangelista, 29, $ 3 million; Australia's Elle Macpherson, 30, $ 3 million, America's Niki Taylor, 20, $ 2.4 million; Italy's Isabella Rossellini, 42, $ 2.3 million; Britain's Kate Moss, 21, $ 2.2 million, Britain's Naomi Campbell, 24, $ 2.1 million and America's Bridget Hall, 17, $ 2 million.**

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS



Before Sunrise The film, by Richard Linklater, takes off with strangers on a train

One is a young American guy Jesse (Ethan Hawke) galivanting around the Continent on a Eurail pass, the other is Celine (Julie Delphy), a French student travelling to Paris

Their chance meeting sets them talking on the train humming its way towards Vienna where Jesse is due to disboard

It would mean never seeing Celine again His suggestion sees them spending the next 14 hours wandering around Vienna

They have a great evening together and promise to meet in a year's time The movie ends in the wee hours of the morning as Jesse and Celine are going their own separate ways, all smiles, leaving one to wonder if it wasn't a dream they fancied after all

FASHION

Leave it on Louise: **The Pierre Cardin hype and hoopla ended in a debacle. So where does it leave international labels aspiring to make inroads into the Indian fashion scene?**

It leaves them to contend with Indian designers and label hounds sceptical about their intentions, no matter how inspired their collections.

Yet, they continue to forge alliances confident of wooing the fashion-conscious Indian.

Come September, enter another living designer, Louise Feraud. The painter-colourist-turned-*couturier* lends every collection his indelible hallmark.

Elegance, extraordinary vivid colours and blazing vitality of designs are a regular feature of his creative style.

Brought to the country courtesy J.KL'Atelier whose strategic alliance ushers in a retail venture to manufacture and retail the Louise Feraud



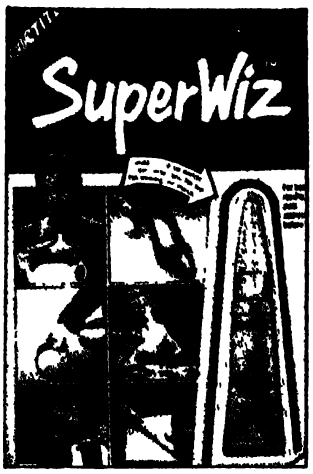
***couture* and accessories for men and women through a chain of stores all over the country.**

LIFESTYLE

Instant Bond Loctite, USA is here to create an everlasting bond

Superwiz universal is a cyano based adhesive which bonds almost anything to anything instantly!

Use a drop of this non-messy brand to bond paper, wood, metals, leather, plastic and whatever you want to join and fix



Superwiz is available in 3 gm tubes with a specially designed easy-to-use, non-clog nozzle

Priced at Rs 33 the tube contains 200 drops powerful enough to fix 200 different items!

Peachy Schnapps If you are spirited enough to go for a heady mix of real peaches and crisp, clean Schnapps, Archer's is here to fill your shooter glass!

Taking off from 'Fuzzy Navel' – a cocktail of peach spirit and orange juice – Archer's managed to soften the classical European recipe and replace the harsh flavours with luscious peaches

International Distillers (India) Limited has launched this 'New Generation' Schnapps at Bombay



Essentially a light drink, Archer's has an alcohol content of 23 per cent Packaged in an attractive tall, frosted screen printed bottle it is priced at Rs 280 for a 750 ml pack

FUN

Breaking the Ice: **Wall's frozen desserts, the lip-smacking and nutritious fun products might soon lick out ice creams altogether!**

Under the Unilever umbrella, the goodies are set to make a cool capture of India's leading metros.

One could 'go solo' with delicious ice lollies or 'paddle pop' in chocolate or strawberry. Their 'split', a favourite among the young adults, has the twin taste of vanilla wrapped in fruity lime and pineapple ice shells.

'Feast' on the hard core chocolate-within-chocolate or nibble at the Cornettos crisp and crunchy sugar cones topped with vanilla, chocolate and nuts or strawberry-laced sauce.

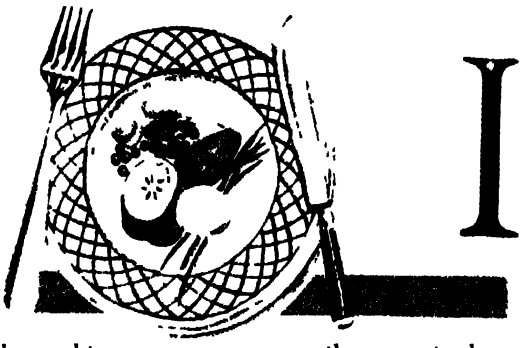
The 'top ten' takes you on a



chocolacious treat while the smoother 'classic' comes in cups and take-home packs of 1/2 litre, 1 litre and 4 litres.

Based on vegetable oils, the delicious desserts could satisfy a fitness freak's sweet desires. And take the heat off summer!

RASOI



JIGGS KALRA



It is true of food that the more cooking methods you use, the tastier the dish becomes It is also true that most chefs — steeped as they are in theory – tend to shy away from 'extra' work, experimentation and innovation

Once the blinkers are removed, creative use of multiple techniques becomes easy and results in wonderful new delicacies Rasoi has firmly believed that this is how food evolves

The results of our recent endeavours are offered below

MEEN URULLA

INGREDIENTS

12 fillets Sole/Pomfret (large)
12 Banana leaves (8 " square)
Coconut oil to grease banana leaves
Cooking oil to grill wrapped paupiettes and grease *tawa*/griddle

The Marination

60 ml / 1/4 cup Lemon juice
30 ml / 2 tbs Toddy vinegar
30 g / 5 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
20 g / 3 1/2 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
3 g / 1 tsp Red chilli powder
Salt

The Filling

90 g / 3 oz Prawns
60 g / 2 oz Crab meat (cooked)
60 g / 2 oz Squid
60 g / 2 oz Fish trimmings
30 ml / 2 tbs Coconut oil
100 g / 3 oz Madras onions
5 g / 1/2 " piece Ginger
2 Green chillies
12 Curry leaves
3 g / 1 tsp Coriander powder
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Turmeric powder
Salt
24 Green peppercorns
10 ml / 2 tsp Lemon juice

The Gravy

45 ml / 3 tbs *Gingelly* (sesame) oil
4 whole dried Red chillies
7 5 g / 1 tbs Fennel seeds
8 flakes Garlic
2 sticks Cinnamon (1 ")
165 g / 1 1/2 cups Madras onions
110 g / 1/4 lb Tomatoes
9 g / 1 tbs Coriander powder
3 g / 1 tsp Turmeric powder
3 g / 1 tsp Red chilli powder
30 g / 1 oz Tamarind pulp
720 ml / 3 cups Fish stock
Salt
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Green cardamom powder
1 g / 1/3 tsp Mace powder

The Tempering

6 25 g / 1 1/2 tsp Butter
7 5 ml / 1 1/2 tsp *Gingelly* (sesame) oil
2 25 g / 1/2 tsp Mustard seeds
12 Curry leaves

Serves 4
Preparation time 1 45 hours
Cooking time 25 minutes

PREPARATION

The fish fillets Clean, wash, pat dry and trim Coarsely chop and reserve 60 g / 2 oz of the trimmings for the filling
The marination: Mix all ingredients, evenly rub the fish fillets with this marinade and reserve for 15 minutes

The filling Shell prawns, devein, wash, pat dry and coarsely chop Run fingertips through crab flakes to ensure there are broken shells Clean squid, wash, pat dry and coarsely chop Peel, wash and chop onions Scrape, wash and chop ginger Wash green chillies, slit, desced, chop and discard the stems Wash curry leaves Wash green peppercorns and pat dry If using canned peppercorns, drain and pat dry

Heat oil in a *kadhai*, add onions, saute over medium heat until translucent and glossy, add ginger, saute until onions are light golden, add green chillies and saute until onions are golden Then add curry leaves, saute until onions are golden brown, add coriander and turmeric powders — dissolved in 30 ml / 2 tbs of water - - and *bhunno*/stir fry until the liquid evaporates Now add the seafood and *bhunno*/stir fry for 1-1 1/2 minutes Transfer to a food processor/mincer and make a coarse mousse Remove to a bowl, add the remaining ingredients, mix well and divide into 12 equal portions
The stuffing Wash banana leaves, pat dry, spread on the work surface and grease with coconut oil Remove fish fillets, hold aloft to allow excess marinade to drip off and place on the banana leaf Spread a portion of the filling on each fillet and roll to make a paupiette (ensure that the fillet does not break, nor the filling spill out) Then wrap a stuffed fillet in each of the greased banana leaves, tucking in the edges and secure with string and keep aside
The gravy Wipe dried red chillies clean with moist cloth Do not peel the garlic Peel, wash and slice

Meen Urulla



onions Remove eyes, wash and roughly chop tomatoes

COOKING
To cook the fish, heat the *tawa*/griddle, sprinkle water and clean thoroughly Then spread a little oil on the *tawa*/griddle, arrange the wrapped fish fillets on top and grill for 3-4 minutes, turning twice or thrice, adding a little oil on each occasion Remove and keep aside

To prepare the gravy, heat oil a *handi*/pan, add whole dried red chillies, stir over medium heat until they become slightly darker (approximately 15-20 seconds), add fennel, garlic and cinnamon, *bhunno*/stir-fry until garlic is light golden, add onions and *bhunno*/stir-fry until onions are light brown, then add tomatoes *bhunno*/stir-fry for 3-4 minutes, add coriander, turmeric and red chilli powders —all dissolved in 45 ml / 3 tbs of water — and *bhunno*/stir-fry until the moisture evaporates Now add tamarind pulp, stir, add fish stock, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat and simmer until of coating consistency Remove and pass the gravy through fine muslin into a separate *handi*/pan Return the gravy to heat, unwrap the paupiettes, gently add to the gravy and simmer until the gravy is of sauce consistency (approximately 3 minutes) Sprinkle cardamom and mace powders, stir carefully Remove and adjust the seasoning

To prepare the tempering, heat the butter and the oil, add the mustard seeds and curry leaves, stir over medium heat until the seeds begin to crackle Remove and keep aside

TO SERVE
Mentally divide the gravy into 8 portions, spoon out two thirds of a portion on one side of each plate (as shown in the photograph) to make a bed, arrange three paupiettes on top, and pour on the remaining one third of the gravy to cover a third of the paupiette (as shown in the photograph) Place a savarin of steamed rice (as shown) on each plate, pour in the remaining portions of the gravy, garnish with the fried chillies (as shown) and pour on equal quantities of the tempering on the fish and the rice

NOTE We intended to stuff the fish with spinach but decided to switch to a seafood mousse Do not go by the green seen in the photograph



MEAT PISTEYANWALA

INGREDIENTS
900 g / 2 lb shoulder of Kid/Lamb
90 g / 3 oz *Desi ghee* (clarified butter)
5 Green cardamom
5 Cloves
2 Black cardamom
2 sticks Cinnamon (1 ")
1 Bay leaf
220 g / 2 cups Onions
20 g / 3 1/2 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
15 g / 2 1/2 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
9 g / 1 tbs Coriander powder
3 g / 1 tsp Turmeric powder
3 g / 1 tsp *Kashmiri deghi mirch*
120 g / 1/2 cup fresh Tomato puree
Salt
1 g / 2 tsp Saffron
1.5 g / 1/2 tsp Black pepper powder
1.5 g / 1/2 tsp Green cardamom powder
0.75 g / 1/4 tsp Clove powder
0.75 g / 1/4 tsp Cinnamon powder
0.375 g 1/8 tsp Mace powder
0.375 g / 1/8 tsp Nutmeg powder

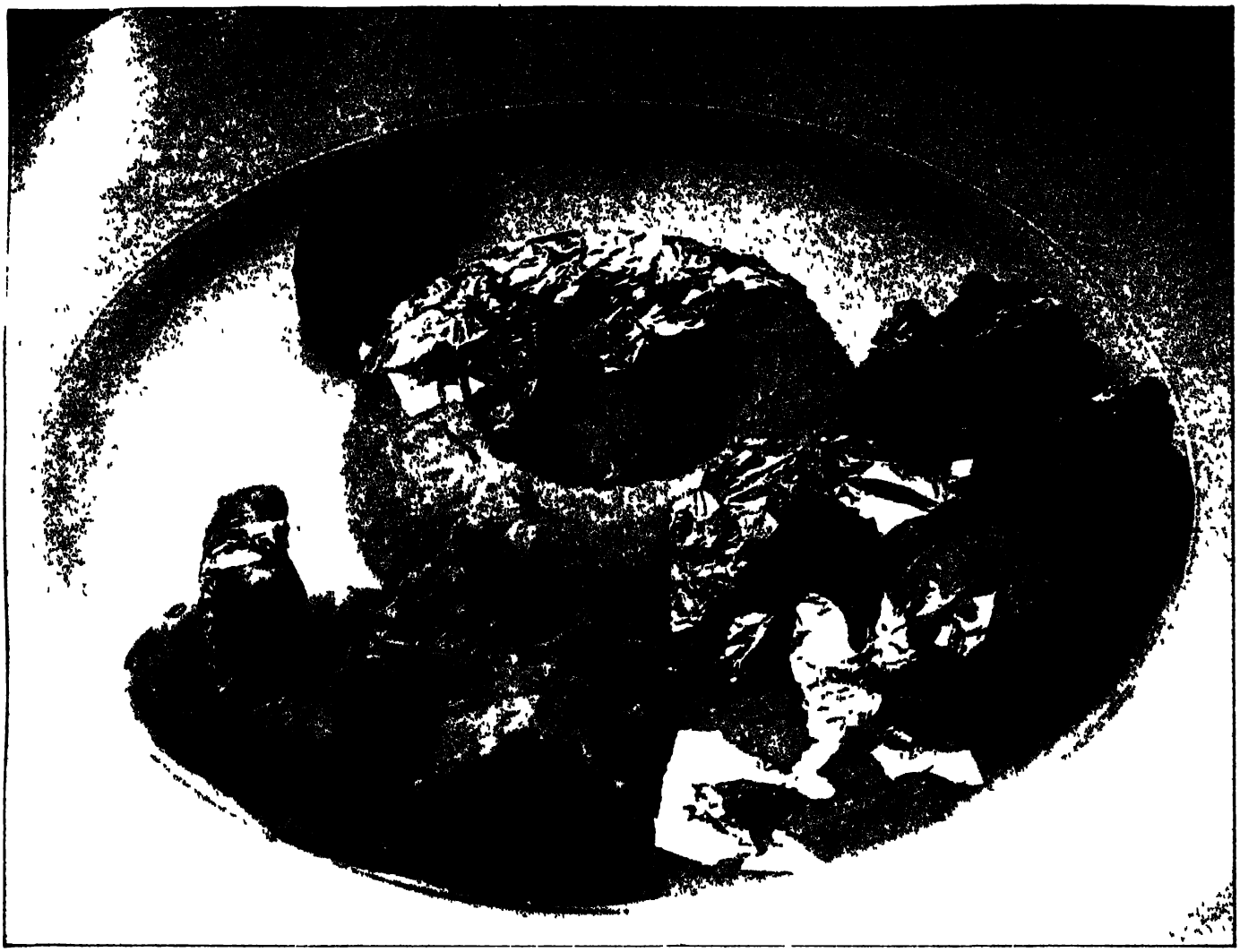
The Marination
250 g / 1 cup Yoghurt
30 g / 1 oz roasted Pistachio paste
15 g / 2 1/2 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
3 g / 1 tsp *Kashmiri deghi mirch*
Salt

The Stock
1.5 litres / 6 1/2 cups Kid/Lamb stock
10 g / 3 tbs *Tulsi*/Basil (fresh)

The Garnish
36 roasted Pistachio
Chandi ka varq

Serves: 4
Preparation time: 3.30 hours (plus time taken to make stock)
Cooking time: 1.30 hours

PREPARATION
The kid/lamb. Clean, wash and pat dry, debone and cut into 24 1 1/2" cubes
The marination Whisk



Meat Pisteyanwala

yoghurt in a large bowl, add the remaining ingredients and mix well Evenly rub the cubes with this marinade and reserve for 3 hours

The gravy Peel, wash and slice onions

The stock Clean, wash and pluck the *tulsi*/basil leaves Put kid/lamb stock in a *handi*/pan, bring to a boil, add *tulsi*/basil, reduce to low heat and simmer for 3-4 minutes Remove pass the stock through a fine mesh sieve into a separate *handi*/pan and keep aside

The saffron Crush the threads with pestle or the back of a spoon, reserve in 15 ml / 1 tbs of lukewarm water for 15 minutes and then make a paste

COOKING

Heat *ghee*/clarified butter in a *handi*/pan, add both the cardamoms, cloves, cinnamon and bay leaf, stir over medium heat until the green cardamom begins to change colour, add onions, saute until light brown, add the ginger and garlic pastes, saute until onions are golden brown Remove the meat from the marinade add to the masala, increase to high heat, *bhunno*/stir-fry for three minutes, reduce to low heat, cover and cook, stirring occasionally, for 20 minutes (add a little stock to prevent sticking, if necessary) Uncover, *bhunno*/stir-fry until the liquid has evaporated, add coriander powder and one fourth of the marinade, *bhunno*/stir-fry until the liquid has evaporated, add another fourth of the marinade and keep repeating the process until the marinade is used up Now add turmeric and *deghi mirch* (dissolved in 30 ml / 2 tbs of water), stir for a minute, reduce to low heat, *bhunno*/stir-fry until the fat leaves the sides, add tomato puree, *bhunno*/stir-fry until the fat leaves the sides again, add the stock, bring to a boil, reduce to low heat, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the meat is cooked Uncover, remove the meat and keep aside Pass the gravy through a fine muslin into a separate *handi*/pan, return gravy to heat and reduce over low heat to sauce consistency Remove and adjust the seasoning Now add saffron, stir, sprinkle green cardamom, black pepper, clove, cinnamon, mace and nutmeg powders, cover and keep aside

TO SERVE

Mentally divide the gravy into 8 portions, spoon out a portion on one side of each plate (as shown in the photograph) to make a bed, arrange 6 cubes of meat on top Place a savarin of steamed rice (as shown) one each plate, pour in the remaining portions of the gravy, garnish with pistachio and *chandi ka varq* (as shown) and

NOTE: All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross ■

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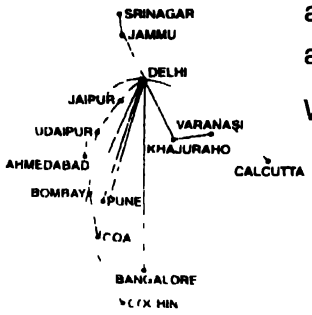


Silver Class A cut above the rest

Economical, yet uncompromising in comfort
Delicious cuisine A choice of soft drinks and juices
Efficient and caring service

All this with our on-time performance, which other airlines keep talking about, and our frequent flyer programme, Miles & Smiles, make flying on ModiLuft a world class experience Which is why we've been adjudged India's best domestic airline Thrice

Welcome aboard ModiLuft



ModiLuft
In partnership with **Lufthansa**

Fly World Class

POST MORTEM

Turf Fever

■ Although a sport of the rich, horse racing is popular the world over ('Taste the Thunder!', March 5)

This hangover of the Raj is today a money-spinning entertainment Liquor and tobacco companies have found a lucrative advertising vehicle in this sport

Vijay Mallya's UB Group sponsored a spectacular show at Bombay's Mahalaxmi race course which was even shown live on Doordarshan

Calcutta has also caught the turf fever The Classic Indian Turf Invitation Cup has become an annual racing ritual for the elite This time, too, it was telecast on Doordarshan

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

■ The cover story had an elitist touch Only bookies and owners of horses have an interest in racing

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore

■ Horse racing is not everybody's cup of tea The cover story must have been read only by a select group

Despite its immense popularity and the fact that it means real big money, horse racing is yet to attain respectability

The temptation to win, and win more, has often been the cause of many people's ruin

Sunil Banerjee,
Calcutta



Anil Grover

Vijay Mallya (left) Liquid cash for races

Extraordinary and 80

■ 'Life at 80' (January 29) was a fitting tribute to octogenarians The story would have had a wider appeal had it included the views, sentiments and remembrances of some commoners in their eighties instead of highlighting the often-read-about achievements of a few celebrities

Sourav Ghosh Choudhury,
Calcutta

■ The cover story was brilliant Could you do a story on thespians like Ashok Kumar and Raaj Kumar who are in their eighties?

Prabal Guha,
Jamshedpur

Star Persons

■ First Person would become more interesting if the star sign of the person interviewed is also included

Chanchal S Dudhoria,
Calcutta

Dream Prose

■ Ruskin Bond's columns are the most exquisite pieces of writing in the Magazine 'Wild Garden' (March 5) provided not just 12 minutes of reading ecstasy, but the mood the thought and the simplicity of the writing enveloped me like sweet fragrance

He reminded us of our tragic urban existence, of the vast treasures we give away for a little materialistic comfort

Subhojit Roy,
Calcutta

Will to Win

■ When the cancer hospital was being built many in Pakistan jeered at Imran Khan ('King Khan', February 5) Even his bowling partner, Sarfraz Nawaz, accused him of spending the funds garnered from the public for the hospital on himself

However, Imran was undeterred and went on to show to the world that with will and determination one could overcome all hindrances

Khandakar Mohidul Haque,
Calcutta

INSIDE



PAGE 8

KASHMIR STILL smoulders And there are many down the years who have picked up the wages of war An extract from Tavleen Singh's account of the hell that the Valley has become And the inhuman errors that led to it

PAGE 4

A REPORT on the Berlin film festival

Kashmir

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
19 RUSKIN BOND
20 GILLIAN WRIGHT
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 RAINBOW
28 TRIBUTE
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Gulmarg photograph by Soumitra Sinha



Eclipse

FOCUS

BEARABLE NO LONGER

That's what ***Swapan Kumar Ghosh*** *felt about the recently held film festival in Berlin and its 'Bear' awards*

It is the same thing at all film festivals the world over the decision by the jury sets off a spontaneous chorus of dissension

No festival, it must be understood, can kick off with only creative forces at work There are other factors to be considered, not the least of them being political

Since the festival is conducted on an enormous scale, the government or the film industry has always to be roped in A government funding a festival will, in most cases, mean political pressure ruling the roast

And the industry would demand the promotion of mainstream cinema as its just desserts

The film which stirred up the greatest controversy guided the trend of the Berlin film festival

It was quite unlike Cannes, for Berlin in those days never quite patronised Hollywood for raking in the profits Now, of course, it's a pretty kettle of fish

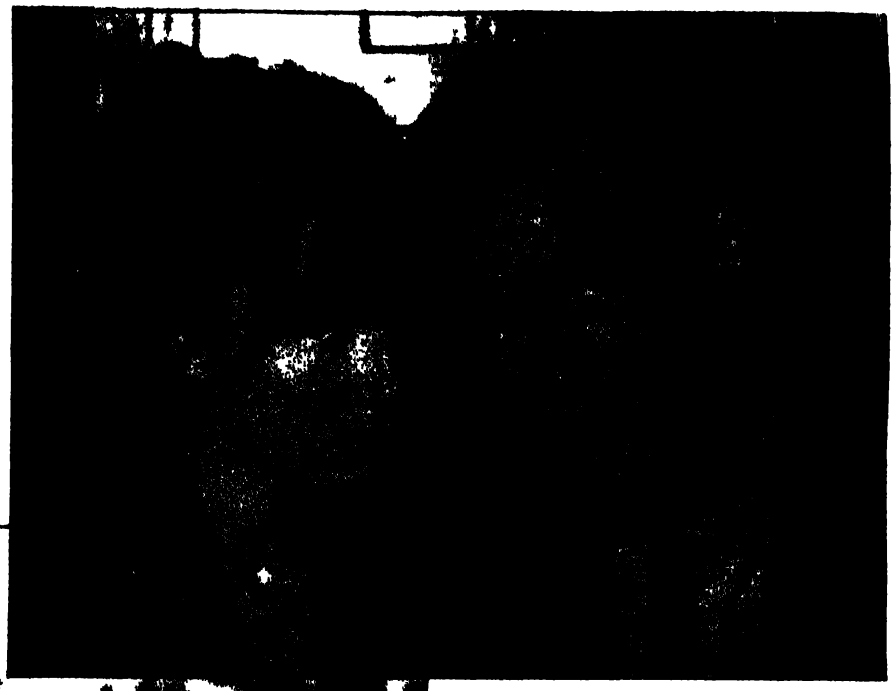
The market for films has been fast hotting up in Berlin ever since Moritz De Hadeln took over as the head of Berlinale in 1980, snatching better films and bigger names to compete with Cannes

This year, what one witnessed was a

dismal picture at Berlin Though Hollywood hardly created much of a sizzle, the standards of the festival have crashed beyond compare — ringing in the irony of the fall of Berlin

In an attempt to usher in a new era of trade relations between the US and European film industries, Berlinale last year flagged off with a UK-US entry, its official section flooded with a plethora of Hollywood films

The selection of the awards, too, reflected a definite slant towards US entries as Jack Valenti, chief of the Motion Pictures Association of America, promised all-out aid to European filmmakers



The Promise



A Boy Called Hate



Amanda Plummer in *Butterfly Kiss*

Some were of the opinion Valenti had dropped the free-trade rhetoric in the hope of cornering some 'Bears' or laurels

So this year, Berlinale got off to a fitting start by screening *The Promise*, a German film by Magarethe Von Trotta Shot in Berlin, Prague, and Babelsburg, the film confronts recent German history with an indepth exploration and objectivity born out of geographical distance

The plot revolves round the time when the Berlin Wall came up A group of teenagers which includes a couple, Sophie and Konrad, make an escape bid through the sewers, from East Berlin to the West

Sophie manages to flee, but Konrad stumbles and stays behind Germa-

ny's gigant edifice leads them to meet just ir times in 28 years!

But th ave a child who keeps their lov d hopes alive When the wall br their 21-year-old son sees his pa united for the first time in his l t questions remain Of the wa it lie within — and of those th insurmountable

ta has made a comeback to Berli- after *Heller Wahn* was shown in Her recent film, *The Promise*, is this year's official German entry the foreign language Oscar As the focus of most reviews, *The Promise* bagged critical acclaim Peter Buchka of Zeitung remarked, "Rarely has a major film festival started in such a meaningful and convincing way and with such a fitting reference to its location"

Only 27 out of the 430 feature films lined up gained entry at the festival, 19 of which had their world premiere Bertrand Tavernier's *I 'Appat* walked away with the Golden Bear

The film deals with a trio of juvenile delinquents (two boys from a privileged background and a girl who has a deprived one) They plot cold-blooded murder for the sake of their premature ambitions — to launch a chain of ready-to-wear stores in the US

The film probes unrelentingly into the psyche of the two boys and the girl Based on the book by Morgan Sportes and scripted by Colo Tavernier O'Hagan and Bertrand Tavernier, it seems like a rehash of *If*, one of the all-time British classics made by Lindsay Anderson in 1968 *I 'Appat'* would compare less favourably with *If* for *If* delved deeper in its quest for roots

A really swashbuckling hit with critics and audiences alike was Wayne Wang's *Smoke*, the US entry which stood out as the strongest contender for the grand prize But the 10-member jury chaired by Israel's Lea Van Leer could not agree on account of the film's documentary style in parts

So *Smoke* received the Silver Bear Auggie Wren's *Christmas Story*, a holiday tale written for the *New York Times* by novelist Paul Auster, provides the storyline It is about a tobacconist in Brooklyn and a Black youth brought together by destiny

Wang scored a double with two films in the official section of the festival, the second being *Blue in the Face* which is co-directed by Paul Auster Though both received rave reviews, it was *Smoke*, finally, which warmed up the rather frigid atmosphere of the festival

A number of stories in *Smoke* are knit together by Wang to form a multicultural patchwork of Brooklyn Though the film seems to tell an endless number of stories at once, it remains as clear as the world around the tobacco shop

The Wang-Auster team continued their stints together by shooting *Blue in the Face*, an instant movie about Brooklyn which has half documentary spliced with fictional scenes, interviews with neighbours and famous people from Brooklyn *Le Monde*'s film critic, Pascal Merigeau, while rounding off this year's festival waxed eloquent about Wayne being the saviour of the festival from the clutches of mediocrity into which it had apparently fallen

Shocks and surprises, too, were in store The formidable British entry, *Butterfly Kiss*, went without a prize, or so much as a mention by the jury Michael Winterbottom who makes his debut with this film might, one feels, be the one to resuscitate the sagging state of British cinema today

The film has the passionate and impulsive Eunice (Amanda Plummer) as its central character journeying all across northern England on her desperate search for Judith In the course of her sojourn, Eunice meets Miriam (Saskia Reeves), a lonely and naive introvert who works at a gas station and takes care of her infirm brother

The two continue the search for Judith which finally ends up disclosing Eunice as a murderer What Winterbottom succeeds in doing, is to create a balance between the funny and the macabre

But strangely enough, the best actress award went not to Amanda Plummer, but to Josephine Siao for her role in Ann Hui's *Summer Snow*

One could, however, foresee Paul Newman winning the best actor award for his sterling performance in Robert Benton's *Nobody's Fool* An average film, it speaks about an ordinary man's struggle for survival and his need to keep his dignity with humour

A regular feature of all major film festivals is the recognition given to Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean and Russian films Lately, the spotlights have also shifted to Hongkong-made Chinese films This may explain why *Blush* (pro-China/Hongkong) by Li Shaohong won a Silver Bear for visual effects and *The Play for a Passenger*, a Russian film won the Silver Bear for its remarkable style and theme

Both *Blush* and *The Play for a Passenger* are propaganda films though the latter is a little too weak in its depiction of realistic paradoxes

Diplomatic links with Israel justified Lia van Leer's designation as chair person of the jury No wonder *Sh'chur* was accorded a special mention for its special blend of magic and reality

As Shumel Hasfari's debut film, *Sh'chur* is all about sins, sins and more sins But one tries in vain to search for its social and contemporary relevance

The Mexican entry, *Midaq Alley*, by Jorge Fons was nothing short of a tearjerker *sans* cinematic effects But there it was, laying claim to the jurist's special mention for exceptional storytelling

The selection of Richard Linklater



Maddening Noise

as best director for *Before Sunrise*, a US/Austria joint venture evoked amusement, if not surprise The film seemed like a pale imitation of Andrej Wajda's minor masterpiece, *Innocent Sorcerers*

Though modelled as a conventional love story, the man-woman relationship was much too superficial And Linklater's nomination confirmed sneaking suspicions of the jury's inability to ignore American entries for a major award

A great dampener was Alain Robbe-Grillet's *Maddening Noise* with its clumsy use of complex images to explore a

story of love, hate and death Robbe-Grillet, one of the pioneers of Nouveau Roman who has been proving his directorial talent since the Sixties, seems to have petered out at this festival

The same can be said of German filmmaker, Herbert Achternbusch, who tries to capture the mood of our times in an absurdly critical though satirical fashion and fails miserably in the attempt

There were two films earmarked for celebrating the centenary of cinema One of them, *The Night of the Filmmakers*, by German director Edgar Reitz (of *Heimat* fame) carries assorted



interviews of the new breed of German filmmakers from Kluge to Detler Buck

The other, *A Hundred and One Nights*, is by well-known French filmmaker, Agnes Varda It is about the old Mr Cinema (Michael Piccoli) almost a 100 years old, an actor, producer, and director who engages the young Camille (Julie Gayet) as an expert cineaste

Camille's task is to bring order to his confused memory Agnes Varda tries in vain to give a life-like, amusing and ironic picture of the evergreen urge to make films For the outcome sadly



Song of the Siren

lacks punch

The festival also saw the decline of Spanish filmmaker, Manuel Gutierrez Aragon, who in the early Seventies was in excellent form US-based Australian filmmaker Bruce Beresford's *Silent Fall* lived up to its name and made a quiet exit

It deals with the history of US television presented by the charismatic actor-director Robert Redford

Running parallel to the competition section in Berlin, is the Forum of Young Cinema where films are selected with greater imagination Director Ulrich Gregor with his team works round the year in promoting young filmmakers of all countries

One was struck by the total absence of any Indian films in the competition or in the Panorama section of the festival The Forum chose two Indian films of which one was Anand Patwardhan's two-hour documentary, *Father, Son and Holy War*, and another was the almost ancient classic, *Sant Tukaram*, to commemorate 100 years of cinema

Patwardhan's documentary, which is based on a sensitive collection of facts, was well accepted by critics who hailed it as a landmark in Indian documentary for its concern with the communal violence ravaging India since Independence

But to an Indian present in Berlin, the documentary was an eyeopener on blind faith, superstition and illiteracy that still sells well in Indian films in the West

At festivals in Cannes, Berlin and Venice, there is a tendency to look condescendingly at the cinematic landscape which is vastly unknown or has just started to develop

Indian films, for instance, are now ignored for their non-Indianness The selectors could not envisage that characters in an Indian film could face predicaments that go beyond the *roti kapda aur makan* level of thought It is always the Third World concept which is sought after in Third World films

The Forum director, Ulrich Gregor, has promoted in the recent past, Indian filmmakers Mrinal Sen, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Adoor Gopalkrishnan and Goutam Ghose — at a time when they were all out to portray the surface reality without much introspection

Now, it is China, Hongkong and Taiwan which are the areas to watch out for, feels Gregor, because of the sudden upsurge of a 'tremendous energy' arising from these regions Or, is it, one wonders, mere lust for Oriental exotica! ■

COVER STORY

A HELL ON EARTH

An extract that deals with the inhuman errors in Kashmir

BY TAVLEEN SINGH



Sumit Sinha

Shalimar Garden, Srinagar
How green was my valley



The militant face of Kashmir

AFTER THE BRIEF FLURRY OF EXCITEMENT that the Ekta Yatra created Kashmir was forgotten again Chronic problems are easily ignored and by the time Narasimha Rao came to the end of his first year as Prime Minister Kashmir had become a chronic, thereby a forgettable, problem As long as there were no major massacres, no serious incidents of kidnapping, no successful attempts to blow up government buildings, Kashmir could be ignored Nobody had any ideas, anyway, about what kind of policy would work, so simply forgetting about Kashmir seemed to be the best way out

My next visit to Srinagar was in the middle of 1992 when I went to investigate a story about militant pressure on local journalists to report the news the way they wanted them to. This kind of pressure

***Extracted from Kashmir: A Tragedy of Errors* by Tavleen Singh Viking (Penguin India), Rs 295**

had always been there but now the militant groups were virtually ordering journalists to obey an unwritten code of conduct which forbade them from carrying stories about differences between the various groups or about any of their alleged misdemeanours Nothing, for instance, on the rumours that now abounded about extortion in the name of *azadi*, nothing about timber smuggling, which was also being talked about, or about girls being raped. Yusuf Jameel of the BBC reported that two militant groups had fought over Id goats and were in trouble

Militant terror was so great by now, however, that in most cases warnings were not even necessary Local correspondents avoided writing anything that would offend militant groups because that was the only way they could have stayed on in Srinagar Despite the massive paramilitary deployment, despite the constant presence in Srinagar's streets of army trucks mounted with machine- guns, it was the militant writ that ran

The situation was a peculiar mixture of massive government presence and a complete absence of government control The government seemed to be doing nothing at all, not even repairing the roads or keeping Srinagar clean so, despite it being a perfect, balmy summer's day the city looked unattractive, dust-filled and unkempt

On our way into town I noticed smoke rising from the hill of the Shankaracharya temple I pointed it out to my taxi driver, but he did not seem either surprised or perturbed "This is normal," he said in a bored voice "There is at least one rocket attack a day I heard on my way here that they had fired a rocket at the TV tower " He did not even think it was worth going up to see the damage that the rocket had caused "This is normal," he said again, but I insisted on going up

So we drove along the Dal Lake with its empty houseboats and its Boulevard filled with hotels that had been turned into bunkers The lake gleamed in the late afternoon sun and if you closed your eyes to the sandbags and the military vehicles, and concentrated instead on the *shikaras* and the houseboats, it was easy to remember the Srinagar of holiday postcards and Hindi films The impression deepened as we drove up the winding road, filled with wild foliage and soft shadows, to the temple There were a handful of soldiers on the way who stopped us for a quick check but they waved us on without too much trouble



Their way of fighting a 'holy war'

Journalists have been killed, often without anyone knowing why. The only compensation, if you learned how to survive, was monetary. Kashmir had become an international story but since it was also in a state of chronic, rather than acute, trouble editors were reluctant to send correspondents unless something really big happened, so most reporting came out of stringers like Khayal and Yusuf Jameel

The rocket missed the TV tower by a few yards and landed on the hillside causing more smoke than fire Several firemen and spectators had gathered to stare but they, like my taxi driver, treated the incident as 'normal' "Nobody killed No damage done," said one of the officers "Just a small incident " What kind of rocket was it, I asked Had it become normal for rockets to be fired in broad daylight at prominent government installations? Nobody knew Had they caught anyone, were there any witnesses?

Again nobody knew and my questions seemed to puzzle them Why should there be any questions asked at all about such a small incident There were incidents like this every day It was well past 4 o'clock by the time we got to the Broadway Hotel so I decided that it would be better to check in and eat a quick sandwich before going off to meet anyone From the outside the hotel, which is built of grey concrete, looked pretty much as it had always done and almost welcoming in the sunlight But from the moment I entered the lobby I realised that things had got much worse in the few months since I had last been here The air smelled musty and stale and the single attendant manning the reception desk was also acting as telephone ope-

rator and general dogsbody They did have a room, he said, but they had now closed most floors and there was only one other guest besides me My room smelled even mustier than the lobby and the bathroom looked as if it had not been cleaned for weeks The carpets and upholstery had the same grimy, unclean look about them

Room service was available but I decided that it would be less depressing to eat in the restaurant There was a large sign outside it saying that *wazwan* was available but the restaurant was closed and I was directed instead to the coffee shop overlooking the pool

It was surprisingly full and had clearly become the local lovers' retreat Most of the tables were occupied by young Kashmiri couples, the youths with movie star hairstyles and in jeans and the ladies demure with their heads covered Kashmiri style

to do it because the telephones at the Broadway no longer worked except as intercoms.

Khayal lived in one of those soulless, grey housing estates that various Kashmir governments had permitted to be built either because some professionals, in this case journalists, wanted them or because they themselves needed them for their officials Minimum imagination had been used and the houses were always identical but the one good thing that had been insisted on was that the houses resemble local architecture So instead of imitating suburban Delhi as other state capitals tended to, in Kashmir even government housing retained the sloping aluminium roofs and the double storeyed bungalow that was typically Kashmiri In the villages the houses were red brick and wood and in the cities there was usually more stone and concrete but the style remained almost

Most of them [former government officials] were drawn to the militants by their idealism, a commodity that had become extremely rare in Kashmir. They were also attracted to the militant leaders by their patent love for Kashmir, which was another thing that had become rare among Kashmiri politicians of what was considered the 'mainstream'

None of the couples looked married and the cafe was probably the only place where they could meet discreetly in these Islamic times

The pool was empty but for some stagnant rainwater and some dead leaves and the garden was overgrown and unkempt I decided, nevertheless, to eat my chicken sandwiches at the little white tables outside because the lovely sunshine provided about the only cheer that there was at the Broadway Hotel

Night curfew was by now routine in Kashmir so I needed to be out as fast as possible to catch what was left of the day I wolfed down my sandwiches and coffee and set off to meet Ghulam Nabi Khayal, a veteran journalist who covered Kashmir's unfolding troubles for foreign newspapers and agencies If he was not at home, I thought, I could simply go and meet someone else There was no other way exactly the same

Next to Khayal's house was the closed and shuttered home of a Kashmiri Pandit journalist who had fled once the trouble worsened Even in his absence the house retained its Hindu character due to the names that had been painted on one of the outside walls during some family wedding – Ajit Weds Anjali Srinagar was full of empty Hindu homes by now Some had been burned down, allegedly by militants, others were being used by the security forces and still others were simply left empty

Khayal was home and invited me upstairs for tea and a chat on his small, sunny verandah Plastic and aluminium chairs were brought out and a table filled with plates of sponge cake, biscuits and Kashmiri bread quickly appeared along with a steaming thermos of sweet, sweet tea Kashmiri hospitality had not been affected by the troubled times And, Khayal himself



Guarding the Hazratbal shrine

appeared to have positively benefited from them

I had known him since the early Farooq Abdullah days, when I first started to cover the Valley, and for most of that time he remained a small time stringer who, at one point, even abandoned journalism for a more lucrative government job He looked the same as I remembered him — tall, with a reddish tinge to his complexion, spectacles that he kept pushing back over the bridge of a hooked, Kashmiri nose and a middle-age heaviness around the waist He was always looking for foreign papers to string for Once he had asked me to speak to UPI, another time it was some other foreign wire service, but now he was clearly in clover The house had been spruced up and refurbished and he himself looked contented with life despite the troubles Kashmiri journalists



had learned to beat curfew and danger by simply sitting at home and doing nearly all their reporting on the telephone

Information was gathered on the telephone, rechecked with government sources on the telephone and finally sent to Delhi, London, Lahore or New York in the same way It was one of these telephonic exercises in news reporting that had got Yusuf Jameel into trouble Khayal told me when I explained the reason for my current visit, "Some weeks ago there was trouble between two groups over Id bakras (goats) somewhere near Avantipora's," he said "There was some shooting and a couple of youths were killed Yusuf reported that the trouble had been over the goats and they did not like this It made them look bad He did not go to the spot, nor could he cross-check and this is what made the militants angry It is very difficult We walk the razor's edge"

He could not have put it better If any community was caught permanently in the crossfire of Kashmir's ugly little war it was local journalists They were under constant attack from the government for giving 'too much importance' to the militant point of view and under equally constant attack from the militant groups/for stepping out of line for some imagined reason or other Journalists had been killed, often without anyone knowing why

The only compensation, if you learned how to survive, was monetary Kashmir had become an international story but since it was also in a state of chronic, rather than acute, trouble editors were reluctant to send correspondents unless something really big happened, so most reporting came out of stringers like Khayal and Yusuf Jameel And since international news agencies paid in foreign exchange, stringers managed to make small fortunes out of the war One of the newspapers that Khayal's stories appeared in was the *Nation* of Lahore and Pakistani diplomats in Delhi often joked about how his stories for the Indian press were quite different from those he wrote for Pakistan Militants immediately became 'freedom-fighters' and the story was nearly always told from an angle that sympathised with the Kashmiri cause

The Indian government made him pay for this by impounding his passport at Delhi airport while he was *en route* to Pakistan "I have written to the home minister, the Prime Minister, the Press Council," he complained, "and I've still had no answer" Khayal was

no secessionist, in fact he was probably less sympathetic to the militants than to the government, but he was a typical victim of crossfire We went on to talk about the situation and he said things had got worse

People always said that in Kashmir, so I asked him whether he was being specific about the period in which they had got worse or merely talking generally He said he was being specific "Since June 15 (we were now in July) there have been 372 attacks on government buildings, about 20 to 25 incidents a day A total of 31 people killed of which there were 20 civilians, five soldiers, five militants and 109 injured Those are the official figures Unofficially, they are saying that more than 100 soldiers have been killed in this period "

He attributed the escalation in violence to statements from Delhi about elections in six months and to the recent visit to the state of the Union home minister "Mr Chavan did not put foot on the soil of Kashmir He flew by helicopter wherever he went, even from the airport into town, he met almost no Kashmiris but his statements made the militants go out of their way to prove that the situation in Kashmir was not ready for elections " According to Khayal, neither Delhi nor the local administration had done anything at all to find ways of restarting the political process All they did was talk about it and this did more bad than good

By the time we finished talking a soft, yellow-grey dusk was beginning to descend and I realised I had better get back

Before it got completely dark I wanted to look in on one of my bureaucrat friends in Gupkar Road My notebook records the gist of my conversation with him and the mood of the city 'Went to see H The houses in Gupkar Road are still as charming as ever but there is high security He said there was no chance of the situation improving until there was a proper policy and there is no sign of that as long as the Cabinet secretary (Naresh Chandra) and his brother, the Governor, are in collusion According to him nobody else even gets asked what to do

'The state is bankrupt with a deficit of Rs 1,200 crores in the past two years Even salaries cannot be paid What ever improvements exist have happened because of the militants and not the government

'He was very depressed and admitted that it was hard to live in Srinagar without letting things get to you Everything seemed so pointless, so futile and everyday government, administration, just basic normal functioning seemed to become more and more a thing of the past

'It was dark by the time I left H's house and my driver was very nervous He had to get back to the old city before curfew so he raced back to the Broadway and raced off again Then the eerie silence of the Srinagar night descended

'Broken only by the sound of gunfire, vehicles speeding off in the direction of the shots and dogs barking in panic'

The next morning we set off for Baramulla where there had been an alleged massacre during a crackdown The word crackdown was now so commonly used by everyone that it had become almost a Kashmiri word Khayal wanted to come with me as he had been unable to go up to Baramulla himself so I picked him up on the way Once he got into the car he said he had managed to make contact with the number two man in the Hizbul Mujahideen and he had agreed to meet us in Sopore This was on the way to Baramulla and he said it would be worthwhile to stop

It was yet another perfect summer's day and our conversation sounded strange to me in such idyllic surroundings We drove past backwaters concealed by weeping willows and avenues of tall poplars and talked all the while of massacres and bloodshed Around us the sun glinted off the leaves of the trees and lit up the dark green streams that ran between the swaying willows

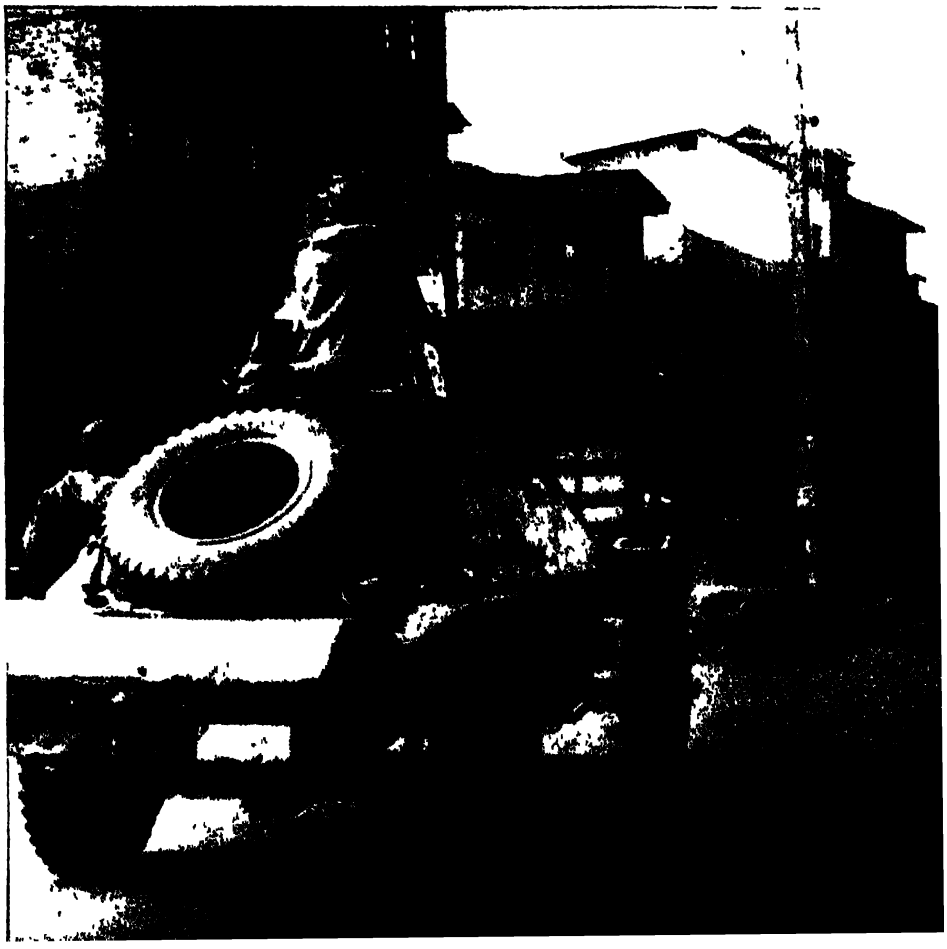
Khayal said that more than anything else, it was the brutal massacres of innocent civilians that had convinced Kashmiris that there was no hope for them in India The crackdowns and the crossfires were getting to everyone

We saw few military vehicles along this route and encountered no disturbances except briefly in Pattan, a small town on the edge of Srinagar, where we found a mob in the bazaar forcing shops to down their shutters because the militants had declared a strike

'We asked why and were told that Ahsan Dar, a former HM leader, had been kidnapped by another faction of the HM and this was his stronghold The differenees between the militant groups were clearly becoming harder and harder to conceal

When we got to Sopore we drove through the bazaar to a quiet back-

Paramilitary forces keep vigil in Srinagar



street where we stopped Khayal got out of the car and made a few inquiries in Kashmiri Then a middle-aged gentleman appeared and led us into his house which was behind the usual large corrugated iron gate The living room, furnished in the usual Kashmiri style with white sheets and bolsters on the floor and a handful of chairs on one side, was empty but for a young man who turned out to be the middle-aged gentleman's son

We were introduced to him but no names were mentioned While I sipped *kahwa*, Khayal and our host conversed in Kashmiri Our host kept looking out of the window nervously Khayal said that we would be meeting Abdul Majeed Dar, adviser general of the HM

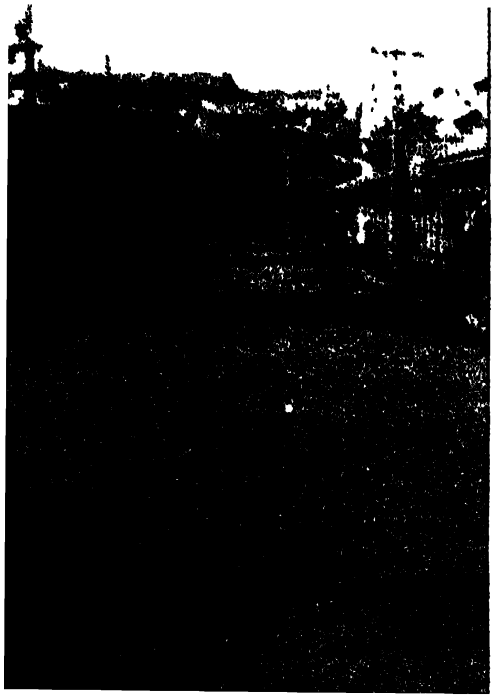
We had to wait, however, because he had to be contacted in his hideout and would come only when it was safe Meanwhile, we drank our tea, ate our biscuits and talked Our host turned out to be a former forest officer who had become so embittered by the corruption that he had seen in his years in government service that he had become a supporter of the militants I asked him for some example of corruption and he poured out a long tale about how Kashmir's forests had become the main source of money during Farooq Abdullah's time He said there was a complete ban on cutting trees except for those trees that were either diseased or dying and he was quite scrupulous about not allowing any other trees to be touched Then they caught a forest contractor who was cutting young trees as well and he took the matter right up to Farooq Abdullah himself

Like a lot of other Kashmiris, [Abdul Majeed] Dar had fooled himself into believing that it was India's hostility that had made Kashmiris want freedom instead of it being the other way around. On the one hand he readily admitted that he had always wanted the right of self-determination but at the same time he seemed to need an excuse to explain why Kashmiris were unhappy in India

That was a mistake, he said, because it turned out that the contractor was in 'collusion' with the chief minister "So, I resigned, what else was there to do? They made crores of rupees out of the forests and it was all done with complete support from the politicians"

The story was not unusual In fact, it had by now become quite common to meet former government officials who had joined the movement for similar reasons

Most of them were drawn to the militants by their idealism, a commodity that had become extremely rare in Kashmir They were also attracted to the militant leaders by their patent love for Kashmir, which was another thing that had become rare among Kashmiri politicians of what was considered the 'mainstream' During one of my meetings with Farooq Abdullah I had mentioned this, saying that each and every one of the militant leaders I had met had been a better man than his ministers He simply said, "I know" The difference was so stark that when the stories of corruption among the militants began to spread it was hard for most people to believe them



About an hour after we arrived we saw two bearded youths walk past the window through which our host had been staring He stood up as soon as he saw them and rushed to open the door

They were tall, well-built young men and both carried Kalashnikovs They said something to our host in Kashmiri and then settled themselves against the bolsters on the floor and stared silently at us Our host came back to Khayal and me and said that Abdul Majeed Dar was on his way

Fifteen minutes later there was more movement outside the window and about five or six more armed youths entered and sat down on the floor

Then Dar himself arrived, accompanied by two men who appeared to be his bodyguards He was a bearded, scholarly man of about 35 who looked like a teacher or a doctor He was armed but unmasked and, greeted me courteously before sitting down in one of the chairs The room was now full of armed youths, sitting in a sullen, silent circle on the floor but Dar looked so mild-mannered and polite, in comparison, that I asked him if he were by any chance head of the HM's political wing, thereby not a genuine militant "There is no political wing," he said quietly "We are all militants" I explained that I had asked only because he looked very un-militant and he smiled saying that everyone had become a militant only because peaceful means had failed

Dar's story was a pretty typical one except that his personal struggle for an independent Kashmir began long before the *azadi* explosion came Sopore was a traditional Jamaat-e-Islami bastion and as a young boy growing up in the town he was quite influenced by the Islamic worldview that the Jamaat stood for

When he was 15 he participated in the Jamaat's anti-liquor agitation What had this to do with the freedom struggle, I asked and he explained that



What will they inherit?

many of these movements were, in fact, a cover for the self-determination demand

Did this mean, then, that ordinary people were not really interested in *azadi* in those days? This was something he was not prepared to admit and he came up with the usual excuses about how the desire for freedom had merely become dormant because leaders like Sheikh Abdullah had misled the people Realising that this was not a satisfactory answer he returned quickly to his own story

"After I participated in the anti-liquor agitation I was arrested and I went to jail between then and 1988 eight to ten times The police were always on my back and I was not even able to complete my education But I always felt Kashmir shouldn't be in India I always felt as if we were slaves of some other people, some other country"

His reasons for feeling this way, he claims, originated not in Jamaat brainwashing or plebiscite propaganda but in the emotions he felt when he first went to 'India'

"When I went to India I felt I was a member of some enemy country I remember that there was a fight once in Chandni Chowk, in Delhi, between some *goondas* and a Kashmiri friend and I were just standing around When they found out that we were Kashmiris they abused us Another time, I was going to Amritsar by train with some Kashmiri friends and we got off at a station on the way to eat something

"When we tried to get back on the train we found that the people inside had locked the doors The train was moving, and some of my friends had left their children on board We pleaded with them to let us on but they refused to open the doors Finally, I jumped onto the engine and stopped the train and the police were called The thing that disturbed us most, however, was the fact that even the police seemed to be against us and on the side of the people who had done this

"It was always like this whenever I visited India If people didn't treat us as enemies then they treated us as foreigners I remember, during visits to Aligarh and Meerut, being asked constantly if I were Irani or Pakistani

"I always felt as if I didn't belong, as if I were a second class citizen"

Like a lot of other Kashmiris, Dar had fooled himself into believing that it was India's hostility that had made Kashmiris want freedom instead of it being the other way around On the one hand he readily admitted that he had always wanted the right of self-determination but at the same time he seemed to need an excuse to explain why Kashmiris were unhappy in India ■

The lake gleamed in the late afternoon sun and if you closed your eyes to the sandbags and the military vehicles, and concentrated instead on the *shikaras* and the houseboats, it was easy to remember the Srinagar of holiday postcards and Hindi films

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



House, home, office could well require a coat of paint, refurbishing, renovating, decorating, and in some instances, you could be buying/selling/moving, says Ganesha Expenses could get a bit out of hand unless you keep a tight hold April 8-13 is full of action and changes

Taurus

April 21—May 20



You will have to come to terms with life and yourself, and not rely heavily on relatives It is not that relatives and friends are bad for you It is just that certain things are best done by yourself A tremendous effort will be necessary This could be moving time for you

Gemini

May 21—June 20



The accent will be on finance and family and the chances are that you will gain Entertain well and do not worry if the response is not completely up to expectations Health of parents and elders will cause a few anxious moments See that you get off to a headstart the first three days

Cancer

June 21 July 20



Personal matters should not be allowed to cloud your judgment There will be many opportunities to make a fast buck, or steady income throughout the year Monday is your lucky day, so go all out then News, adventures are in store for you Be bold

Leo

July 21—August 21



Moon-Mars conjunction helps you to get your way, win battles But it would still be advisable to carry people with you in a campaign rather than ruffle their feathers Your magnetic charm should do it Personally and professionally, it is partnership time for you Great news that

Virgo

August 22—September 22



There's work to be done, services to be rendered, payments to be collected, love to be given and taken in ample measure—and that means a whirlwind week Group activities will give comfort, if not outright zip and joy April 12-14 will be of vital significance, one way or the other

Libra

September 23 October 22



Ganesha says, despite pressures and rivalry, much will be accomplished, and that's no mean achievement Those in governmental departments, foreign postings, large organisations, plants and complexes, show their true worth Plan ahead for future

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Journey, ceremony, religious and spiritual impulses, genuine gift of prophecy, or at least, sharp intuition, are what you folks will have Service to others, and employment will also figure in your scheme of things You will have to buck up as many demands will be made upon you.

Sagittarius

November 23 - December 20



Loans and funds, family and home form one side of the coin The flip side consists of children, speculation and wild flings, of taking life as it comes, and a disregard for everything else It would be wise not be overimpulsive You get very important news around April 9-14

Capricorn

December 21 January 19



Too many things are going on at the same time, example house, home, partnerships, preparing for a trip, a change of scenery, applying for interviews, tests, preparing for a meeting/conference, to mention only the very prominent ones On top of all that, health needs safeguarding

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



"Warm in words," hot in love, cold in logic, will it be That means, you will be living in many different levels, planes, plateaus The two aspects which will be highlighted will be job and communication by all media of transport and publicity Also the financial situation will improve

Pisces

February 19—March 20



True that you will be under considerable pressure, maybe under a cloud, but it is also true, that you will come through Jobwise new opportunities, including the possibility of doing something new and different Avoid depressive thoughts

B I R T H D A Y S

April 9: Mercury-Mars fine placing suggests respect, status, honours and sweet justice being done to you. Around August, October, December matters will shape up for you.

April 10: Moon trine Jupiter indicates you will have the opportunities necessary for success. Do not be lazy. Work towards a goal Journeys and collaborations are likely.

April 11: A year of mixed fortunes. Children and creative pursuits keep you busy. Trading and import-export, law and medicine could be wonderful. Health of elders needs attention.

April 12: Mars-Jupiter fine formation leads to final triumph but it will not be without a struggle. A job change is more than possible. Take care of your health A year to attend to work

April 13: Usually Venus-Saturn conjunction is not lucky, but you will tide over it, given determination and faith, your imagination and inspiration, will help you to succeed.

April 14: Moon-Jupiter in happy formation suggests religiosity, learning, faith in God, good deeds and sacrifices Many Arians will reap the benefits of past efforts

April 15: The full moon could make matters tough and rough for you, unless you learn to adjust and accommodate, be pragmatic, adopt a more relaxed attitude Live in the real world.

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
[illegible]	0710	3 5	IC-742	0940	3, 5
IC [illegible]	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
[illegible]	1130	1 3 5, 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
M9 304	1090	855 1, 3 5	M9-110/301	1900	1 3 5
AIZWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1300	1 3 5	IC 722	1540	1 3 5
BAGDOGRA					
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0640	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
9W 202	0920	1 2 3 4 5 6	9W-201	0840	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 2[illegible]	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W 2[illegible]	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 101	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	2035	6	IC-274	2050	daily
AI 681	2350	1			
DELHI					
			S2 025	0810	2 3 4 5 6
IC 261	0700	daily	IC 262	0815	2 4 7
S2 026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 301	0855	daily	AI 682	0950	
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	S2 016	1015	1 3 5
S2 010	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1110	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 401	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1745	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5
IC 261	1900	2 4 7	M9 301	1900	daily
M9 302	1930	daily	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
S2 006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3, 5
IC 703	0800	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	IC 702	1630	2 4, 6 7
4S 815	1150	1 2 3 4 5 6	4S 816	1710	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 701	1240	2 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 257	1150	4 7	IC 258	1650	4 7
GUWAHATI					
PF 735	0730	1	IC 712	1410	2 6
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 708	1430	1 4 7
IC-703	0800	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
IC-707	0800	1 4	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
IC 711	0800	2 6	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	IC 230	1650	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1710	1 2 3 4 5 6
4S 812	1150	1 2 3 4 5 6	PF 736	1730	1

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC-257	1150	4 7	PF-738	1740	3 5
IC-211	1240	4 6	IC 258	1740	4 7
IC 229	1310	daily	IC 212	1740	4 6
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	1045	1 3 5	S2-024	1525	1, 3, 5
IC-777	1800	2, 4, 7	IC 778	2100	2 4 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
IMPHAL					
IC 707	0800	1, 4 7	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC-708	1430	1 4 7
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2 6
JORHAT					
IC-213	0910	2, 4 7	IC-213	1315	2, 4 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1, 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1, 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2, 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2 172	1740	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1525	1, 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	IC-245	1805	2 4 7
IC-812	1515	1, 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 2 6 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6, 7
SILCHAR					
IC-255	0830	3 5	IC 260	1110	1 7
IC 259	0830	1 7	IC 256	1320	3, 5
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 212	1740	4, 6
TEZPUR					
IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3, 5
VARANASI					
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZERO					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
BANGKOK					
IC 731	0855	2, 4 6 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB 105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2 4, 6 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
■ [illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
■ CHITTAGONG					
IC-225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
■ DHAKA					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG 092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1, 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 2 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 2 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2 3 5, 6
BG 094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5
■ KATHMANDU					
IC 747	1115	1 3 5	IC 748	1455	1 3 5
RA 214	1815	1 4	RA 213	1715	1, 4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
■ LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA-143	1525	3 7
■ MOSCOW					
SU 538	1855	4	SU 537	1655	4
■ PARO					
KB 106	1200	3	KB 105	1040	3 6
KB 106	1300	5			
■ SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2, 5
■ SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
■ TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

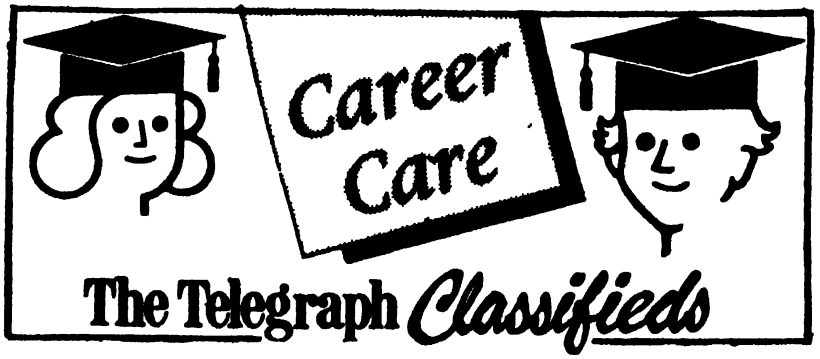
Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tue Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	1 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	10 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	11 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 15	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	1 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	11 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	-
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
-	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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HAMPERING THE JOG

It has been said that life begins at 40 But I have found it begins to sag a little after 45

The other morning, stooping to tie my shoelaces, I found myself out of breath Nothing like that had ever happened to me before It was due, of course, to my stomach getting in the way and pressing against my chest I was badly out of condition and I decided that the best solution would be a daily jog around the hill station where I live — Mussoorie

I bought a new pair of keds, but, unable to find a pair of shorts the right size, I gave a gallic shrug and decided to go jogging in my pyjamas — round the hill past the waterworks, the rickshaw shed and the cemetery

But I thought it would be unwise to jog on an empty stomach So I consumed a mini-breakfast of a soft-boiled egg and toast

At five in the morning, there was no one to watch me and it was a very slow jog On my return I was so famished that I ate a second breakfast of two fried eggs with several *parathas* — and felt as fit as an old fiddle But after a week of slow jogs accompanied by two breakfasts, I discovered that even my pyjamas were getting too tight

Finally, I came to the conclusion that my technique was all wrong So I cut out the jogging and stuck to the two breakfasts

Rai Singh, my milkman, thought it would be a good idea if I walked with him to his village, five miles from the station I fell in with the suggestion and packed a hamper with buns, boiled eggs, fried potatoes and two kinds of jam As an afterthought, I added three varieties of *churan* digestive powder

Rai Singh and I set out along the winding mountain path By noon, we had covered two and a half miles and I was feeling hungry Besides, the hamper, which I had insisted on carrying as a form of *yoga*, was getting heavier by the minute

So we sat down in the shade of a pine tree and prepared an attractive spread for both of us Rai Singh went off to wash his hands at a spring a short distance away As he seemed to be taking a long time, I went to see what had delayed him I found him gathering wild strawberries We filled a shoulder bag with wild strawberries and returned to the picnic spot

All the food had disappeared, the hamper had gone too Everything had been divided up equally by a band of monkeys Several of the young ones had their faces smeared with jam One large female had swallowed all the *churan* and I couldn't help feeling that she would be a very unpopular monkey by the end of the day

Rai Singh and I sat down on the grass and ate the wild strawberries "Never mind," he said, "I will prepare a meal for you as soon as we get to the village"

He was as good as his word and, after a heavy meal of rice and beans, I slept the afternoon away in Rai Singh's hut Towards evening, he brought me a jug of home-made wine It had been made (he assured me), from wild strawberries

After two glasses, I felt that all my problems had been solved I was ready to climb Mount Everest But Rai Singh put me to bed instead

Next morning, I breakfasted on curds, pickle and *parathas* and returned to the hill station with a milk can full of strawberry wine I'd got my juices flowing again

Rai Singh had promised me a can of the wonderful tonic every time I visited him and already I was planning a bi-weekly fitness trek to the village

(Sanctuary Features)



After a week of slow jogs accompanied by two breakfasts, I discovered that even my pyjamas were getting too tight. Finally, I came to the conclusion that my technique was all wrong. So I cut out the jogging and stuck to the two breakfasts

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

FIGHTING INFERNO

Waiting is a difficult task But they wait in Connaught Circus for 72 hours at a stretch It's a child's dream A large empty parade ground big enough for a dozen young persons' cricket matches, and a line of smart, shiny fire engines in the background In the empty tower used for fire practice,hang giant snakes — rubber and canvas hoses, drying in the shade because they're allergic to sunshine

The children's parents keep an eye on their offspring from their yellow-washed quarters surrounding the parade ground All is quiet except for the thwack of bat on leather, high children's voices and the distant roar of traffic

An urgent voice makes contact with the duty officer A bell sounds A siren goes off Within a minute the firemen, officers and drivers are in a position Their tenders are primed with thousands of litres of water, their Super Snorkel has the latest technology — a ladder which shoots up to 60 meters and cost the fire department four crores of rupees

Another tender is stuffed full of carbondioxide fire extinguishers and foam A Japanese ambulance is packed with life-saving equipment The drivers rev their engines, sound their sirens and head off — or at least attempt to

Between the intention and the action falls the shadow

The fire station seems ringed by a *chakravyuh* of green contract buses, minus drivers, and one with only three wheels and a jack where the fourth should be Outside the station, outer Connaught Circus is partially dug up and four lanes deep in dirty traffic, representatives of the 2 3 million vehicles on the Capital's roads And this traffic does not give way

The Connaught Circus fire brigade has to reach fires over a huge area of New Delhi (from the Upper Ridge Road to New Delhi railway station, from Ajmeri Gate to the Indira Gandhi stadium, from Raj Ghat to the VIP residential areas of Pandara Road and Sunder Nagar)

They have to arrive in three minutes to nearby fires People curse them if they are late They are no good, lazy, incompetent, callous But the motorists of Delhi will not easily let them pass Roads are choked with traffic and Bowser carrying 22,500 litres of water can hardly be termed manoeuvreable Congestion means conflagration and is one of the main problems faced by the fire service not just in Delhi, but in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and practically every large town of India

Any fireman will tell you no fire starts big, just as many elderly Gujarati ladies will repeat the saying "rather a robbery than a fire" Therefore everyone should know what to do when a fire breaks out, and the fire brigade must be able to move fast

Delhi's problems are the biggest because the city has more fire calls than Madras, Calcutta and Bombay put together The Capital's fire chief, S K Dheri, puts that down to a hot dry climate — but bad wiring also has a lot to do with it Fifty-eight per cent of fire start from electrical short circuits Now, the obvious thing to do in an electrical fire is to cut off electricity, but it's often not that simple

Suraj Bhan Sharma, now second in command at Connaught Circus, joined the fire service in 1962 and was once nearly killed when a portion of a burning building's eaves collapsed on top of him He has fought many fires in *jhuggi* colonies There eletricity connections are illegal and in a wind one spark landing on a roof is enough to start a blaze

According to Sharma, most so-called educated people are ignorant of fire control, and illiterate people even more so The only way to control such a fire is to demolish *jhuggis* in its path so that it has nowhere to go But residents don't know that, they also are unwilling to have much water to use and the fire brigade is crawling through traffic The result is often disaster

Shortcut economies can be equally damaging If you have a 45-metre high building, says the Delhi fire chief, then you have to have a sprinkler system installed throughout It's a once-in-a-lifetime investment But for many people fires are a joke, they can't see themselves being caught by one

New buildings stop short at the mysterious height of 44 85 metres to avoid regulations Even then pipes carrying pressurised water are mandatory — but they require maintenance All too often they are installed but then ignored Only recently in Delhi a fire broke out on the ninth floor of the new Environment Ministry building — within a few minutes of use the water pumps installed there ground to a halt

"We serve to save" is the motto of the fire department Lots of young men appear to be burning to do so — 65,000 applied for the last 200 vacancies in Delhi But they will have a difficult task

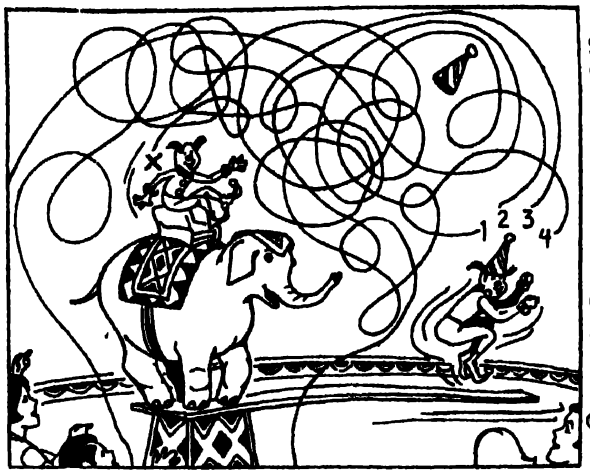
As the number of firemen has not increased in proportion to the population, they will join the men who remain on standby for 72 hours at a time They will form part of the force of only 2 000 men who look after 9 5 million people and their property spread over 1,484 square kms and who answer 13,000 emergency calls a year (The latest problem they have to tackle are 'malicious' calls People with grudges against their neighbour's illegal construction work make hoax calls in the hope that the firemen will report irregularities to the authorities)

Dheri was 11 years in Himachal fighting forest fires before he came to Delhi Then he dreamed of a manpower big enough to create firebrakes over the Himalayas Now he dreams of underground electricity cables that cannot be tapped illegally, and a ring-railway with bus connections — a public transport system which will keep roads clear enough for Delhi not to burn

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



ALLEY OOP! Which path does clown at right take to land on fellow clown's shoulders? Do you pick 1, 2, 3 or 4?

LIKE 1-4! Find numbers one through four hidden among words in the following sentence "Tests over and papers done every student wore a smile with reevaluation of our work completed." Numbers are in numerical order

1	I N _ _ _ _ _
2	_ I N _ _ _ _
3	_ _ I N _ _ _
4	_ _ _ I N _ _
5	_ _ _ _ I N _
6	_ _ _ _ _ I N

INS AND OUTS CHALLENGE

SIX seven-letter words above contain the word IN in progressive order. You are asked to find them in accord with the following clues

1. A kind of coffee
2. Partner of animal and vegetable
3. Popeye's secret weapon
4. Firehouse sight (pl.)
5. Up and down fashion feature
6. Buy that pleases a thrifty shopper

Time limit: 2 mins.

Afterwards, see if you can devise another list of progressive IN words.

No fair peeking below

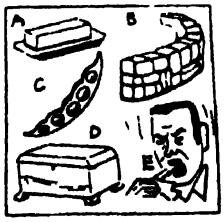
1. Instant 2. Mineral 3. Spinach 4. Engines 5. Hemline 6. Bargain

NUT HATCH! Each of the five small drawings below is a picture clue to some kind of a nut. As a test, see if you can name all of these nuts. They are among the following possibilities: Almond, beechnut, Brazil nut, butternut, cashew, chestnut, hazelnut, peanut, walnut.

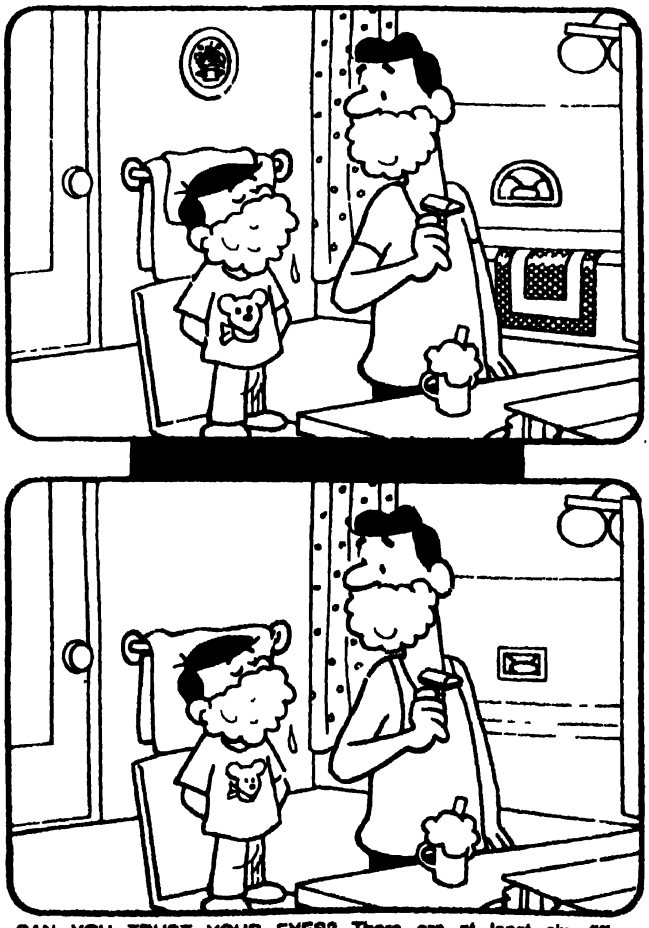
Let's see how quickly you can puzzle out the five nuts in question.

Time limit is no more than 30 seconds each.

A. Butternut B. Walnut C. Peanut D. Cashew E. Chestnut



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Picture is missing. 2. Towel is missing. 3. Mouse figure is smaller. 4. T-shirt is different. 5. Soap holder is different. 6. Mat is missing.

FUNSPOT



READY, SET! Here's your hat, what's your hurry — it's time for the parade. Add the following colors by number: 1—Red. 2—Purple. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

REGIMENT

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

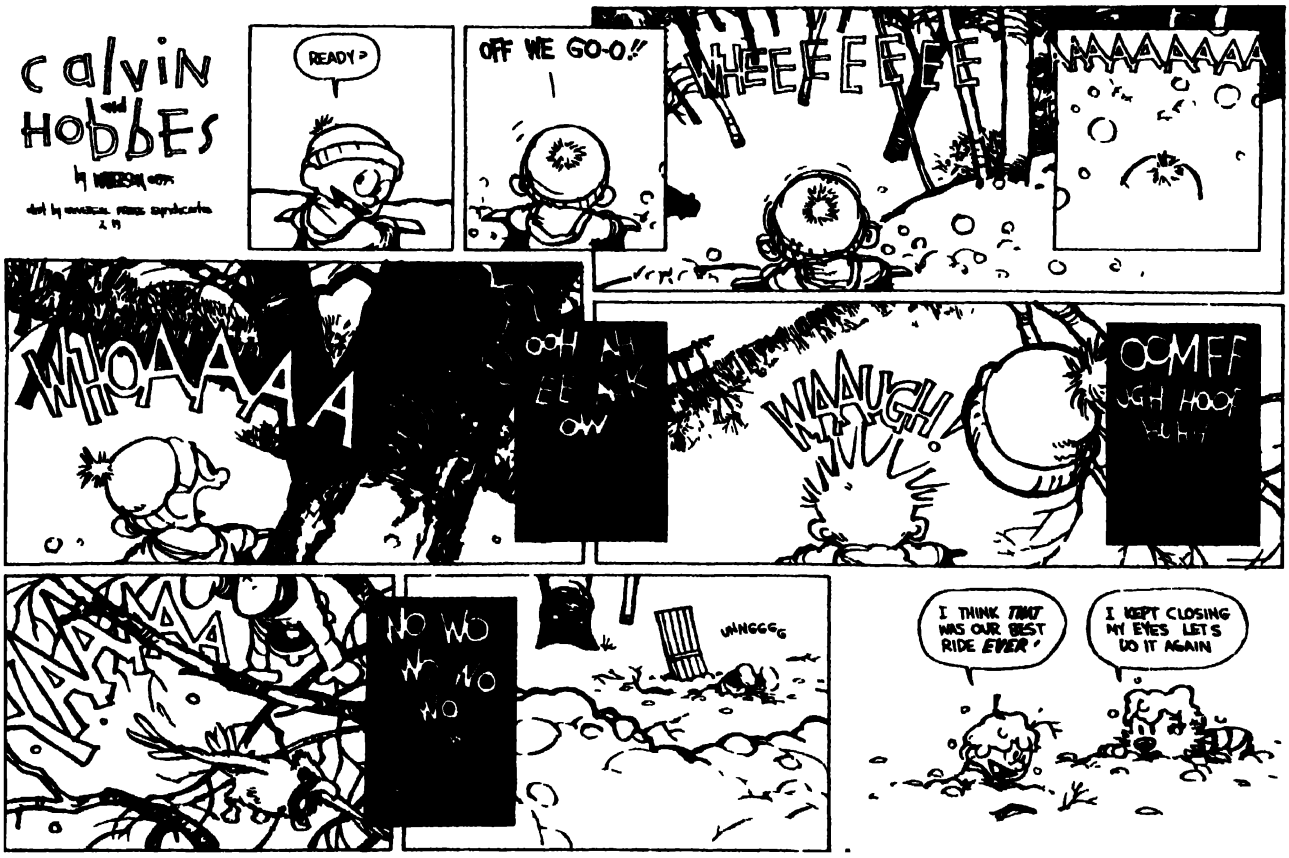
Possible two-word answer: Grin, stem

COMICS

ARCHIE

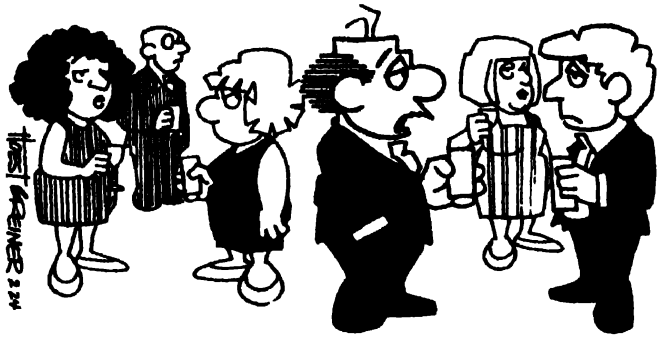


CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



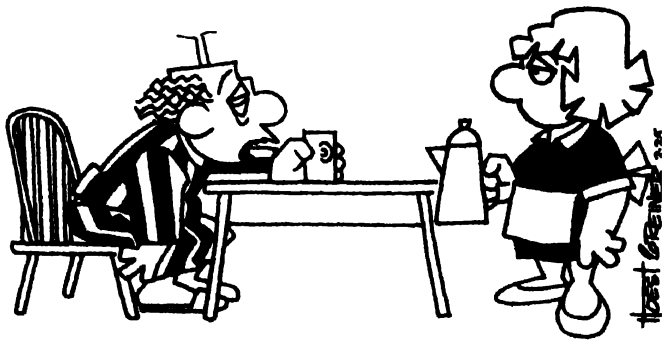
THE LOCKHORNS

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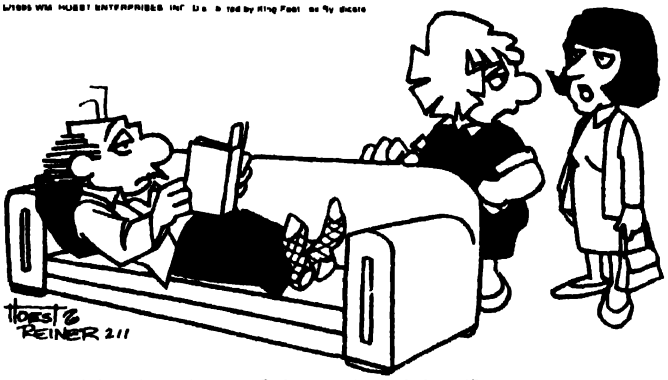
"IT'S EASY TO REMEMBER OUR ANNIVERSARY WE GOT MARRIED DURING THE TET OFFENSIVE."

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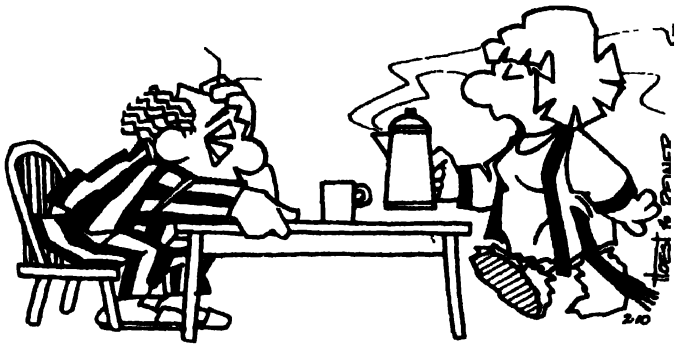


"I'LL TELL YOU WHERE I WAS LAST NIGHT IF YOU TELL ME WHERE WE ARE NOW"

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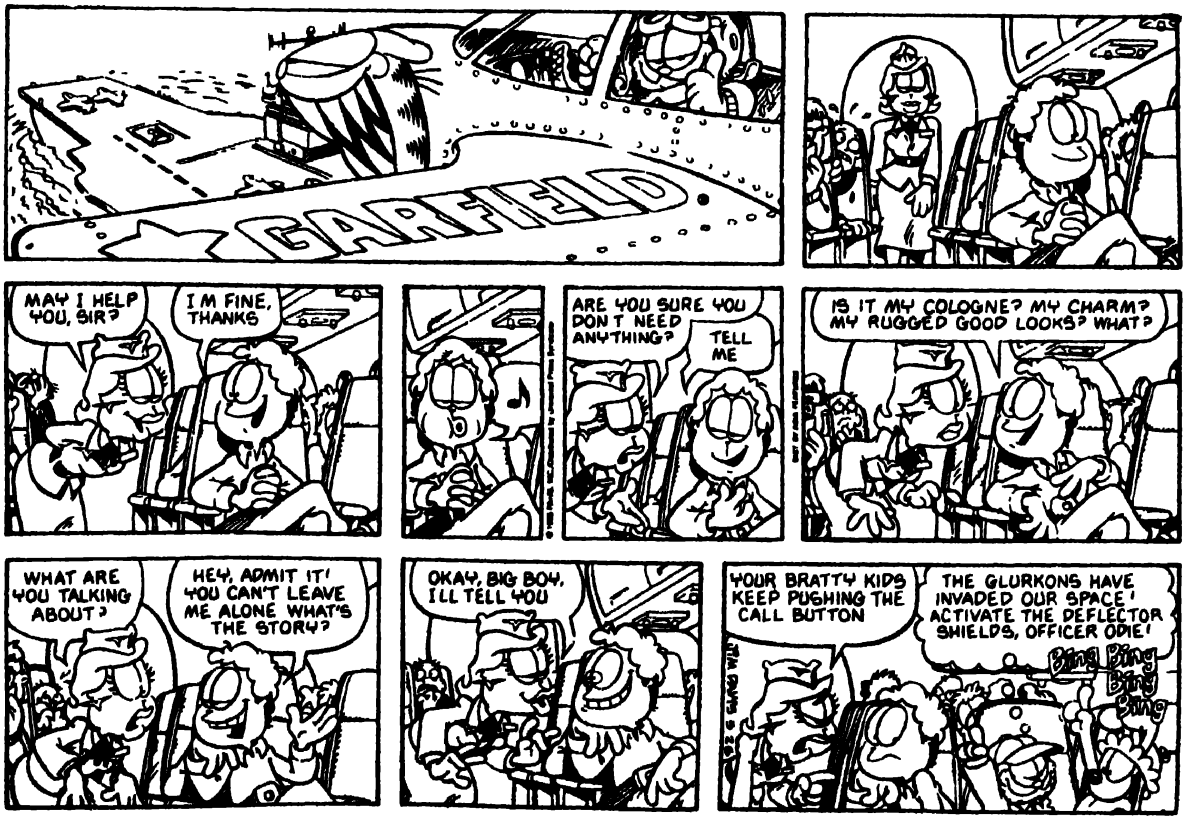


"LEROY'S A REAL DO-IT-YOURSELF MAN WHEN I ASK HIM FOR HELP, HE SAYS,'DO IT YOURSELF'"

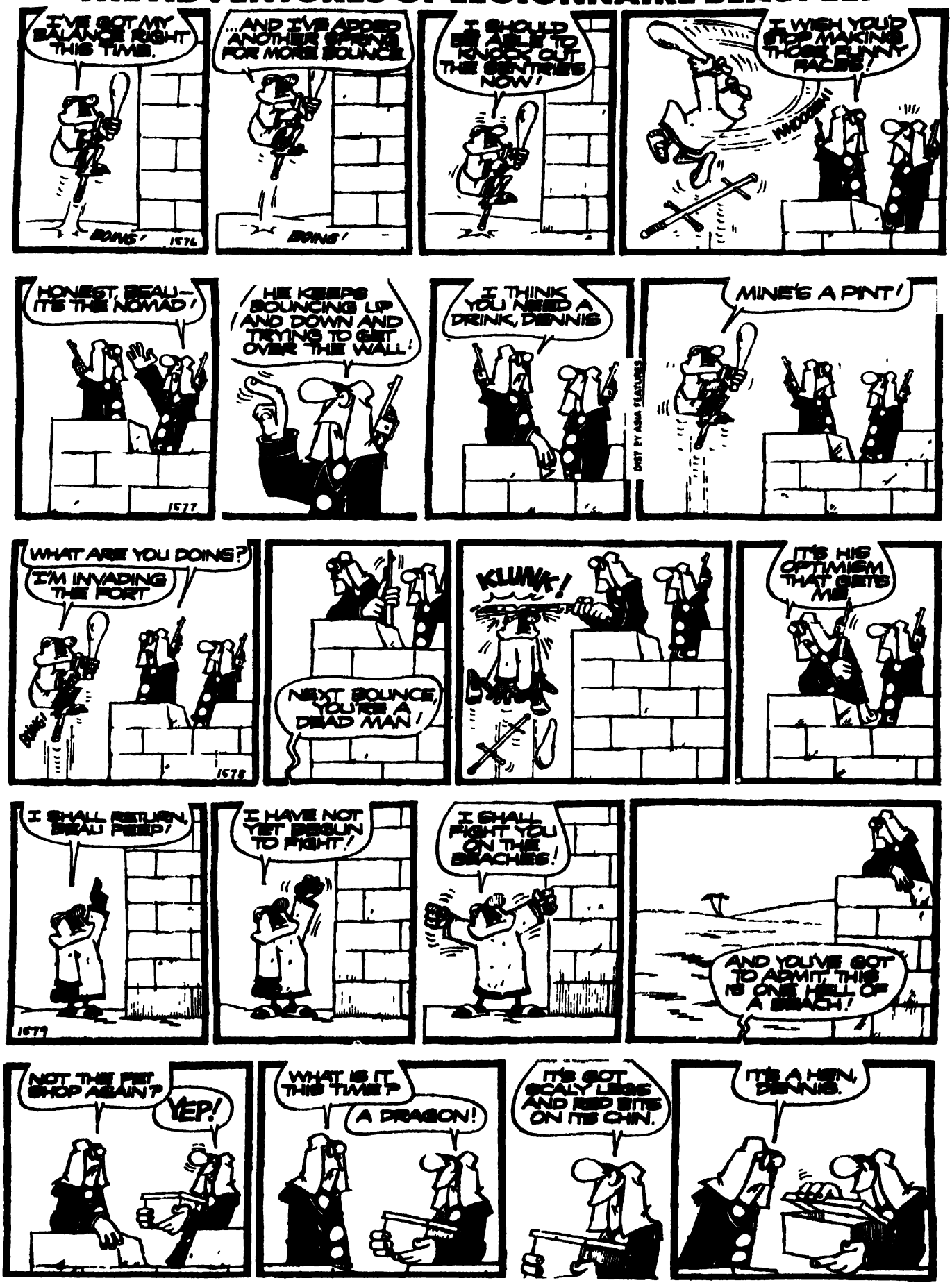


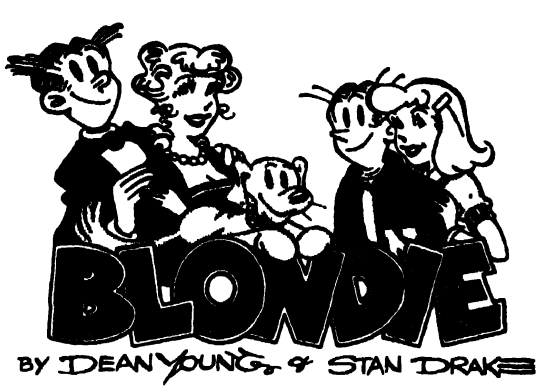
"I DON'T KNOW WHY YOUR HEAD SHOULD HURT, LEROY YOU CERTAINLY WEREN'T USING IT LAST NIGHT"

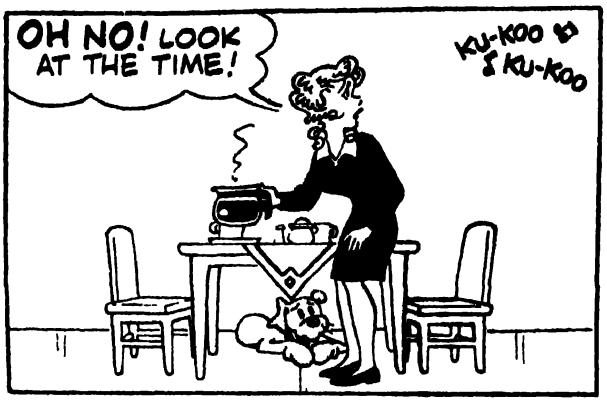
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

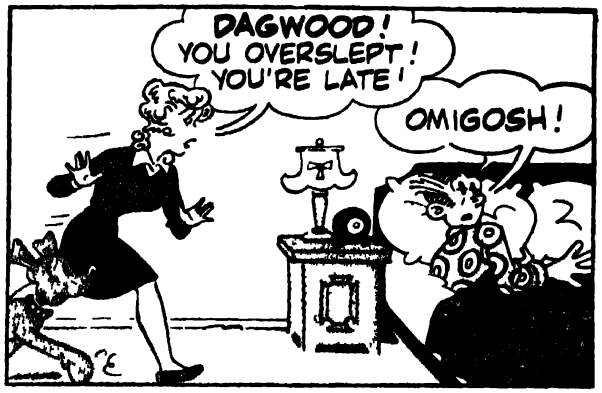


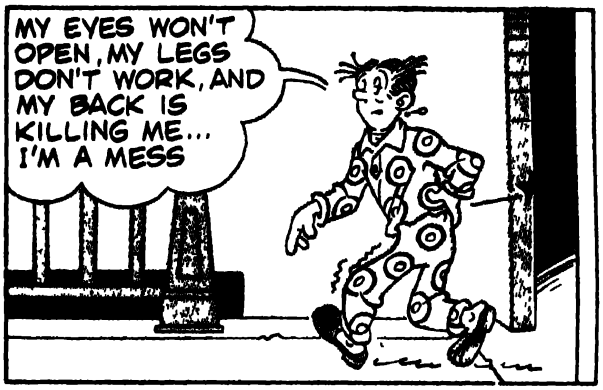
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



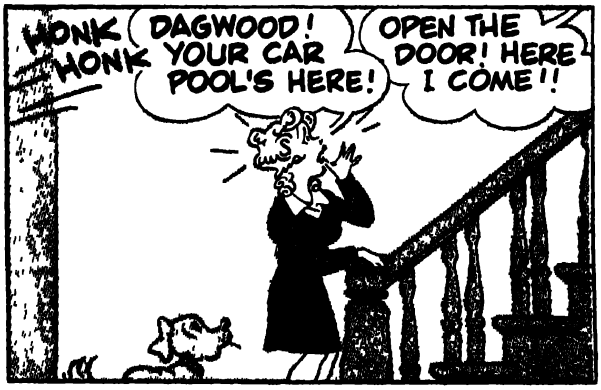




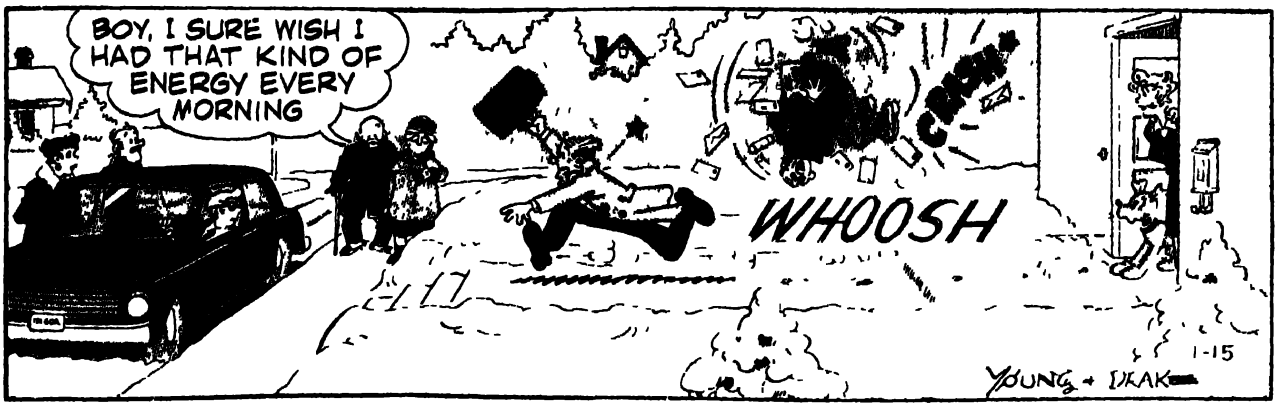








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RAINBOW

THE FACES OF CO







OUR



Basanta Utsab, as only Santiniketan can celebrate it
***Soumitra Sinha** joins in the revelry with his camera*





TRIBUTE

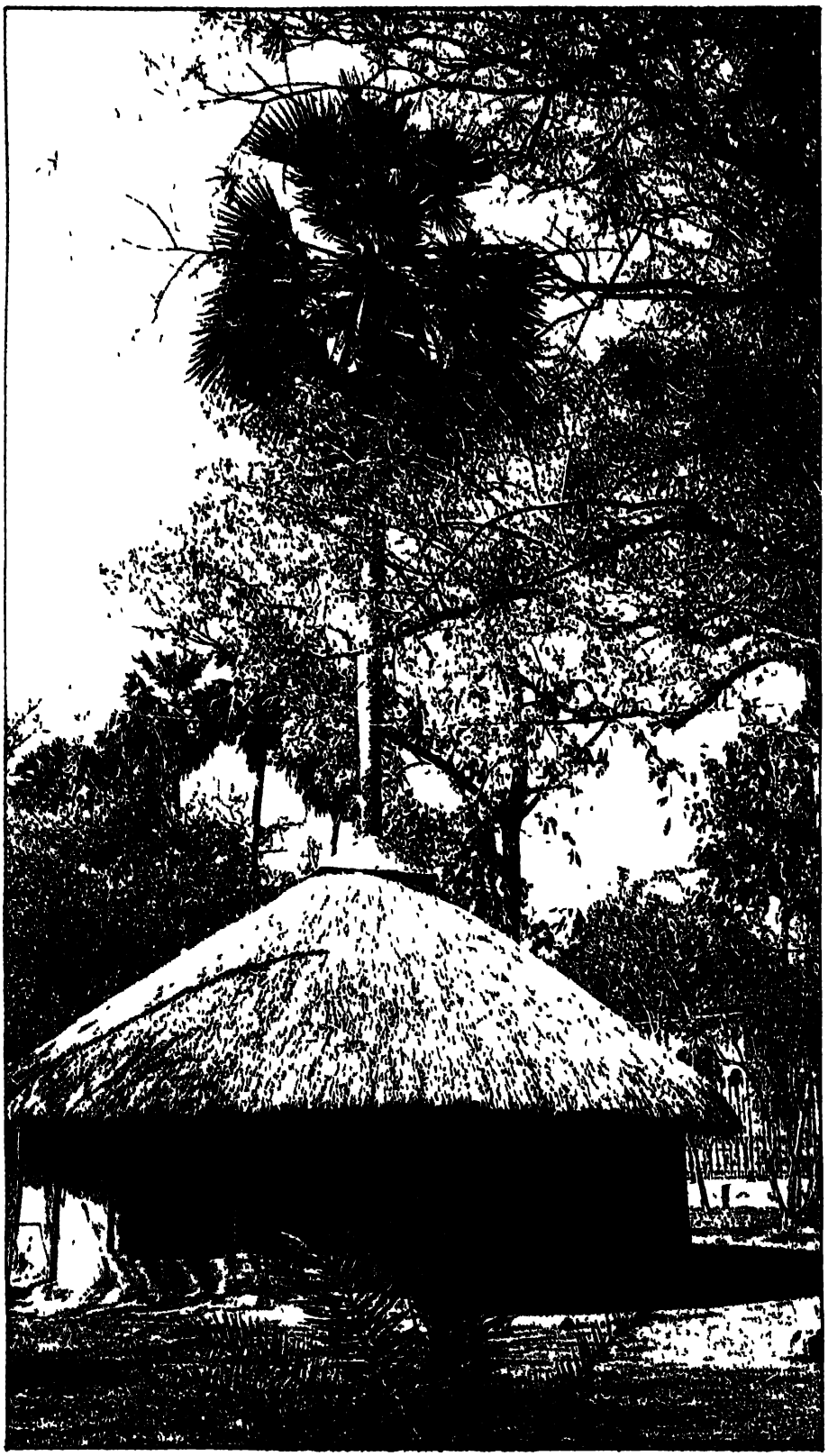
ese poems of ***Shakti Chattopadhyay*** *were translated from Bengali by* ***Jayanta Mahapatra*** *a few months before the poet's passing away at Santiniketan on March 23*



Shakti Chattopadhyay

In the Colourful Arena of North Bengal

In the grip of webs of leaf and vine
stands the two storeyed
bungalow and inside it,
who can tell who is the watcher,
who is being watched?
In the vast expanse of the distant
jungle, man comes
to sit in silence in the veranda's
lap— -
to witness something the move-
ments of an animal at liberty,
sits on patiently to observe, the
moon above his head,
the snare of salt laid across the gra-
zing grounds,
in case some wild animal appears,
sees the salt
man has spread out, comes to nib-
ble at the grain,
molasses and chickpea branches
man owns —
Eagerly the watcher waits, but no
one comes his way
Only some birds appear, calling
out to one another,
leaving at dusk,
And all night long lies the jungle
swathed
in a sheet of dew, nothing else,
only the wide awake moon,
simply a tame snare is this *dak*
bungalow of Gorumara
Where man is prisoner, keen as
man is to come here
Where malevolent eyes watch
man from the dense jungle
depths—
What a game of opposites goes on
in the arena of North Bengal!



'ainful for Me to Walk the Road

Painful for me to walk the road, I
sit down by the wayside
Like a dry leaf I lie beneath the
tree's depths

Like a mere leaf, enduring pain, at
the hands of the wind
Without a fear that I might fly off,
or be burnt

Painful for me to walk the road, so
I sit down by the wayside

Lying like a mound or a long-
unstirred stone
Neither foolish nor an adornment,
simply a rock without care

Not a useful stone, forsaking
work, it lies on the road
But not right in the middle, a little
to a side
Beneath the tree's deeps it lies like
an abandoned stone

Painful for me to walk the road, so
I sit down by the wayside

In These Last Days

Hunger gnaws at the heart, after
so long--
Wasn't the house habitable all this
while?

Hunger gnaws at the heart, after
so long a time

Here begins the day, the darkness
ends—

And you were here, inside and
out, always

Here begins the day, the darkness
ends!

This last day too, floats the ash of
love—
Lost and scattered once, how it is
here beside?

This last day too, floats the ash of
love!

You Have No Fear of Grief

You have no fear of grief, none at
all, it loves you too
Do you ever fear the thought of
love? Do you fear happiness too?
If noteworthiness takes one to the
seashore
Do you have cause for fear? Is
there joy there?

Rows of trees line the shore, there,
under the prostrate shadows
If you just sit down once, aping the
stillness of stone,
Then, too, are you in fear? Is fear
everywhere!
I find other meanings from your
ignorant fear

I Just Want to Live

The riverbanks slip into the water,
the river grows wider,
on either side its swollen savage
flow
naws at man's dwellings, upsett-
ing households--
The water swirls past, tearing
down the banks,
flooding fields, felling trees flat,
from the islands in the river
innumerable birds plunge into the
skies -
I want salvation, I want to live, to
go on living,
Only to live, among the constant
ups and downs
of death, I want to live, just to go
on living



I Stand with Hands Outstretched

A man stands alone with hands
outstretched
in fields of golden corn,
his hands outstretched,

standing all day
in fields of golden corn

Mother Earth, fulfil our needs, he
says
among these fields stretching end
to end,
standing all alone
And his empty hands are slowly
filled—

Owing to pressure on space, Jiggs Kalra's column has been withheld— Editor



SHA[illegible]D PAWAR, *in or out of pow[illegible]ctains his imperiousness Th[illegible]n who would be king, or e[illegible]etter, a Prime Minister, has [illegible] been unseated by the saffron [illegible]e. But his opponents know [illegible]t the former defence minister [illegible]nd Maharashtra chief minister cannot do without power. And he is wily enough to wait and watch and topple just by not doing anything.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
I feel very happy if I start a project and see that it has been executed well I like to see my irrigation projects completed well and see greenery as a result The happiness of villagers after the execution of my rural projects makes me happy
What is your greatest fear?
Communal hatred I fear it because of its impact on society Because hatred not only weakens society, it also destroys a nation
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mother She had great vision She was courageous and could tackle any situation She was very progressive I have learnt everything from her
What do you dislike most in others?
Laziness
What do you dislike most in yourself?
I compromise I try to keep people happy and hurt myself because of this
What is your most precious possession?
My daughter, Supriya
What objects do you always carry?
Nothing
What makes you most depressed?
Women being mistreated by men — specially young girls And women being mistreated in society
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
I have never thought about this
What is your favourite word?
No particular word
What is your favourite journey?
I love travelling I love meeting people during my travel and chatting with them So there is no particular journey — I like all journeys
What is your favourite dream?
To see India as one of the most progressive, modern nations in the world It has enormous potential for this, enough natural resources, rich mineral wealth, land is rich What the country needs is good managers
What is your nightmare?
Nothing

On what occasions do you lie?

I lie when I know that it is good for the people. Immediately after the bomb blast when I was the chief minister, I had to make a public announcement. I knew there were 12 sites of bomb blasts. But I lied that there were 13, and included the Masjid area, too, so that there were no communal riots because of the blast

What or who is the greatest love of your life?
My mother and my daughter
What is your source of sustenance?
[No reply]
On what occasions do you lie?
I lie when I know that it is good for the people Immediately after the bomb blast when I was the chief minister, I had to make a public announcement I knew there were 12 sites of bomb blasts But I lied that there were 13, and included the Masjid area, too, so that there were no communal riots because of the blast And though I knew about Pakistan's involvement, I had made a statement implying that it was LTTE handiwork, because I did not want riots and did not want Muslims to be targeted
What is your greatest regret?
Nothing
What has been your happiest moment?
There have been so many
What brings tears to your eyes?
As I have said, women being mistreated
How do you relax?
By chit-chatting with people who do not discuss politics
What do you envy most in others?
Nothing
How would you like to be remembered?
As somebody who helped to make Indians win respect from the rest of the world.
How would you like to die?
I never thought about it But I would like to die in my sleep

Should I bake a cake for Priya's birthday?

Are you crazy?



Have you forgotten the fiasco when we invited the Sharmas? You took great pains to get it right and finally the cake turned out burnt and flat

I didn't have Brown & Polson Cake Mix then

Listen. Just buy the cake from the cake shop

I don't need to. The other day I tried Chocolate Cake with Brown & Polson Cake Mix. Kids loved it.

Beginner's luck, I guess

I tried Vanilla Cake too. Twice. It was so soft and fluffy.

You mean, you'll get it right ten times out of ten?

Precisely. Brown & Polson Cake Mix takes the uncertainties out of baking. I just have to add three eggs with butter or margarine and whisk it. Everything else is pre-mixed in the right proportion. Even the baking powder. No tension. No niggling doubts. I simply can't go wrong.

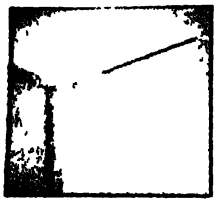
You're sure we won't cut a sorry figure?

No silly, we'll just cut a perfect cake.

A perfect cake everytime you bake.

Presenting the new Cold Gold Deluxe

The ideal combination with an accent on utility.



The only 165 lt refrigerator in its class with a soft look and all white interiors. From the flush recessed door handle to the crystal clear vegetable and butter trays, this refrigerator says it all in terms of style. Besides sporting a whole new host of flexible features like the new **shelf-flap** that can be raised to create room for additional bottles. Or even a tall jug. A **snugger.** Which holds your bottles in place. So they don't shake or tumble when you close the door.



There's even an **extra mini-shelf** on the door to hold small items. Or the odd chocolates.

Soft looks.
All white interiors.
And very, very flexible.

And the **moisture control.** Which lets you adjust the moisture level in your vegetable crisper. So vegetables stay fresh longer.



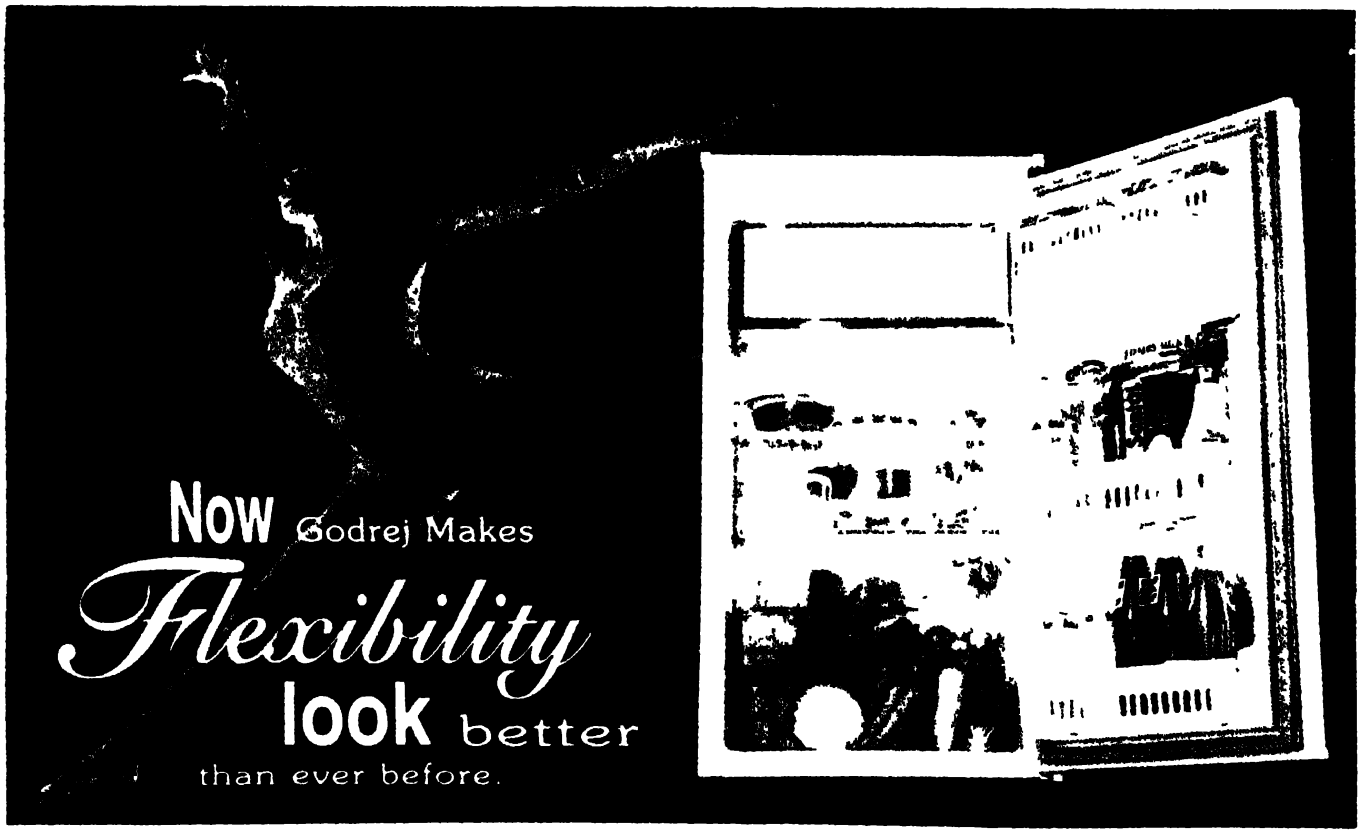
Plus **adjustable shelves** that let you design the interiors of your Cold Gold Deluxe. The way you want it.



What's more, all this comes with the advantages of PUF.

The new Cold Gold Deluxe from Godrej.

Any way you look at it, it's a winner.



Godrej REFRIGERATORS

THE PROMISE OF GOOD LIVING

COLD GOLD Deluxe

THE FLEXIBLE REFRIGERATOR

The Telegraph

16 APRIL 1995

POST MORTEM

Lyrical Legend

■ The tribute to Sahir Ludhianvi on his 75th birth anniversary was engrossing ('Timeless' March 12)

This and an earlier cover story on Majrooh Sultanpuri ('The Metier of Majrooh', July 24) afforded us a journey into the romantic and magical world of Hindi lyrics

The likes of Hasrat Jaipuri, Shakeel Badayuni and Shailendra would be misplaced in today's world of rapid commercialisation of Hindi film music where *"choli ke peechhey"* and such other risque lyrics rule the roast

The difference between the two genres of creativity is obviously a matter of values and taste, one pursues beauty in one's verses, the other money

Sahir's *Jo baat tujh mein hai* from that all-time hit, *Taj Mahal*, remains as admired and beautiful as the exquisite monument itself The film, *Barsaat Ki Raat*, contains another of Sahir's jewels, *Zindagibhar nahin bhulegi*

It is surprising the Dada Saheb Phalke Award committee has overlooked this lyrical giant, after whose passing away in 1980, Bombay is still struggling to find a poet of his sensitivity

Sukla Das,
Jamshedpur



Sahir Ludhianvi Soul-stirring verses

■ Sahir's brilliant verses coupled with Sachin Dev Burman's lilting music made Guru Dutt's *Pyaasa* a runaway success All of Sahir's poetry has been converted into popular Hindi film songs

Can we find another lyricist of Ludhianvi's calibre in today's Bombay?

B N Bose,
Calcutta

■ The charm of Sahir's poetry is eternal His verses talk of social exploitation, the rich tyrannising the poor and love for mankind He is obviously being very cynical when he says, *Yeh murda paruston ki duniya/Yeh duniya agar mil bhi jaye to kya hai*

Extremely secular in his vision, he loved and respected all religions

It is a pity we do not have him among us any more

Javed Nehal Quraishi,
Calcutta

■ Sahir Ludhianvi was the only lyricist in the film industry to whom credit would be given without reservation for the success of a song, and not to the music director, as is the wont

Rebellion was in his blood As a human being he revolted against the set order and as an artiste he spurned the system of the lyricist working on the dictates of the music director

His rebellious nature is visible in some of his early poems like *Ik shahenshah ne daulat ka sahara leka/Hum garibon ki mohabbat ka udaya hai mazaaq*

Neeraj Anand,
Deoghar (Bihar)

Big Betrayal

■ I fail to understand how a writer like Shobha De, whose only claim to fame is a couple of cheap, pornographic novels, can get featured on the cover of the Magazine with such monotonous regularity

Devraj Chakravorty,
Calcutta

Give Us a Hand

■ According to Cheiro, a human being can live 110 years on this planet With Morarji Desai completing 100 years, the Magazine could publish his palm impression as it would be an interesting study for all palmists

B N Roy,
Calcutta





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ONE BEAUTIFUL face is reason enough, two beautiful faces are a fait accompli And what if they are sisters, too? Presenting the rage of today, Meghna Reddy, who was actually under scored as this year's Miss India (she didn't enter finally) And older sister Sushama, already being touted as the face of 1995

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Is she religious? "No, only grateful." Not surprising, considering her success story is something any other girl would give her eye-teeth for. Fifteen months ago, she walked into the office of model coordinator Sangeeta Chopra to try her luck and walked out with an offer to do a fashion show in Delhi along with 30 top models, including Mehr Jesia, Madhu Sapre and Namrata Shirodkar.

"I knew nothing about modelling — how to put on lashes, how to walk on the ramp," she remembers.

But, perhaps, she was a natural, for during that show itself she was booked for the Shalimar Paints and the Ravi Bajaj-Suneet Verma show. "Later I was booked for Ensemble, then for Glitterati," she says.

But while things seemed to be really looking up professionally, at home it was not all smooth sailing. "My father, a conservative south Indian businessman, didn't speak to me for three months! But my mother was very supportive because she feels every woman should be independent and should make her own money."

But he gradually came round to the idea and today is as proud as any papa could be about her success.

When *Mangta Hai* happened, Meghana was not too sure she wanted to take it up. "Channel V wanted a sophisticated, poised model to compere this requests show, so they went to an agency and picked up 12 models, including me. They had a script which we were supposed to follow, but while I can understand it today, at that time it seemed quite wacky and a lot of rubbish."

So she started mumbling her own thing instead. "I spoke of someone's T-shirt and someone's nose and, perhaps, they found me different, so they selected me," she laughs. In any case, she says, *Mangta Hai* is a programme where "you don't act but just have fun. We ad-lib most of the time. Now, however, we are concentrating on the letters, which is what the programme is all about."

She might be doing some other programme with Star TV or Channel V in the near future but 'nothing has been finalised yet'. "Whether I can do it will depend on what kind of programme it is. When I started doing television, people asked me why I was branching off so early. But I'm still modelling. A model's life is short and I want to enjoy myself as much as I can while it lasts," she says sagely. "I also want to make a lot of money now so I can fulfill my ambitions later."

The ambitions being "doing something behind-the-scenes for television, maybe something pre- or post-production or something creative, though I am not quite sure what it will be at this point of time. But television is what I want to get into, finally, because there is a massive market in India which is being tapped. Perhaps, if I'm around on television for four years I will learn enough to make my own programmes."

This will be "something different — perhaps, a programme on fashion, but nothing formatted, something that would let me be flexible."

She sounds like a girl with her head screwed right on to her shoulders, her decisions made, though she is quick to stress that whatever she says now is "how I feel at this point of time". "For all you know, I might just give up and become a kindergarten teacher."

Adding, "I used to think that when I have my babies -- girls, within two years of each other -- I would start a day-care centre combined with kindergarten teaching, because I can't imagine leaving my children alone until they are six or seven. Now I don't know what will happen, but I still might do it."

As of now, there are quite a few top modelling commitments keeping her hands full — the Vimal campaign, the Trupti *Aaj ki nari* campaign "for which they shot me in jeans, a bodysuit and an apron in the kitchen and in an off-shoulder mini blouse in the office," and the Peach Schnapps ad for Smirnoff.

So busy is she that she even gave the Femina Miss India contest a miss earlier this year after having been touted as the star candidate. "It was a last-minute decision as I had too many contractual obligations," she explains, adding that she can always contest next year.

Acting, however, is one field she would rather steer clear of, "though I am good at dramatics". "But I wouldn't like to do Hindi films the way they are now. I get offers for Hindi films everyday. Just yesterday someone called up with an offer for a film opposite Shah Rukh Khan. I'm sure that's just crap."

A "really beautiful" art film, however, might just make her change her mind. "Or maybe I'll get married in a couple of years and retire." Then, on a more serious note, she adds, "But I wouldn't get married before I'm 25. That would be unfair to me, to him and to my work. I would be neither here nor there."

On the personal front, she says, she has lost a lot of friends to work, "though I know they are still there for me" "Earlier, I would just get together with friends, party and have a good time But now, after a day of hard work, I want to come back home and be alone I simply don't have the energy to party I don't speak to my best friend for months I would rather just go for dinner and go to bed "



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She recalls the days when she was "quite a couch potato" "If a friend called up during a television program me, I would ask her/him to call back during the commercial " she says But now, by the time she gets back from work, it is so late that she can't catch any of her favourites like Sherlock Holmes and courtroom dramas

"But I have been regularly following the O J Simpson trial,' she says adding that she once wanted to become a criminal lawyer "I read a lot too- courtroom cases, psychology, murder mysteries My childhood dream was to become a cat burglar I would plot the perfect robbery and the perfect murder," she laughs

She doesn't find much time to watch films and listen to music, though she does try to catch up on some Tamil music -- "A R Rahman is brilliant" -- and an occasional south Indian art film

And she watches commericals "to check out what could have been done, what has been done, and the little glitches"

She is also very critical about her own work "To date I have liked only two of the pictures I have shot, and I have shot quite a few After a shot, even if the director says I was good, I feel like doing it again and again because I'm never quite satisfied When I see myself on TV I think, this is what I should have done "

As a person, she feels, she has changed since she started working "I've been conned by people but I've also met some wonderful people who've taught me about work and life I was 18 when I started working, and very protected at home Suddenly, I found myself dealing with all my work - my taxes, my contracts, my legal papers, my payments, my dealings And it has helped me learn I have been meeting so many strange people and seeing different cultures I've been all over India after I started working and I've got to see,a lot of Indian culture which I never really bothered about earlier, living in Bombay It has been a learning experience "

Susha ma, a knock-out model herself and the 'face of 95', is also the elder of the Reddy sisters

Sha ma hates comparisons, particularly when they are drawn between herself and her little sister Meghana "People are always talking about who is better looking between the two of us, who is a better model, how different we are and what not," she says with an eloquent shudder "Tell me, how does it matter?"

It certainly does not matter to this soft spoken 22-year-old who makes it clear that she is not in competition with her sister and vice versa "Even today, after completing a year in modelling and with about 50 campaigns behind me, I don't see myself as a professional model," says Susha ma who "never thought in a million years" she would become a model

"I had finished my BA and was looking around for a job but nothing good came my way I was also trying to get into management, but for two years it eluded me So there I was, with a lot of free time on my hands and nothing to do, when Meghana, who was already into modelling, suggested that I try a hand at it, too

"My family found it a bit of a joke because I was a little plump to be a model," she says "Also, I was considered too academic to take up something like modelling " But *yoga* and aerobics took care of the first problem — she worked out "like a maniac" and shed 10 kgs - while her determination saw her over the other

"My first shoot was for *La Mode* I was ready to cry halfway through!" she remembers But immediately after she was lapped up for quite a few prestigious assignments Last month, *Mid-Day* declared her the Face of 95 — a business she describes as "much ado about nothing"

Despite her success in the field, however, she is quite firm that she would not like to take up modelling as a full-time profession "I like doing creative things and as a model you can not be creative beyond a certain point Striking the same pose again and again can become quite repetitive," she says "Also, to be a professional model, you have to do the ramp and designerwork whereas I have so far restricted myself to press and film "

She prefers doing ad films because she finds more scope for creativity in them "I am more comfortable with films because there is continuity and





'There is nothing wrong with them, but I don't think one can be very natural in Hindi formula films. I can visualise myself doing a film like *Roja* which is realistic, but not something like *Mohra* where you are jiggling and giggling all the time'

movement there and you can be yourself," she says. "I enjoy acting in films, whether I'm playing a hip girl, a housewife or a mother.

"In press ads, on the other hand, you are just posing all the time I can never really work at it Meghana works like a maniac, though She practises and rehearses all the time and tries to improvise"

Indeed, Meghana is one of her role models, "without any bias", along with Malaika Arora whom she finds "a superb model who makes the most of what she has" and, "to a certain extent", Aishwarya Rai

"A model's life is very hectic," says Sushama, "and I get very angry when people wag fingers at them It's not an easy job A model deserves every penny she gets—she is paid for patience, tolerance, a lot of stamina and a little bit of creative talent You might get your makeup done at six in the morning and you might get your first shot at one in the afternoon Tempers run high when deadlines are not met and you need a lot of tolerance too," she says

Sushama's own notable ad campaigns so far include Wills, Ponds Dreamflower, Cerelac, Trupti, Co-optex and Indian Rayon (yet to appear) "I don't feel I should do only glamorous campaigns," she says with a practicality surprising in someone so young "There are only so many glamorous campaigns and a lot of girls wanting to do them On the other hand, there are a lot of ads for household products and nobody wants to do them because they're worried about their image But household ads can pay you upto twice the money that glamorous ads fetch I try to strike a balance between the two"

At the moment she is not doing any modelling assignments because her MA exams are round the corner and she also has her hands full with an acupuncture course "Practising acupuncture is my childhood dream and maybe I will do it someday," she says "I simply love holistic medicine and I feel acupuncture is very creative and interesting I am learning it from a Japanese teacher and while it is a very long, slow process, I am determined to see it through"

After beginning to learn acupuncture she has changed her lifestyle completely to adhere to its teachings—she has converted herself into a vegetarian ("a big problem" in a *pucca* non-veg family), has become a maniac about regular sleeping hours, and has given up milk products completely .



"As a child I wanted to study medicine," says Sushama who did brilliantly throughout her school and college years. "I even did my HSC with science, but after that I went to California and practicality took over dreams I realised I did not have a medical background as both my parents were not into medicine Also, I would have liked to practise abroad, but they do not allow more than a certain quota of students to come in every year So I decided to get into commerce instead"

She later found that commerce had been a wrong choice and returned to

India where she took up arts Today she is quite happy with her decision "Modelling, economics and acupuncture are totally diverse, but each is very interesting by itself"

She has received offers for compering Hindi programmes, but has not taken up anything as "I am not very comfortable with my Hindi" However, she would love to compere a programme like *Mangta Hai* if it came her way "What is wonderful about *Mangta Hai* is that it allows Meghana to be exactly the way she is in real life It is a good forum for her to express herself," she says

But one thing she is quite certain she would not like to do is participate in a beauty contest "It makes no sense to me What do you do after becoming Miss India? Every year won't produce a Sushmita Sen or Aishwarya Rai I would rather participate in the Ford or Elite Supermodel contest and perhaps I will next year But before that I will prepare thoroughly When you participate in an international-level contest, you have to make sure you come up to their level or else you will not stand a chance A little extra fat here or there just will not do"

Hindi films are out for the moment at least "There is nothing wrong with them, but I don't think one can be very natural in Hindi formula films I can

MODEL SISTERS

Like the Reddys, the Arora sisters, Malaika and Amrita, are creating ripples in the modelling world

Malaika Arora may have hit the headlines with the controversial ad for MR Coffee, but there certainly is a lot more to this 19-year-old than the ability to sizzle, as modelling professionals will agree.

"Fashion expert Meher Castelino, for whom Malaika did her first shoot, is full of praise for Malaika who, she says, "is fabulous in front of the camera". She adds, "Malaika also has a very good figure and gets into the mood of the outfit and photograph easily." In fact, she points out, Malaika is "truly a photographer's and designer's dream".

Indeed, for one who has been in the profession for just a year and a half, Malaika has certainly hit big time with such prestigious campaigns as Roopam, MRF Tyres, Thums Up and Pierre Cardin and others like Mafatlal, Palmolive, Shyam A and Panasonic come

"I certainly don't regret doing the MR Coffee ad," says Malaika who entered the modelling world after Society magazine declared her the 'Face of the Year'. "It was just a case of so much being made out of nothing. At that time everyone would say that now that she's done something so controversial, she will not be able to carry off another kind of product. But for me it was just another ad and it made no difference to my career whatsoever."

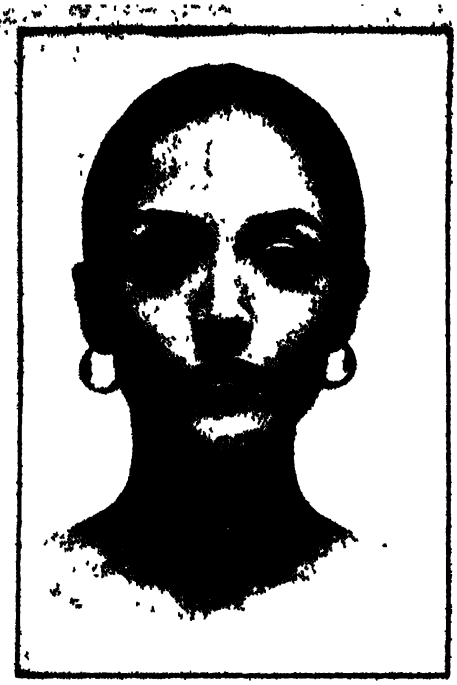
She is now studying psychology from Jai Hind college and regrets that she cannot give it as much attention as she would like to "because work takes up so much of my time". "But I would really like to finish my BA," she adds.

In the future she might join up with little sister Amrita, now also a





Amrita



Malaika

model, to open a boutique "because no one can remain in the modelling profession for ever" "Also, I love the world of glamour and would like to do something related to it."

Meanwhile Amrita, who was recently one of the choices for *Mid-Day's* 'Face of 95', has found her way into the modelling world with such lucrative assignments as BPL TV and Whisper sanitary napkins.

"My mother has many friends in the advertising world and Malaika and I were always being asked, even as children, to model We would keep getting offers and after a while you decide to take something up," says Amrita who, as a child, did a couple of modelling assignments.

This apart, she has other achievements in the world of glamour, having been a compere on programmes such as *Videocon Housefull* and *Gulaxan*. She has modelled for Pepsi and Ravalgaon sweets and has "also done a bit of the ramp — three shows so far, to be precise," she says. When a helping hand is needed, big sister Malaika is always there to lend it

Having just given her 12th standard examinations in arts, this practical girl is now planning to go into fashion designing because "that is a line I would really love to get into". She is keeping her fingers crossed as she awaits her results which will determine if she can pursue her dream.

Says Castelino about this 17-year-old: "Amrita has a lot of potential. She's young and enthusiastic and poses very well. She has a lot of life in front of the camera."

visualise myself doing a film like *Roja* which is realistic, but not something like *Mohra* where you are jiggling and giggling all the time "

But she is quick to add that she admires those who do Hindi films "In modelling itself you need so much stamina, and to make a film over several months you must really need a lot of stamina " She has received offers to act in films, but does not want to take up anything now. "There is no point in doing something unless you are interested in it But if ever I set my mind on doing a film, I just might do it "

She doesn't much like watching Hindi films either, "but I do watch some English films I like sitcoms, action movies like *True Lies*, horror, comedy " She reads a lot, specially non-fiction "I read science magazines, criminal novels, cosmetology, astronomy The only fiction I read is Sherlock Holmes "

Her taste in music is wide and varied She loves Indian music, but draws the line at heavy metal and rave which "makes me feel drunk without even having a sip of alcohol Besides, acupuncture says bang-bang music is not good for the body "

Her busy schedule leaves her with hardly any time to socialise — something she admits she used to love doing in the past "I used to get together with friends and chat for ages But now I find I don't even have the energy to make a call when I come back after a busy day," she says "My friends have started calling me a *sadhvi* because of my strict regimen,' she laughs

Then, on a serious note she adds, "Actually I am a stuck case — neither totally conservative nor very liberal I usually get one big plan going, then I let go I don't know if I should do what my parents say, get married, or do my own thing, be wild, travel I would love to travel

"Sometimes I feel maybe it's practical to be all-Indian and do the right thing At other times I feel we lack the individualism they have abroad where everyone does what he damn well feels like doing I don't know where I stand Maybe I'll find out soon " ■



'Actually I am a stuck case — neither totally conservative nor very liberal.... Sometimes I feel maybe it's practical to be all-Indian and do the right thing. At other times I feel we lack the individualism they have abroad where everyone does what he damn well feels like doing'

EXTRACT

Little LAL



Extracted from** Lal Bahadur Shastri Prime Minister of India (1964-1966), A Life of Truth in Politics* ***by C.P. Srivastava; Oxford University Press; Rs 495

BY C. P. SRIVASTAVA

A few days after Lal Bahadur's birth his mother returned with both her children to her husband's home in Allahabad One day, when Lal Bahadur was just a month old, his mother went to a *mela*—a fair on the banks of the Ganga (Ganges) She was carrying the child in her arms when she was suddenly pushed by the surging crowd, and Lal Bahadur fell out of her hands, disappearing in the confusion and bustle She tried her best to find the child but did not succeed The loss was reported to the police and, as if by a miracle, Lal Bahadur was shortly recovered from the hut of a cowherd in a neighbouring village and restored to his distraught parents I al Bahadur had fallen into the basket of a cowherd who had believed that the Almighty and the sacred river, Mother Ganga, had granted his fervent prayers for a son When the police explained the facts, the cowherd and his wife readily, though sadly, agreed to part with the child

In 1906, when Lal Bahadur was just 18 months old, his father suddenly died of the plague The breadwinner of the family was gone, leaving a young widow of 23 with two small children, one 18 months old and the other five Sharda Prasad, whose selection for the post of *naib tahsildar*, a subordinate executive position, had just been announced, left neither money nor property It was a disastrous situation for Ram Dulari Devi and her two children Normally, in keeping with the traditions of Hindu families, Sharda Prasad's father, Babu Nandan Lal, should have immediately gone to Allahabad and brought the distressed family to his house But that did not happen Babu Nandan Lal's second wife was Sharada Prasad's stepmother. She had no love for Sharada Prasad or his family and firmly declined to provide any succour whatsoever

★★★★

In the family of Munshi Hazari Lal and Munshi Darbari Lal, it was customary to initiate the education of a child under the personal charge and care of a *maulvi*, a learned man of the Muslim faith Initially, children had to learn Urdu, and the initiation into learning was quite a ceremony in itself When Lal Bahadur was four years of age his initiation—or, as it was called then, his Bismillah ceremony—was performed by Maulvi Budhan Mian of the neighbouring village of Padhza Under Maulvi Shaheb's tutelage, Lal Bahadur learnt not only Urdu but also *tahseeb*, a combination of social etiquette and cosmopolitan culture Thus was the first external formative influence on him and he imbibed everything that was given to him assiduously He developed a great interest in Urdu literature, especially Urdu poetry As we shall see later, one of Mirza Ghalib's poems became his lifetime favourite Maulvi Budhan Mian was a respected teacher in the Railway Boys' School, Moghalsarai, where Lal Bahadur studied up to Class VI

Lal Bahadur's childhood until the age of 12 was spent in Moghalsarai, with occasional visits to Mirzapur. During this period the care and affection from his mother and his maternal family—grandmother, grandfather and uncles—allowed him to pursue his education much as any other child of the family would have done. The passing away of his father did not therefore seriously affect his development, nor cause him serious mental stress.

There are three incidents from this period of his childhood which bring out certain innate qualities in Lal Bahadur's character. One summer evening, Lal Bahadur and his maternal

uncle Lallan Mama went out for a stroll in Mirzapur. Near the bank of the Ganga they saw an old man with a loaded basket on his head, passing by. Lal Bahadur asked the old man what he was carrying in his basket. The old man stopped, put down the basket and answered the question "I have very nice mangoes. Here is one for you and another for your companion Taste it. You will like it Since it is evevning time and I would like to sell some of these before getting home, I'll sell you a 100 mangoes for just one anna" (one anna was then one-sixteenth of a rupee It consisted of four paisas)

Lal Bahadur and Lallan Mama tasted the mango it was delicious Lal Bahadur looked at Lallan Mama, who nodded approval They pooled their resources, two paisas each, and Lal Bahadur gave the money to the old man, who began to set apart and count the mangoes When he reached 50, Lal Bahadur intervened and told the man not to take out more The old man was puzzled He said "My boy, you've given me an anna and I have to give you another 50 mangoes to make up the 100 " Lal Bahadur replied "The money is yours Actually we don't need more than 50 mangoes Thank you very much " The old man looked at Lal Bahadur in disbelief, put the basket with the remaining mangoes on his head, and slowly walked away All this time Lallan Mama, himself a little boy of about 10 and only four years senior to Lal Bahadur, was watching the proceedings without intervening When the old man was gone, he said "That was very foolish of you We paid for a 100 mangoes but you've taken only 50 " Lal Bahadur explained "You remember the old man saying he was prepared to sell a 100 mangoes for just one anna? It was a distress sale Why take advantage of such a situation? In any case, we don't really need more than 50 mangoes for the family " For all his youth, Lal Bahadur's innocent conviction was persuasive What was it that impelled a six-year-old child to act as he did? He had not received lessons to infuse in him this exceptional sense of fair play It is a reasonable inference that Lal Bahaddur had a highly developed conscience nurtured in invisible ways by a moral family environment, which had manifested itself spontaneously on this occasion

The second incident is an even better indication of that innate strength of moral will. Lal Bahadur's maternal uncle, Bindeshwari Prasad, the head of the family was very fond of



With wife, mother and youngest son Ashok

good food He was especially fond of pigeon meat, and to ensure ready availability, he had reared a number of birds in his Moghalsarai house At his sweet will he would select one, have it killed, cooked and served up for dinner One day the particular pigeon selected by him flew off and hid itself on the tiles of the roof Bindeshwari Prasad asked Lal Bahadur to climb the rooftop and report on the pigeon Lal Bahadur obeyed and, having sighted the pigeon, reported accordingly to Bindeshwari Prasad Bindeshwari Prasad asked the boy to catch the pigeon and bring it down Lal Bahadur remained sitting, quite downcast, and did not move he was a strict vegetarian The conversation between them then proceeded on the following lines

Bindeshwari Prasad Nanku, go and get the pigeon at once

Lal Bahadur No I won't

Bindeshwari Prasad Why not?

Lal Bahadur Because I know you will kill the pigeon and eat it up

Bindeshwari Prasad That's what pigeons are for Now go quick and get it.

Lal Bahadur No, I won't You will kill it

Bindeshwari Prasad Alright, go and get it I won't kill it

Lal Bahadur, still a child, thought he had won over Mama Bindeswari Prasad He jumped up, caught the pigeon and brought it down But of course Bindeshwari Prasad did not keep his word He had the pigeon killed and prepared for the pot Lal Bahadur was doubly aghast His Mama had broken his pledged word, and 'his' pigeon had lost its life His conscience was up in revolt What could he do? Bindeshwari Prasad was a strong-willed man and head of the family Little Lal Bahadur could not carry on arguing But he would not give up either Even at that tender age, he did not act hastily or impulsively After due thought, he decided to do what Mahatma Gandhi was to do years later when seeking redress for grave injustice He went on a hunger strike and abstained from food all day, resisting all persuasion by his mother and the others in the household Lal Bahadur, being much loved by all the ladies of the family, was joined in his brave protest and they too refused to eat Next morn

ing Bindeshwari Prasad found himself facing the combined remonstrations of all the ladies of the house When they had had their say, Bindeshwari Prasad summoned Lal Bahadur and addressed him firmly "You ate nothing yesterday I am sure you are very hungry You will certainly eat something today" Lal Bahadur looked at his uncle respectfully and responded without giving in "No I won't," he said "Why did you kill the pigeon when you told me you wouldn't?"

Bindeshwari Prasad had no answer. "Nanku, you are right," he said finally "I should not have done what I did I promise you I will not kill pigeons any more In fact, I won't eat pigeons ever again In fact, I promise I will become a vegetarian" Bindeshwari Prasad kept his word This was Lal Bahadur's first exercise in Satyagraha

These two events were obviously of no public importance They were mere happenings within a family And yet they indicate the nascent moral will and an extraordinarily lively conscience which were to manifest themselves more remarkably in Shastri's public and political life

★★★★

(In Benares) Nishkameshwar Misra was a remarkable person Besides being a good teacher he was humane and extremely patriotic, taking great interest in his students He organised special outdoor excursions on Sundays and holidays for the benefit of his pupils these were voluntary, and those who participated had to pay an anna each to cover expenses on transport and food Misra's purpose was to inculcate a wider interest in surroundings — in architecture, specially historic monuments, and in flowers and gardens — as well as generate a spirit of comradeship and fellow feeling amongst them

Misra found Lal Bahadur the most intent, devoted and disciplined student in his class and so appointed him class monitor In this capacity, it was one of Lal Bahadur's duties to prepare a list of volunteers for the next picnic and collect the requisite contributions On one such occasion Misra noticed that Lal Bahadur had not included his own name on the list Taking the boy discreetly aside he asked why Lal Bahadur replied with candour "Because I cannot pay the contribution, sir I need the money for essentials in the house" "Include your name on the list," said Misra "I will pay the anna for you" Misra had understood Lal Bahadur's financial situation: he was living with his *mausa* (maternal uncle), in whose house he was provided with meals as a part of the family but no regular cash allowance

That evening, after the picnic tour, Misra took Lal Bahadur to his house, introduced him to his wife and asked her to treat the new arrival as another son At first the lady protested, saying they had enough children in the house already. But she soon took to him and bestowed upon him unstinting affection and hospitality Lal Bahadur became a regular visitor to the house and almost a part of Misra's family In return he asked to be tutor to one of the small children in the house Misra was well pleased with this arrangement Being sensitive, noble-minded and magnanimous, he decided that Lal Bahadur's work as a tutor needed to be recompensed not merely by kind words, affection and the occasional meal but also by regular remuneration Knowing that Lal Bahadur would not accept cash payments, he found a way out Every month he put some money in a savings box earmarked for Lal Bahadur Years later, when Lal Bahadur's sister was about to get married, Misra gave the whole sum which he had thus accumulated to Lal Bahadur's mother

★★★★

Lal Bahadur went home and explained to his uncle Raghunath Prasad and other elders in the family what had happened at the meeting, and indicated his intention to respond immediately to the call of Congress and Mahatma Gandhi by withdrawing from Harish Chandra High School, a government-aided institution Furthermore, he wanted to become a Congress volunteer for national service The news was received in the family with utter bewilderment With the exception of his mother, all were furious They told Lal Bahadur in no uncertain terms to behave with a sense of responsibility He had a duty to look after his mother If he discontinued his education at this stage, without obtaining even the first recognised qualification easily achievable within the next few months, how would he find work? What would become of his mother and unmarried sister? Was it not his prime *dharma* to look after his mother? He was reminded that after his father's death his mother had brought him up with love and care, while herself suffering all the rigours of penury It was now his turn to behave as a dutiful son Lal Bahadur listened to all this unperturbed He then turned questioningly to his mother, Ram Dulari Devi, to whom he was greatly devoted Her advice was generous and clear "Son," she said, "think deeply about the right course of action, then make up your mind and hold firmly to your decision"

Lal Bahadur followed his mother's words and they were to become the abiding principle of his life He thought deeply that night, listened to his own inner voice and made up his mind At that moment, he concluded, his supreme loyalty was to Mother India, his higher *dharma* was to serve his country, regardless of the sacrifice involved It was a decision which added one more to the many qualities he already possessed, namely the will to make a sacrifice, however large, in order to pursue what he had clearly perceived as the right course of action Next morning he withdrew his name from Harish Chandra High School and joined the Congress Party as a volunteer From that day on he became a devoted follower of Mahatma Gandhi and dedicated himself to the Mahatma's ethical principles of truth and non-violence

★★★★

Even at 18, Lal Bahadur was attracted to the idea of detachment as time passed, renunciation was to become an integral part of his being

It is generally believed that Lal Bahadur spent his childhood in abject poverty Fanciful stories are told about his having to swim across the Ganga everyday, books tied on his head, because he did not have money to pay the boat fare This daily swimming acrobatics is hardly within the realm of possibility Nor was it necessary Lal Bahadur lived close to his school and as it happened, on the same side of the river, a few 100 yards from the school He personally told me he had only once swum across the Ganga That was when he wanted to go to Ramnagar to see his ailing mother and had no money for the boat fare "Poverty is not an ornament to be exhibited," his headmaster had once said Lal Bahadur had accepted it as good advice He neither demonstrated his poverty nor talked about it During the entire period I worked with him, only once did I hear him refer to the subject Addressing a massive public meeting in Calcutta in October 1965 he told his audience "No one knows more about the pangs of poverty than I do." That was all he said ■

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says, the full moon reactivates your interest in the house and a spot of renovation/decoration could involve the office/shop as well Around April 17, both good and bad things happen breaking the boredom A touch of romance could prove interesting

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Though you are on a slightly choppy, changeful sea, expect things and matters to right themselves for you This holds specially true for finances, bank balances, loans, investments, buying and selling It is absolutely certain that either you will be corresponding or inviting visitors

Gemini

May 21—June 20



While finances and family posers are absolutely important, you will meet quite a few interesting and sexy people A little care in relationships is advisable as you should not hurt or be hurt by your loved one Buying and selling are focalised Many of you will be in for ties

Cancer

June 21—July 20



Despite rough going, rest assured you will find enough work to keep busy Also, you may expect some good news You are advised to reach out to people and places, as contracts and assignments await you by doing so April 20-21 will be very newsy Health safeguards are a must

Leo

July 21—August 21



Better gird up your loins and get work done While it will be incomplete, at least a start will have been made Romance blossoms and that should be most welcome Tuesday/Wednesday will be important for Leons Get all personal work done and resolve problems then

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Friends may not succeed overmuch, but at least they will try to help you The home situation should improve giving you a little satisfaction and contentment April 19-21 will be specially important for decision-making and coming to grips with emotional affairs

Libra

September 23—October 22



The home front, renovation decoration, and a move are quite likely on the cards, says Ganesha The full moon of April 15 in your sign makes it a highly paradoxical week and time in general You will be energetic and extroverted But you will be running into problems while helping others

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Time for thrills, spills, joy, sorrow and change in the nature and scope of your work A temporary union/separation is the order of the day Many of you will be launching out on deals and projects and by August you should be well into them Be positive and pleasant

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



The full moon will activate you which will thus lead you to give it your best shot The result will be victory Now is the time to marshal your forces and attack The trick is to have friends and make them want you April 17-18 and April 20-21 are the dates to go ahead Romance foretold

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



You will have to be a quick change artist as we say because you will be forced to play numerous roles with flair Your lucky days should be Monday, Tuesday and Friday Watch out for business openings and contracts Yet, the surprising part of it is, you will find the time to play a little

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Gains will be registered More importantly, you will have the dash and the panache to go right ahead It is this fearlessness which is your forte Those in education, distribution, research, sales, films and travel agencies do a grand job. You will have the cutting edge of success.

Pisces

February 19—March 20



The moon's influence will result in wild mood swings You will be ultra-sensitive and every hurt will be a major wound Relationships will be extremely complex and fluid and therefore, you will have to give yourself time to understand what is happening

BIRTHDAYS

April 16: Ganesha says accidents and unexpected events could happen if you are not on your guard. Not a birthyear to take chances.

April 17: Moon conjuncts Pluto giving you a certain power and sway over others. Use it very wisely and compassionately. You will recover from grief.

April 18: Moon-Jupiter conjunction means good fortune. This good fortune will also affect your partner, children house or office.

April 19: A year of mixed fortunes but it would be wise to be optimistic as the sun gives enough power and confidence to ward away everything negative and unfruitful.

April 20: Despite the Sun-Uranus square or malefic formation, you should go ahead with plans, because from June 9, the aspect or formation will be over.

April 21: Moon sextile Saturn means long range planning, as well as grasping the opportunities which will come your way this year.

April 22: The moon's quarter could result in a false start or two but by August you should be on your way to success, whatever be your chosen field of activity.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC 741	0710	3 5	IC 742	0940	3 5
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3, 5, 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
[redacted]					
M9-304/109	0855	1 3 5	M9-110/301	1900	1 3 5
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1300	1 3, 5	IC 722	1540	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC 771	0800	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
[redacted]					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC 676	0640	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	2035	6	IC 274	2050	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
[redacted]					
			S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 263	0700	daily	IC 262	0815	2 4 7
S2-026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 303	0825	daily
M9-304	0855	daily	AI 882	0950	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1110	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1745	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
IC 261	1900	2 4 7	M9 301	1900	daily
M9-302	1930	daily	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
S2-006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	IC 264	2210	daily
[redacted]					
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
IC 703	0800	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	IC 702	1630	2 4 6 7
4S 815	1150	1 2 3 4 5 6	4S 816	1710	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 701	1240	2 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
[redacted]					
IC 257	1150	4 7	IC 258	1650	4 7
[redacted] GUWAHATI					
PF 735	0730	1	IC [illegible]	1110	2 6
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 703	1130	3 5
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 708	1430	1 4 7
IC 703	0800	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
IC 707	0800	1 4 7	D2 181	1620	3 5 7
IC 711	0800	2 6	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	IC 230	1650	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1710	1 2 3 4 5 6
4S 812	1150	1 2 3 4 5 6	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
[redacted] AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0420	7	KL 875	0235	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC 257	1150	4 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC-258	1740	4 7
IC 229	1310	daily	IC-212	1740	4 6
[redacted]					
S2-023	1045	1 3 5	S2-024	1525	1 3 5
IC 777	1600	2, 4 7	IC-778	2100	2 4 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC 707	0800	1, 4 7	IC-256	1320	3 5
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC-708	1430	1, 4, 7
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
[redacted]					
IC-213	0910	2, 4 7	IC-213	1315	2, 4 7
[redacted]					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
[redacted]					
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1, 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2 172	1740	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
[redacted]					
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1, 3 5
[redacted]					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2-015	1015	1, 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC-249	1805	2 4, 7
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1930	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC-286	1100	2 4 6
[redacted]					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2 2 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
[redacted]					
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC-260	1110	1, 7
IC 259	0830	1 7	IC 256	1320	3 5
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 212	1740	4 6
[redacted]					
IC-213	0910	2 4 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
[redacted]					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
[redacted]					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
[redacted]					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC 731	0855	2 4 6 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB 105	1125	2 6	TG-313	1240	1 3 6
TG 314	1355	1 3 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 6 7
AI 306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5, 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG 697	1655	2 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1 2, 3 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1 2 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1 2 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5
[illegible]					
IC-747	1115	1, 3 5	IC-748	1455	1 3 5
RA-214	1815	1, 4	RA-213	1715	1, 4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
LONDON					
BA-142	2050	3, 7	BA-143	1525	3, 7
MOSCOW					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
PARIS					
KB-106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2, 6
KB-106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ-415	2345	2, 5	SQ-416	2230	2, 5
SOFIA					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI-306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure				Arrival	
Up	Time		Howrah	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**		7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**		7 55	3006
3003	20-35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad		13-00	3004
2381	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat		16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs, Fri & Sun		16 15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues, Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun		10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun, Arr Wed & Sat		12-50	2306
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues, Wed & Sat		11 35	3074
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon, Wed & Fri		4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Deen Express** via Grand Chord		7 00	3010
3007	9-45	**Udyan Abha Tootan Express** via Main Line		18 15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**		15 30	3050
3039	21-00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line		5 20	3040
3019	16-05	**Kathgodam Express**		11 55	3020
3021	21-45	**Mithila Express**		5 00	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**		6-30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**		21-25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**		10 30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**		8-45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**		5 50	3032
3025	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday, Arr Friday		11 35	3026
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**		5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**		15-40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun, Arr Mon Tues & Wed		6-50	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed, Arr Fri Sat & Sun		6-50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**		4 50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only		6 50	1182
			Sealdah		
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed, Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed, Thurs Fri Sat & Sun		6 35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**		8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line		7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchenjunga Express**		20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**		5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**		4-15	5664
3151	11-45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**		15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Magbai Saral Express** via SBG Loop		12-55	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**		10 25	3104
5185	17-40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues, Thus & Sat		4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure				Arrival	
Up	Time		Howrah	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**		6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur		8-10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**		15-15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**		5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur		16-20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack		12-00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday		19-40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs		1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun		13-45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**		10-20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**		22 05	8012
8005	20-55	**Titlagarh Express**		5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**		6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack		5-30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj		8-25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**		21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**		4-15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**		15-00	8046
8017	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday		11-25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only		16 10	—
--	11-05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only		10-45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati - Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only		22-15	—
-	14 05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only		13-45	6321
--	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only		13-45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only		22 15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri		13-45	6315
6520	22-35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only		22-15	—
—	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only		13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

CAT AND THE BROOMSTICK

Before the cat came, there had, of course, to be a broomstick In the bazaar of one of our hill-stations is an old junk shop, dirty, dingy and dark, in which I often potter about looking for old books or Victorian bric-a-brac Sometimes one comes across useful household items, but I do not usually notice these

I was, however, attracted to an old but well-preserved broom standing in the corner of the shop A long-handled broom was just what I needed I had no servant to sweep out the rooms of my cottage and I did not enjoy bending over double while using the common short-handled *jhaaroo*

The old broom was priced at Rs 3 I haggled with the shopkeeper and got it for Rs 2

It was a strong broom, full of character, and I used it to good effect almost every morning And there this story might have ended (or would never had begun) if I had not found the large black cat sitting on the garden wall

The black cat had bright yellow eyes and it gave me a long, penetrating look as though it were summing up my possibilities as an exploitable human Though it miaowed once or twice, I paid no attention I did not care much for cats But when I went indoors, I found the cat had followed me and was scratching on the pantry door

"It must be hungry," I thought and gave it some milk The cat lapped up the milk purring deeply all the while, then sprang up on a cupboard and made itself comfortable

Well, for several days there was no getting rid of the cat It made itself at home, merely tolerating my presence in the house It seemed more interested in my broom than in me and would dance and skittle around the broom whenever I was sweeping the room And when the broom was resting against the wall, the cat would sidle up to it, rubbing itself against the handle and purring loudly

A cat and a broomstick—the combination was suggestive, full of possibilities The cottage was old, almost a 100 years old and I wondered about the kind of tenants it might have had during that long time I had only been in the cottage for about a year. And



I saw Miss Bellows and the black cat to the gate, and returned pensively to my sitting room.... I made a half-hearted attempt to laugh at my fancies, but the laugh stuck in my throat: I couldn't help noticing that the broom was missing from its corner

though it stood alone in the midst of a forest of Himalayan oaks, I had never encountered any ghosts or spirits

Miss Bellows came to see me in the middle of July I heard the tapping of a walking stick on the rocky path outside the cottage, a tapping which stopped near the gate

"Good evening," I said, dropping my hoe

"I believe you have my cat," said Miss Bellows

Though I had not met the lady before, I knew her by name and reputation She was the oldest resident in the hill-station

"I believe I have a cat," I said, "though it's probably more correct to say the cat has me If it's your cat, you're welcome to it Why don't you come in while I look for her "

Miss Bellows stepped in She wore a rather old-fashioned black dress and her strong, ancient walnut stick had two or three curves in it and a knob instead of a handle

She made herself comfortable in an armchair while I went in search of the cat But the cat was on one of her mysterious absences, and though I called for her in my most persuasive manner, she did not respond I knew she was probably quite near But cats are like that — perverse, obstinate creatures

When finally, I returned to the sitting room, there was the cat curled up on Miss Bellows' lap

"Well, you've got her, I see Would you like some tea before you go?"

"No, thank you," said Miss Bellows. "I don't drink tea "

"Something stronger, perhaps A little brandy?"

She looked up at me rather sharply Disconcerted, I hastened to add "Not that I drink much, you know I keep a little in the house for emergencies It helps ward off colds and things It's particularly good for er, well, for colds," I finished lamely

"I see your kettle's boiling," she said. "Can I have some hot water?"

"Hot water? Certainly " I was a little puzzled but I did not wish to antagonise Miss Bellows at our first meeting

"Thank you And a glass "

She held the glass while I held the kettle Then, from the pocket of her voluminous dress, she extracted two small packets, similar to those containing chemists powders Opening both packets, she poured first a purple powder, and then a crimson powder, into the glass Nothing happened

"Now the water please," she said

"It's boiling hot!"

"Never mind "

I poured boiling water into her glass and there was a terrific fizzing and bubbling as the frothy stuff rose to the rim It gave off a horrible stench The potion was so hot that I thought it would crack the glass, but before this could happen, Miss Bellows had put it to her lips and had drained off its entire contents

"I think I'll be going now," she said, putting the glass down and smacking her lips The cat, tail in the air, voiced its agreement Said Miss Bellows, "I'm much obliged to you young man "

"Don't mention it," I said humbly "Always at your service "

She gave me her thin, bony hand and held mine in an icy grip

I saw Miss Bellows and the black cat to the gate, and returned pensively to my sitting room Living alone was beginning to tell on my nerves and imagination I made a half-hearted attempt to laugh at my fancies, but the laugh stuck in my throat I couldn't help noticing that the broom was missing from its corner

I dashed out of the cottage and looked up and down the path There was no one to be seen In the gathering darkness I could hear Miss Bellows' laughter followed by a snatch of song

With the darkness round me growing,
And the moon behind my hat,
You will soon have trouble knowing
Which is witch and Witch's Cat

Something whirred overhead like a Diwali rocket I looked up and saw them silhouetted against the rising moon. Miss Bellows and her cat were riding away on my broomstick

(Sanctuary Features)

JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems. All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and **not** to The Telegraph. Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper. Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned.** All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates. No enquiries will be solicited.

Fill in the coupon below and send with your contribution

___ Block letters please ___

Name_____

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

BOUNTY OF THE AUTUMN MOON

Deep in the cold wave engulfing north India, it suddenly seems a long time since the onset of winter in the month of Kartik, when a strange kind of reverse osmosis takes place between Punjab and eastern UP

Of course, it is common knowledge that as the paddy ripens in Punjab, labourers from UP and Bihar head westwards to harvest it

What is less known is that once the rice harvest there is over, Sikhs climb on to their combine harvesters and trundle eastwards over the plains to the furthermost districts of UP where the rice is yet to ripen

This year two such combine harvesters ended up at the back of the cowshed of the former zamindars of Iliya — a village literally spitting distance from Bihar When I saw them, the Patiala Sikhs were listening to *biraha* songs on All India Radio and tinkering with the combines' engines They still had some time to wait

Although the rice had received its last watering and the canals had become suddenly dry — yielding another harvest of small fish — the paddy was still a green carpet in the fields

Even though the first rice of the season was being roasted in iron pans and poured into mechanised pounders to make *chura*, the main harvest would really get underway only after the full moon of Kartik And nobody seemed in a great hurry either

That is because the month of Kartik seems to cast a spell over the eastern districts around Varanasi Even after Diwali the holiday spirit lingers on and is most apparent in the sacred city itself, between the small rivers Varuna and Assi

When I arrived there from Iliya, the bazaars were doing a swift business in sugarcane — each shopper taking one or two sticks "Today is a festival," said my rickshaw wallah He could equally well have made that statement on most days of the month

Turning the corner of the road to Assi ghat, the stench from a rubbish-filled pond created by the corporation and the objectionable pink concrete of the little-used Sulabh Sochalaya did not seem to matter The real Assi on *ekadashi* was in another, more sacred dimension

Braving the cold, bathers had been walking barefoot to the river since well before dawn, young girls leading old ladies by the hand At a stall at the top of the river bank women poured Ganges water around *anwala*, banana and *tulsi* plants Others pressed their hands reverently on the trunk of a neem tree The peepul tree a little distance away was tied round with thread and small *diyas* at its base showed where worship had taken place

All the trees around the ghat were probably being worshipped, and all the shrines underneath them, too There could be no better example of religion being environmentally green at heart

"*Tulsi* is Lakshmi and so is *anwala*," a sadhu told me, "Peepul is Vishnu and banana is Guru Brihaspati — they are all worshipped in Kartik"

"And neem?"

"Neem is Sitala Devi" Naturally, the goddess of smallpox should be represented by the tree of healing

However, as this was *ekadashi*, *tulsi* had a special place of honour It was her wedding day Shashank Singh, whose old house overlooks Assi, was leaning over the parapet of his verandah watching and relishing the waves of wedding song rising from the groups of women sitting below

In his family, he told me, Tulsi was married to Bhagwan Shalagram and before the abolition of zamindari his mother had conducted the ceremony with a *tulsi* plant made of pure gold

The women of the ghats had real *tulsi* plants and other images of Vishnu — mainly it was Krishna who was the bridegroom

One small brass image was washed with turmeric as I watched, further down the ghat the *kanyadaan* was being offered Another group was singing of going to one's married home, and in yet another, *bilva* leaves and white *datura* flowers were being offered to the couple who were already almost invisible under piles of flowers

In the evening a more formal *baraat* was arranged A flotilla of boats, complete with divine bridegroom, *shehnais*, a uniformed brass band and a horrendous loudspeaker system chugged off downstream from Tulsi Ghat to Panchganga

Here, high in a new pink building right on the ghat, waited the bride It was well past dark when the *baraat* arrived and the bridegroom — a tiny image — was carried inside shoulder high on a palanquin

With a fine disregard for the niceties of neat divisions within the Hindu pantheon, the crowd greeted Bhagwan Vishnu with shouts of *"Hara, Hara Mahadev"*

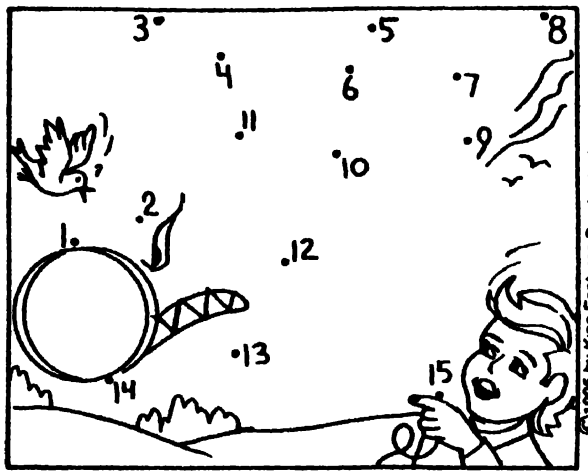
As the palanquin vanished upstairs, the Ganga began to come into her own in the light of the waxing moon Lights flickered in wicker-basket lamps, hoisted high on bamboo poles — the *akashdeep* that provide light for departed souls Worshippers set leaf-trays of *diyas* afloat at the river bank, while others took silent, black boats midstream to offer their lights to the river

On the riverside the feeling of goodwill and well being was immense, enhanced by the sure knowledge that the rice harvest, despite some flooding would be good Already preparations were underway for the next ritual celebration — Annakuta, the Mountain of Food festival

Soon the courtyards of the temples of Vishvanath and Annpurna would be filled with piles of milk sweets, arranged in the form of castles and temples — and there would be mountains of newly cut paddy, too, in celebration of the impending river.

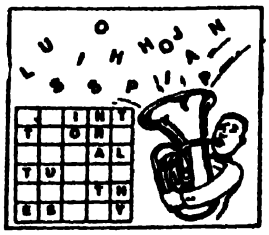
(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL · HAL KAUFMAN



WHAT'S UP! Something is caught up in strong March winds above. What can it be? Draw lines dot to dot to find out.

BODY LANGUAGE! "I have something in my eye," said the needle. "My ribs are broken," said the umbrella. "Take my hand," said the clock. "My teeth are shot," said the gear. Can you think of any to add?



LINE OF MARCH BLOWOUT

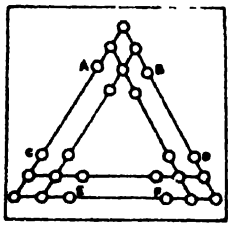
TAKE note of letters being expelled from the instrument above. They are to be used in blanks of the diagram to form words in accord with the following definitions (top down, respectively)

An elbow for one
Rose bush hazard
Medicine container
Spring garden bloom
One of the poles
A literary work

Alakazam, read in the order in which they are to appear these letters will spell the name of an American composer who is familiar to every marching band. Who's that?

Words top down: Joint thorn phial tulip south essay. Composer: John Philip Sousa

SIDE LINER! Study the configuration below carefully, and you will discover that only the outer equilateral triangle has exactly six circles per side, and only ther centre equilateral triangle has exactly four circles per side. Now, add three straight lines, A-F, B-E, C-D, draw circles at intersections, and you will devise an additional equilateral triangle having exactly two circles per side.



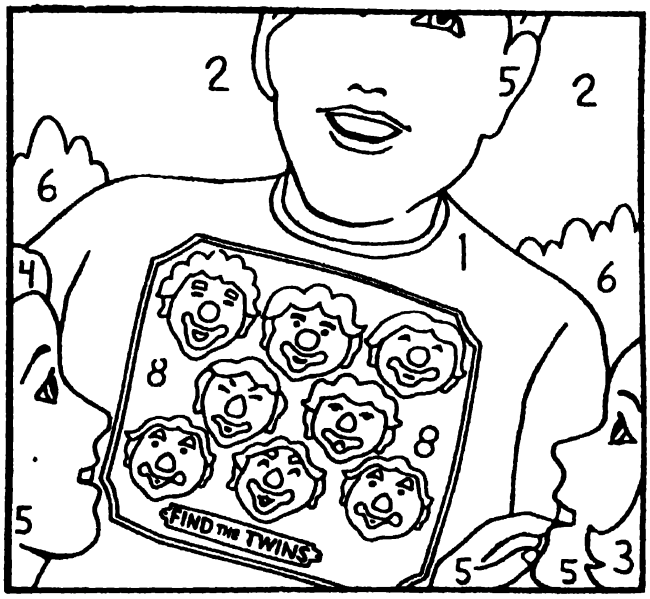
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1 Sun is missing. 2 Bandanna is smaller. 3 Picture is missing. 4 Funnel is missing. 5 Water gun is missing. 6 Shorts are shorter.

FUNSPOT



DOUBLE DIP! Task No. 1: Find twins. Task No. 2: Add the following colors by number: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

VISCERAL

- - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible lwoscome Evil, soar

COMICS

ARCHIE



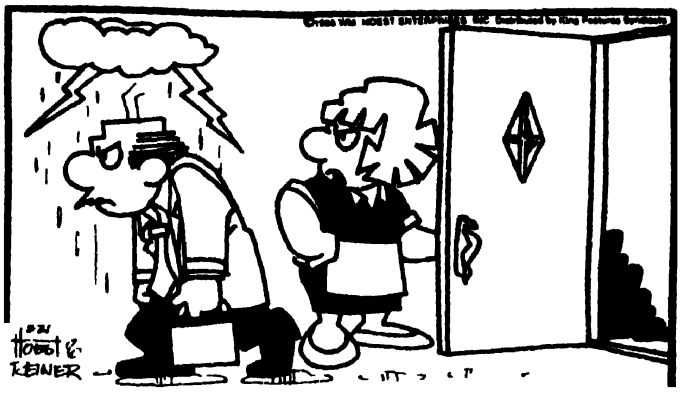
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS



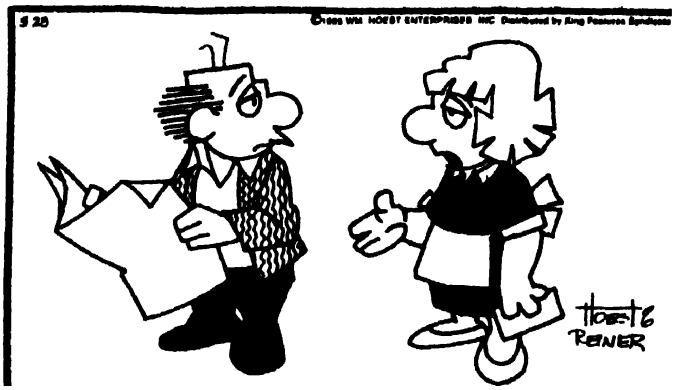
"WHAT GOOD IS SUFFERING LIKE THIS IF I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT A GOOD TIME I HAD?"



"I WISH YOU'D LEAVE YOUR WORK AT THE OFFICE."

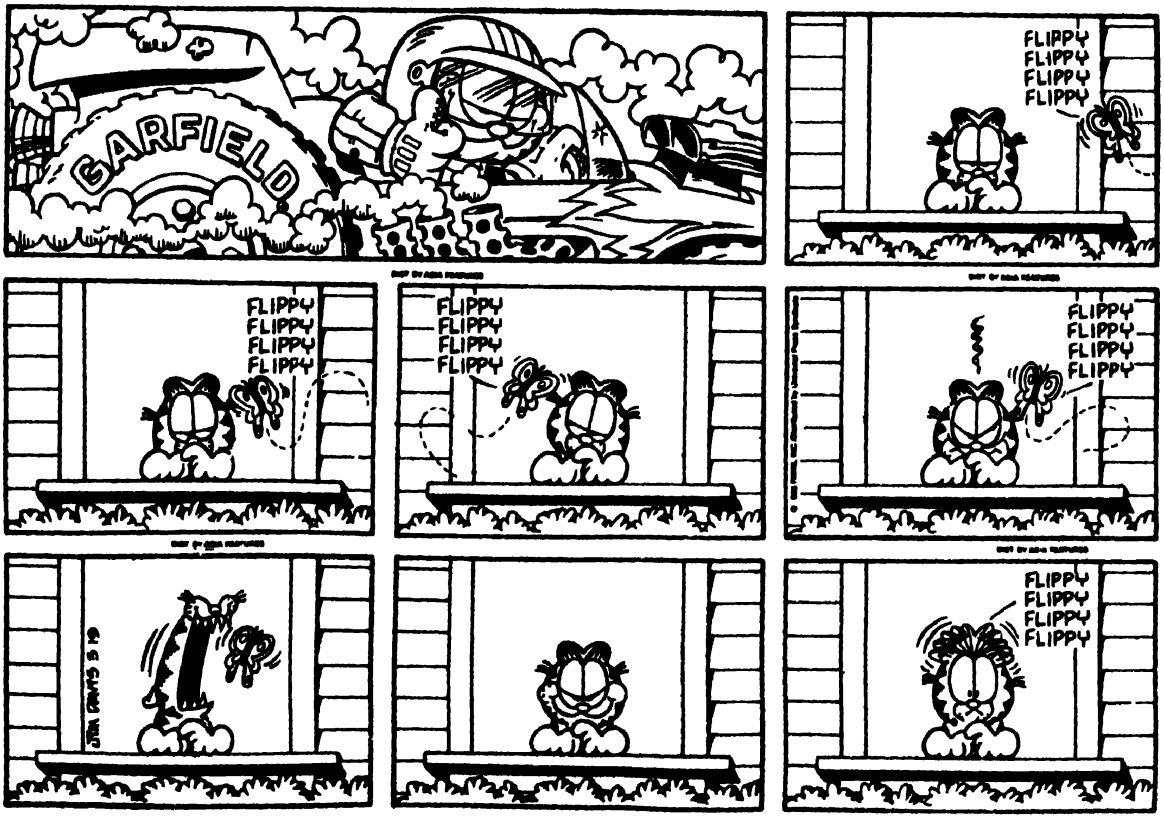


"IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE LEFTOVER MEATLOAF I SENT IT TO 'UNSOLVED MYSTERIES.'"

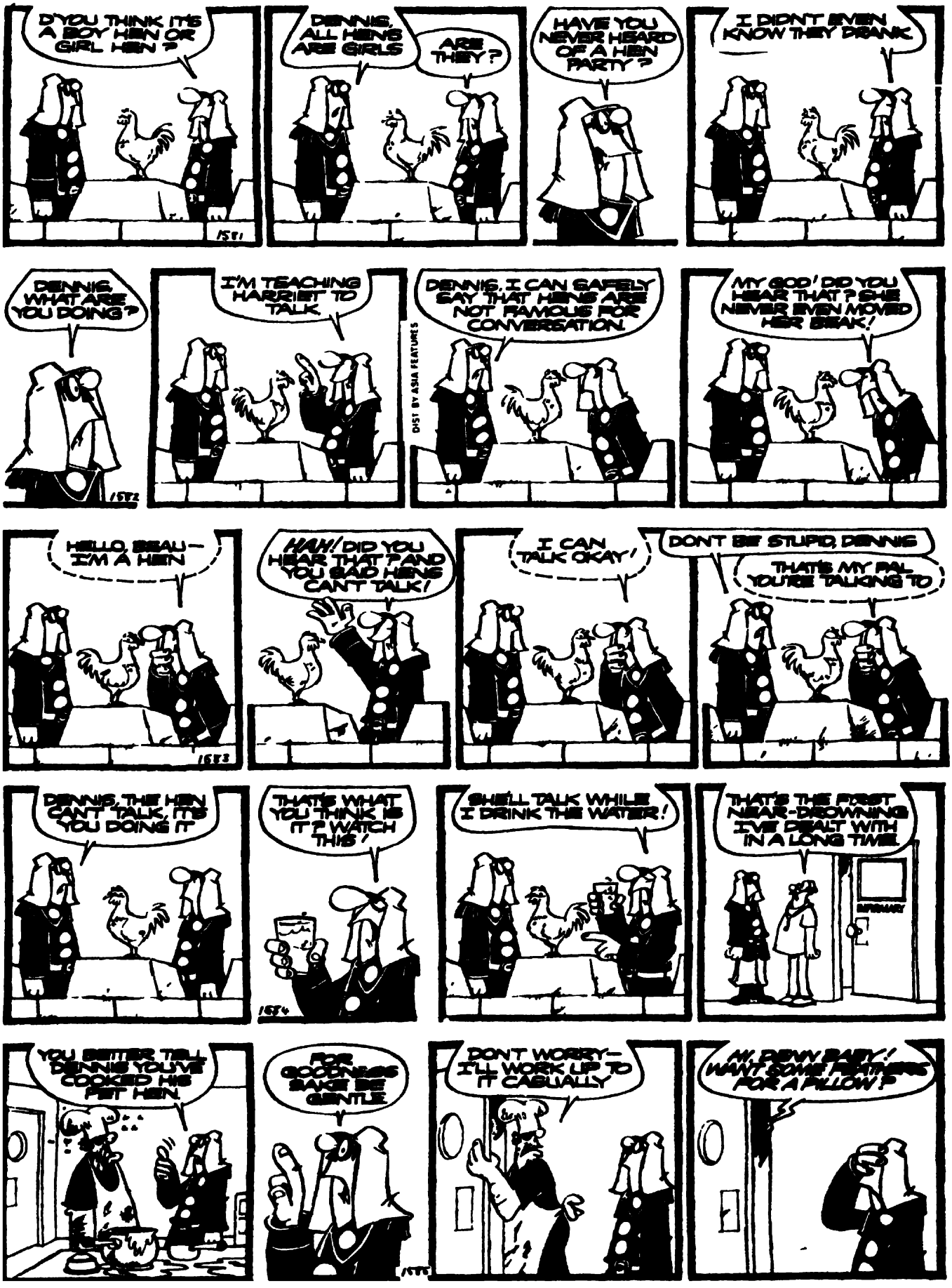


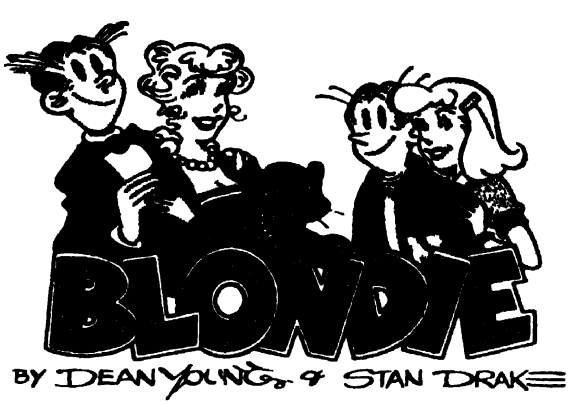
"I'M GOING TO NEED $3,000 FOR MY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION, LEROY ... FOR A FACE LIFT"

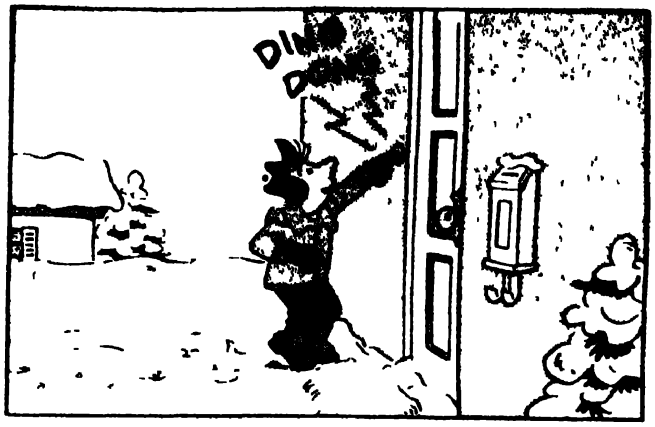
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

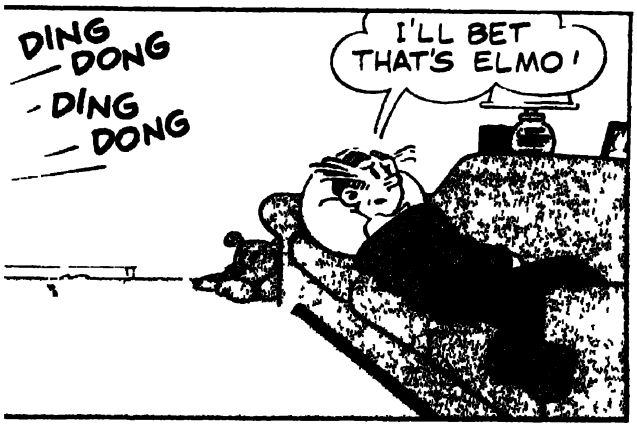


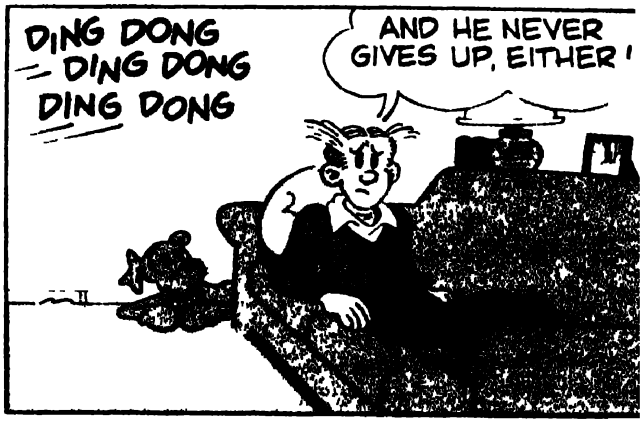
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



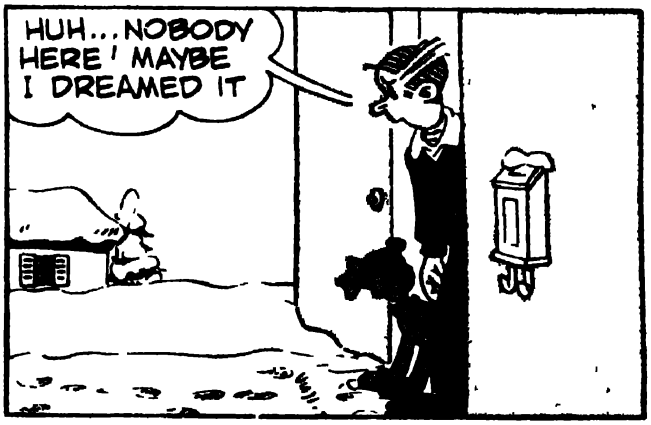


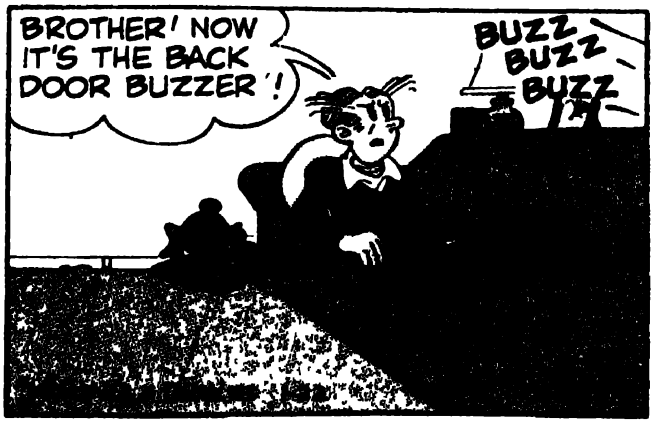














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PIN UP

Moore and Moore

She has that uncanny knack of making stunning 'disclosures' and ones that have left even Hollywood reeling

For Demi Moore, one of celluloid's hottest selling divas, is out to make history, this time, as its highest paid actress

The film, *Striptease*, will pay her no less than a whopping £8 million for peeling her clothes off for the screen

There was a time when Demi Moore had ceased to figure in any casting director's list Her career nosedived with such superflops as *St Elmo's Fire*, *The Seventh Sign* and *We're No Angels*

But her 1990 starrer, *Ghost*, ensured Hollywood's forgiveness, shoving her indiscreet career moves firmly beneath the carpet Her popularity peaked when she appeared nude, all of eight months pregnant, on *Vanity Fair*'s cover



Not one to harbour guilt pangs for her controversial foray, she put in a breathtaking performance in *Indecent Proposal* Demi, and Woody Harelson who played her husband, had to enact some of the hottest scenes ever filmed in Hollywood

It put her in league with the Hollywood trinity of Sharon Stone, Geena Davis and Julia Roberts

Her spate of surprises continued with *Disclosure* which showed Demi playing a high tech boss-babe sexually harassing, and then pointing her finger at, a long-ago boyfriend turned present colleague

Her latest in a series of bold revelations, *Striptease*, where she is negotiating to star, is set in cheap girlie bars A controversy in the feminist camp could get them to carp about the exploitation of women 'or

But the pay packet is irresistible, in fact, double the money Demi got for *Disclosure*!

And if her tantalising striptease acts in the film are any indication, the film's bound to set the huge box-office on fire

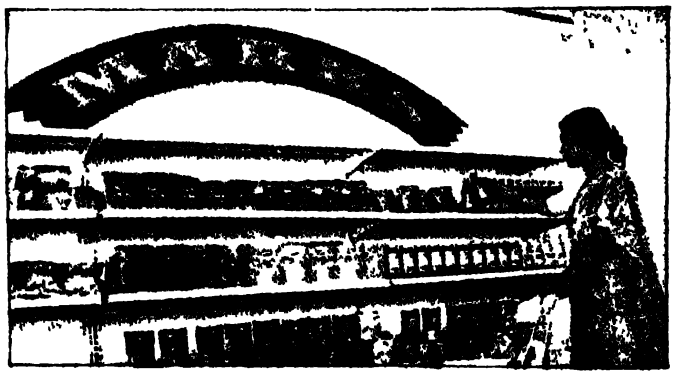
On Your Marks...

If you are the window-gazing sort who would rather fantasise about shopping binges than wading through slushy bazaars and sweaty crowd, Marks Supermarket might make the ordeal less painful

The supermarket style of self-service has circled the globe and is now in Calcutta We had a very diluted version of self service shopping at the government-sponsored *Samavayka* chain

Marks provides a sleek outlet to quick one stop shopping in plush surrounding

The first in the chain is a 4,000 sq ft store near the crossing of Chowringhee and Elgin Road They flung their doors open to Calcuttans on March 22 after Ravi Shastri snipped the ribbon and sliced the inaugural cake The retired cricket-star took time off to explore the supermarket Marks offers a wide range of products from breakfast grub to detergents, from cosmetics and toiletry to fresh fruits and frozen delights — an impressive display of variety and quality



One need not sweat and trundle through cramped stores and resign oneself to the mercy of sullen salespersons Marks provides trollies and baskets, swift elevators, airconditioned ambience, free parking facility and promises 'personal care and attention'

If you can shop in style, pick, choose and buy from a place *where you also pay less* (as they always emphasise) market rate price, and with some gift scheme or the other going, Marks is a shopper's dream-come-true ■

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS



Nell Jodie Foster plays an innocent creature (Nell) raised in the wilderness. She speaks her own lingo and finally helps her new friends who are scientists towards a greater and more philosophical, understanding of the basic facts of life.

This child of nature (remember Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale*?) had been kept hidden by her hermit mother in a faraway Appalachian cabin, and her existence only comes to light when her mother dies.

Liam Neeson and Natasha Richardson play duelling doctors who camp out near Nell's cabin to observe her and fall in love.

At the end of the movie, Jodie makes a courtroom speech which Liam translates as how we all need to look into each others eyes and find more peace and tranquility.

BOOKS

Reado: **The newly done up Oxford Bookstore on Park Street, Calcutta, has now a lot more to offer than just books to the bibliophile. It has, as its latest addition, an art gallery for alternative activities to boot.**

Commemorating its 75th anniversary in February this year, Calcutta's premier bookshop is perhaps the first of its kind in India to incorporate the art gallery to its existing range of services.

There will be photographs, graphics, advertisement posters, calligraphy, sketches, cartoons and sculptures on display which would be launched over the next few years by a series of shows each unique in its own way and upholding a different medium.

The nostalgia of an event 100 years back in time will also be showcased. Add to this, the audio-video section with its grid of nine TV screens!

OXFORD
BOOKSTORE GALLERY

HEALTH

Oil of Olive There is more to olive oil than a pearly glowing skin.

As a mono saturated fat, it has, in times past, been considered healthier for the heart than other saturated fats.

And now, if recent reports are to be believed, olive oil could help reduce the susceptibility to breast cancer.

A survey carried out in Greece revealed that women who had the oil at least once a day reduced the risk of having breast cancer by 25 per cent. *The Journal of the National Cancer Institute* which published the study showed that women who ate fruits and vegetables were also the less likely victims of the killer disease.

LIFESTYLE

Microwave Magic. **Getting fed up with your old cooking range? BPL is here to help those struggling in their kitchens.**

The company has already launched its state-of-the-art cooking systems. They come in two unique models the 37-litre 900 T Micro Convection cooking system and the 26-litre 700 T Microwave cooking system. Sounds complicated? Well, they are versatile and easy to use.

The microwave cooking system can be used for cooking, warming, simmering, baking and defrosting. Thanks to Sanyo technology, they have advanced features like a revolving boomerang turntable, an electronic timer, multistage cooking and many more. This joy of modern cooking is all yours for Rs 13,000.

The model 900 T Micro Convection cooking system has an added facility to circulate hot air inside the oven cavity. It also offers three cooking modes; microwave, convection and combination.

FASHION



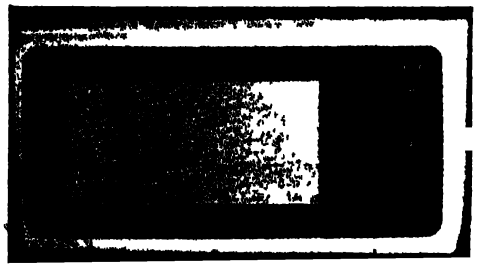
West Side Storey! A touch of boldness is all that's needed to dress evening up this summer.

Very London, very Helen Storey, the *couture* in this season gives the impression of clothes that have been well worn and well loved.

A chequered flag dress with red, green and white boas lends itself to glamour with the addition of dark, glossy lips and sharply scissored hair.

A bare minimum button down, black, silk top with the bold black and white cheques of the ball skirt tops it all.

This dress was designed by Storey during the London Fashion Week at a London underground subway show, recently, featuring leading British designers.



RASOI



JIGGS KALRA



At Delhi Ka Aangan, where we consult, we have been striving to provide to restaurant diners the joys of home cooking. More and more people are dining out more frequently and yearning for food *ma maasoo*.

This column will never forget a discussion that almost degenerated into an argument with one of the nation's senior most not leading' chefs who insisted that when people go out they are looking for only rich, celebratory food. The verdict of the palate has made him eat crow. He's loathe to admit it though. Today, he is constrained to provide lighter food.

The real joy of home cooking is a light effervescent meal that does not make you burp, nor does it burn the taillights on the morning after!

We would like the recipes below to speak for themselves. Our teammates on these *Chefde Cuisine* Rajinder Rana and his deputy, Ilyas Mohammed.

AANGAN KA KHAAS GOSHT

INGREDIENTS

600 g / 1 lb 5 oz leg of Kid / Lamb
8 Kid / Lamb chops (single rib)
75 g / 5 tbs *Desi ghee* (clarified butter)
300 g / 11 oz Onions
Salt
1 litre / 4 1/4 cups clear Kid / Lamb stock
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
10 g / 1 3/4 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
8 Green cardamom
5 Cloves
2 sticks Cinnamon (")
4 5 g / 1 1/2 tsp Coriander powder
3 g / 1 tsp Red chilli powder
2 25 g / 3/4 tsp Turmeric powder
10 g / 4 tsp *Besan*/gramflour
10 ml / 2 tsp Cooking oil
15 g / 1 tsp Cashewnut paste
1/2 Nutmeg
1/2 *Kewra*
2 drops Coriander
2 Green chillies

Serves 4
Preparation time 45 minutes
Cooking time 1 15 hours

PREPARATION

The Kid/Lamb. Clean, debone, wash, pat dry and cut into 1" chunks
The Chops Clean trim, wash and pat dry
The Vegetables Peel, wash and slice onions. Clean, wash and chop coriander. Wash green chillies, halve, deseed and discard the stems
The Yoghurt Whisk in a bowl
The *Besan* Heat oil in a *kadhai/wok*, add the *besan*/gramflour and *bhunno*/stir-fry over medium heat until it emits its unique aroma
The Nutmeg Grate in a bowl

COOKING

Heat *ghee* in a *kandi*/pan, add half the onions, saute over medium heat until light golden, add the meat, *bhunno*/stir-fry over high heat to sear for 2-3

Aangan Ka Khaas Gosht



minutes, add the remaining onions, salt and 120 ml / 1/2 cup of stock, stir add the garlic and ginger pastes, stir, add green cardamom, cloves and cinnamon, stir, add the coriander, red chilli and turmeric powders, *bhunno*/stir-fry until the fat leaves the sides Remove *handi*/pan from heat, stir-in yoghurt, return *handi*/pan to heat and *bhunno*/stir-fry until the liquid evaporates

Then add 120 ml / 1/2 cup of stock and *bhunno*/stir-fry until the liquid evaporates Repeat the process twice more Now add the cooked *besan*/gramflour, stir until fully incorporated, add cashewnut paste, stir until fully incorporated, add nutmeg, stir, add the remaining stock, bring to a boil, add *keora* and remove Cover the *handi*/pan with a lid, seal with *atta* dough,



Dum Ki Khumb

return *handi*/pan to heat and cook on *dum* (over very low heat) for 30 minutes Remove *handi* pan from heat, break the seal, uncover and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE
Remove to a service dish, garnish with coriander and green chillies, serve with ***roomali roti* or *phulka***

DUM KI KHUMB

INGREDIENTS
300 g / 11 oz Button mushrooms
50 g / 1/4 cup *Desi ghee* (clarified butter)
200 g / 7 oz Onions
480 ml / 2 cups Vegetable stock
20 g / 3 1/2 tsp Garlic paste (strained)
20 g / 3 1/2 tsp Ginger paste (strained)
5 Green cardamom
3 Cloves
2 Black cardamom
2 Bay leaves
9 g / 1 tbs Coriander powder
4 5 g / 1 tsp *Kashmiri degh mirch*
3 g / 1 tsp Turmeric powder
200 g / 7 oz Yoghurt
Salt
10 g / 1 tsp *Besan*/Gramflour
10 ml / 2 tsp Butter
30 g / 1 oz Almond paste
1 5 g / 1/2 tsp Green cardamom powder
0 75 g / 1/4 tsp Mace powder
0 5 g / 1 tsp *kasoori methi*

Serves 4
Preparation time 30 minutes
Cooking time 30 minutes

PREPARATION
The Mushrooms: Slice off the earthy base of the stalk and wash just prior to cooking
The Remaining Vegetables: Peel, wash and chop onions
The Yoghurt Whisk in a bowl
The *Besan* Heat oil in a *kadhai*/*wok*, add the *besan*/gramflour and *bhunno*/stir-fry over medium heat until it emits its unique aroma

COOKING
Heat *ghee* in a *handi*/pan, add half the onions, saute over medium heat until light golden, add the remaining onions and 120 ml / 1/2 cup of stock, stir, add the garlic and ginger pastes, stir, add green cardamom, cloves, black cardamom and bay laves, stir, add the coriander, *degh mirch* and turmeric powders, *bhunno*/stir-fry until the fat leaves the sides Remove *handi*/pan from heat, stir in yoghurt, return *handi*/pan to heat add salt and *bhunno*/stir-fry until the liquid evaporates Now add the *besan*/gramflour, stir until fully incorporated, add mushrooms, stir, add almond paste, stir until fully incorporated, add cardamom and mace, stir, add the remaining stock, bring to a boil and remove Cover the *handi*/pan with a lid, seal with *atta* dough, return *handi*/pan to heat and cook on *dum* (over very low heat) for 10 12 minutes Remove *handi*/pan from heat, break the seal, uncover and adjust the seasoning

TO SERVE
Remove to a bowl, crush *kasoori methi* between the palms and sprinkle on top Serve with *phulka* or *tandoori roti*

NOTE All weights are nett, that is post-preparation, and not gross ■

FIRST PERSON

MEGHANA REDDY, *20, is already somewhere at the top of the modelling world, having bagged such prestigious contracts as Vimal and Trupti She also hosts the programme,* Videocon Mangta Hai *on Channel along with Aneesh Trivedi. Meghana is now doing her third-year BCom from Bombay's Sydenham College, because she believes it is "nice to have a basic graduate's degree if you want to study further," though she thinks "commerce was the wrong choice of subject" for her*



What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Finding my soulmate and being in love for the rest of my life Of course, lots of fights must be thrown in, it adds spice

What is your greatest fear?

Darkness, physically getting into a spot out of which I cannot move a single limb, and life without my mother

Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?

My mother and God

What do you dislike most in others?

Dishonesty, mind games

What do you dislike most in yourself?

Laziness, temper, sensitivity, and non-punctuality (bad time management)

What is your most precious possession?

My loo and my high knee boots

What objects do you always carry?

Back-pack containing toilet paper, chocolates, money, cologne, talcum powder, change of underwear and hairbrush

What makes you most depressed?

When I put in my best efforts and things still go wrong

What do you dislike most on your appearance?

My nose and my monkey hairline

What is your favourite word?

Cow (stretched out as in c-o-o-w)

What is your favourite journey?

Into whichever novel I am currently reading It is a trip of its own, very exciting

What is your favourite dream?

To go travelling for two years all over or rather to as many places as I can

What is your nightmare?

The same as my greatest fears - to ever be left idle — I need to WORK

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

That is someone I have not found yet — but I will do, I am sure of it

What is your source of sustenance?

My capacity to say and believe that everything happens for the best and everything is a blessing in disguise

On what occasions do you lie?

Whenever necessary, which, thank God, is not often

What is your greatest regret?

Not realising what I had when I had it, and then, realising what it was all about after it had gone (shrouded in mystery)

What has been your happiest moment?

Every time a good meal is served to me — I love food and most of my thinking moments revolve round it and the next course

What brings tears to your eyes?

Movies that are dramatic and sad really get me going Also P M S [pre-menstrual symptoms]

How do you relax?

Tub of hot water with salts Driving - it is one of the most therapeutic things for me Reading a novel, too

What do you envy most in others?

The layman's ability to do what he wants without other people prying into his affairs

How would you like to be remembered?

When I am 45 years, as someone who started early in life and made her way singlehandedly up the ladder of success (if I do so by then)

How would you like to die?

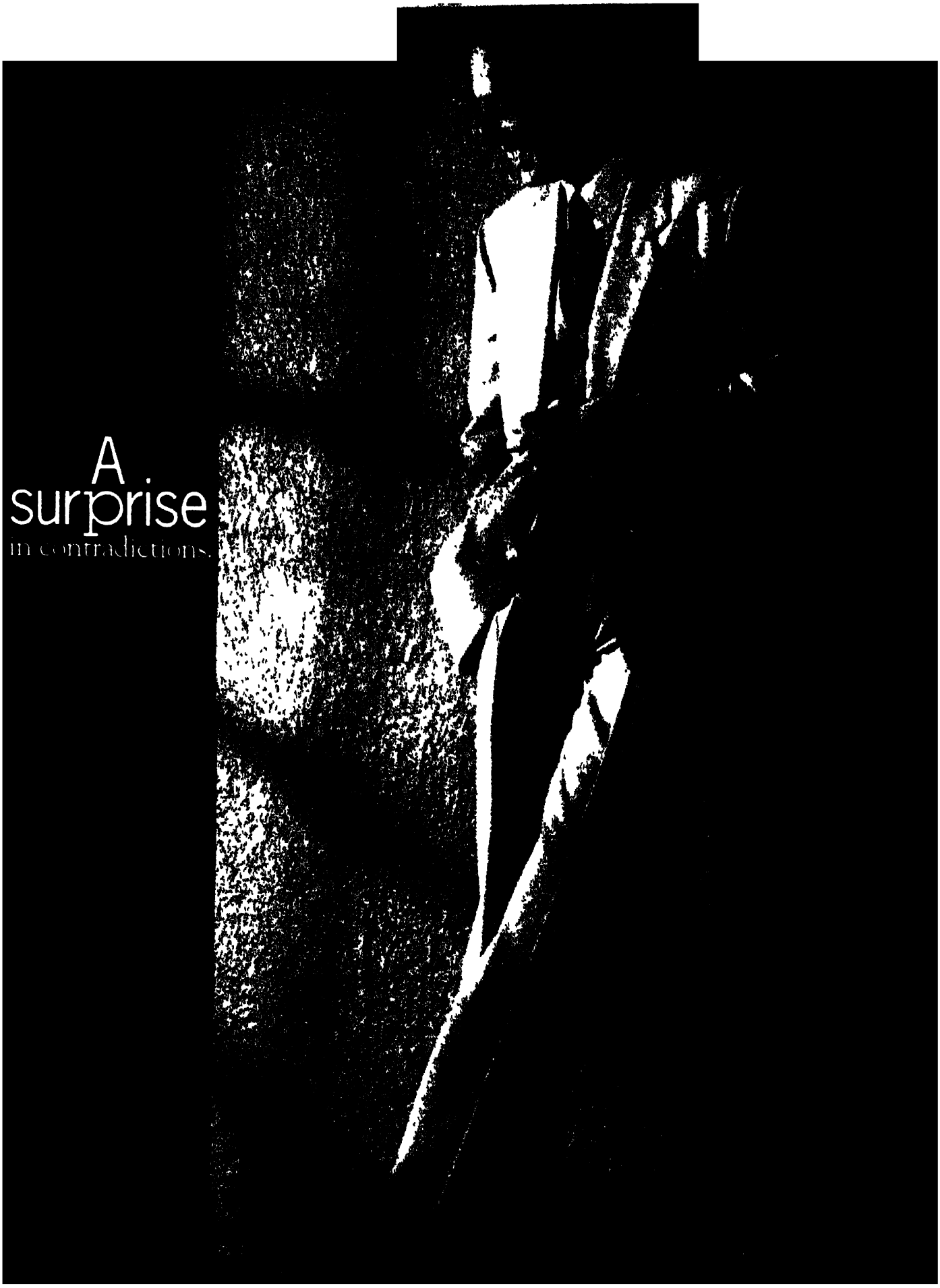
A natural death, peacefully, with no regrets

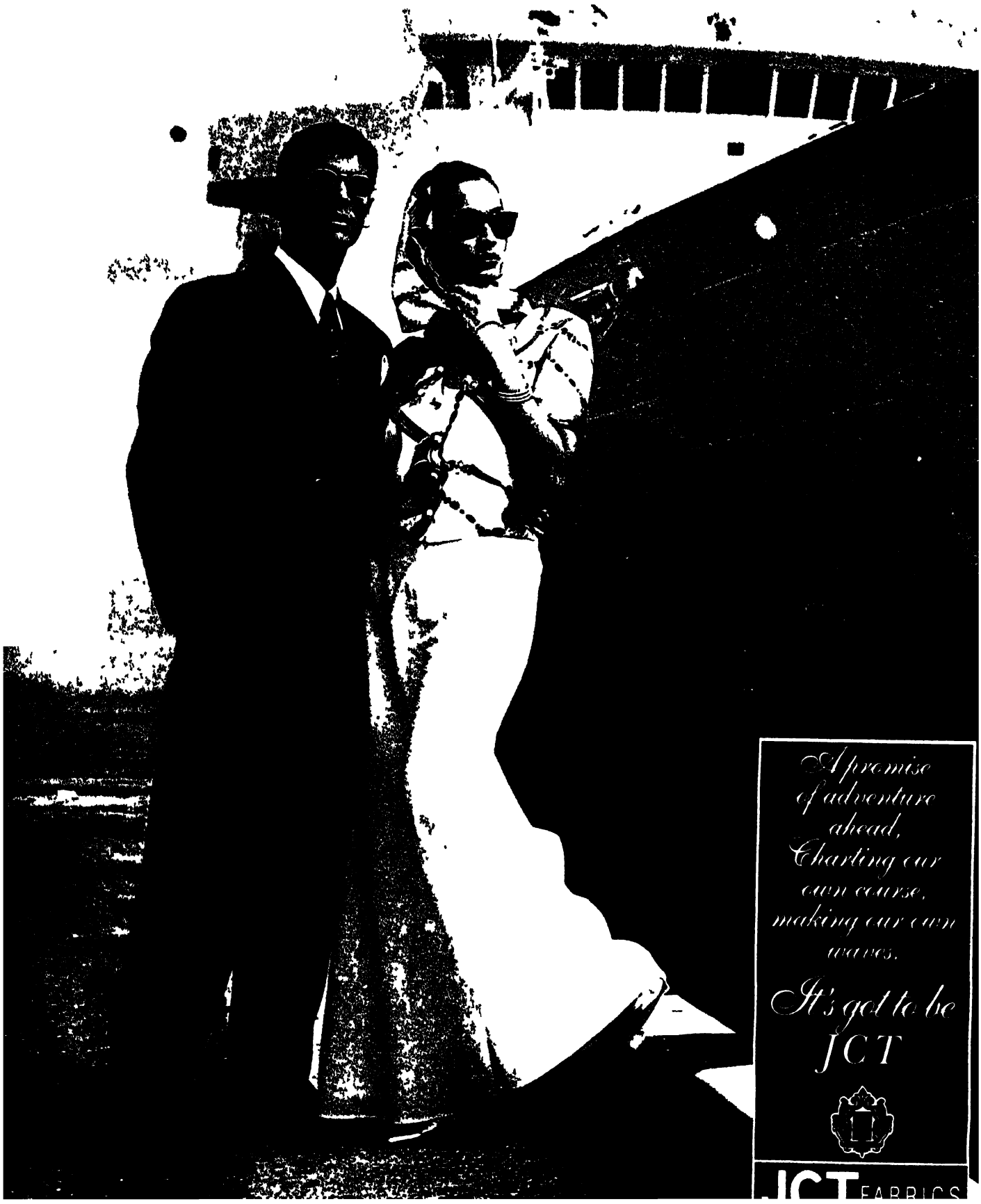
What is your most precious possession?

My loo and my high knee boots

What is your nightmare?

The same as my greatest fears — to ever be left idle — I need to WORK


A
surprise
in contradictions.


A promise
of adventure
ahead,
Charting our
own course,
making our own
waves.
It's got to be
JCT
JCT FABRICS

The Telegraph

23 APRIL 1995

POST MORTEM

Taken For a Ride

■ I wonder if it was a pragmatic decision on India's part to open up its market to foreign cars what with the country already neck-deep in debt ('Here They Are!', March 19)

India imports 55 per cent of its petroleum requirements Although shiny, sleek and smart, these gasoline guzzlers will prove to be a burden on the country's foreign exchange reserves

And diesel cars are more polluting than petrol-driven ones

The domestic automobile industry will now have to rev up, at least, to survive For the days of the Ambassador monopoly are about to be over

Priced at Rs 5 lakh and more, how many Indians can afford these cars? They are good as status symbols for the *nouveau riche*

Sukla Das,
Jamshedpur

■ The Maruti is not that poor a make of car that the Magazine can say, "Throw away that old Ambi or Maruti "

Maruti can compete with any foreign automobile R C Bhargava, the Maruti chief, rightly argues that competition from foreign dealers will not overwhelm Maruti

Arjun Jindal,
Calcutta

■ The cover story was like a colour television set being presented to a famished beggar

Shovanlal Bakshi,
Calcutta

■ In a country where roads are perpetually in a state of disrepair and villages remain alienated from cities because of lack of connecting roads, it is a dichotomy to have elegant Audis and Mercedes swishing past bullock carts and bicycles

What with pollution levels crossing the danger mark in most of the metros, is it advisable to add to the pollution by introducing more cars to the roads?

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore (Orissa)



Prashant Arora

Shobha De: The reason why

■ It is nice to read about foreign cars, which one had so far only dreamed of, would enter the Indian market But how many Indians can afford them?

Panchanana Baskey
Baripada (Orissa)

Science, not Shobha!

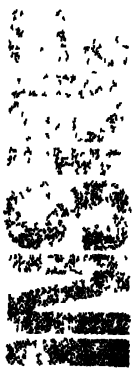
■ It seems the Magazine has assigned itself the task of promoting every book Shobha De pens Very few people had heard of or read Shobha De till the Magazine featured her

On the contrary, it has been ages since you have published a science story on the cover I can assure you there will be more readers for stories on science than Shobha

Biswanath Mukherjee,
Jamshedpur

As you know, we have a weekly Science section called Knowhow which carries the finest stories on science. And they would never use Shobha De, to be sure!
— Editor

Jiggs Kalra's popular column, Rasoi, now appears in the Weekend section on Saturdays





Newsmen Features

PAGE 8

TWO SOCIAL statements Mike Tyson and Sunjay Dutt Tyson has just been released from jail, and people are wondering what he will smash next And how his term behind bars changed him And another kind of change altogether is what Sunjay Dutt is undergoing while still in jail

PAGE 4

WHAT WILL be 'in' this year? Basics, of course

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
19 RUSKIN BOND
20 GILLIAN WRIGHT
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 LIFESTYLE
29 POETRY
30 FIRST PERSON



J J Valaya's designs for 1995

For those that wear will have to be inspired by the back to the basics look. Sumita Chakraborty talks to the designers to find out what the accent will be on

Fashion, like art, is a barometer of social trends and translates all that happens onto clothes. The jungle prints and natural fibres, much in use in the last few seasons are an obvious throwback on growing environmental awareness

Similarly, this season many designers have gone back to the basics Fashions in 1995 will be gentler and easy on the eye and would largely be inspired by the ethnic look.

THIS

Though luxury fabrics — cashmeres, suede, alpaca — will be on display, the accent will be on the traditional fabric — cotton and its variations

From ethnic themes to sportswear fantasies, cotton power will be at its peak Just before his untimely death, India's best known designer, Rohit Khosla, had said somewhat prophetically, "The era of the grand fashion statement is over It is the basic philosophy of life which is changing Skirt lengths and shoulder widths are no longer the issues, it is the start of what is now known as the 'us' decade "

Khosla said that in the Nineties, women would want clothes that suit them during the day and look equally good in the night But the basic demand would be on high quality Dull clothes would be *passe* as Indians become more fashion-conscious than before

Says Ritu Beri, one of the country's top women designers, "A designer must remember clothes are meant to give an identity, not to take over your personality " She believes that the era of power-dressing,

normally associated with yuppies, is now history.

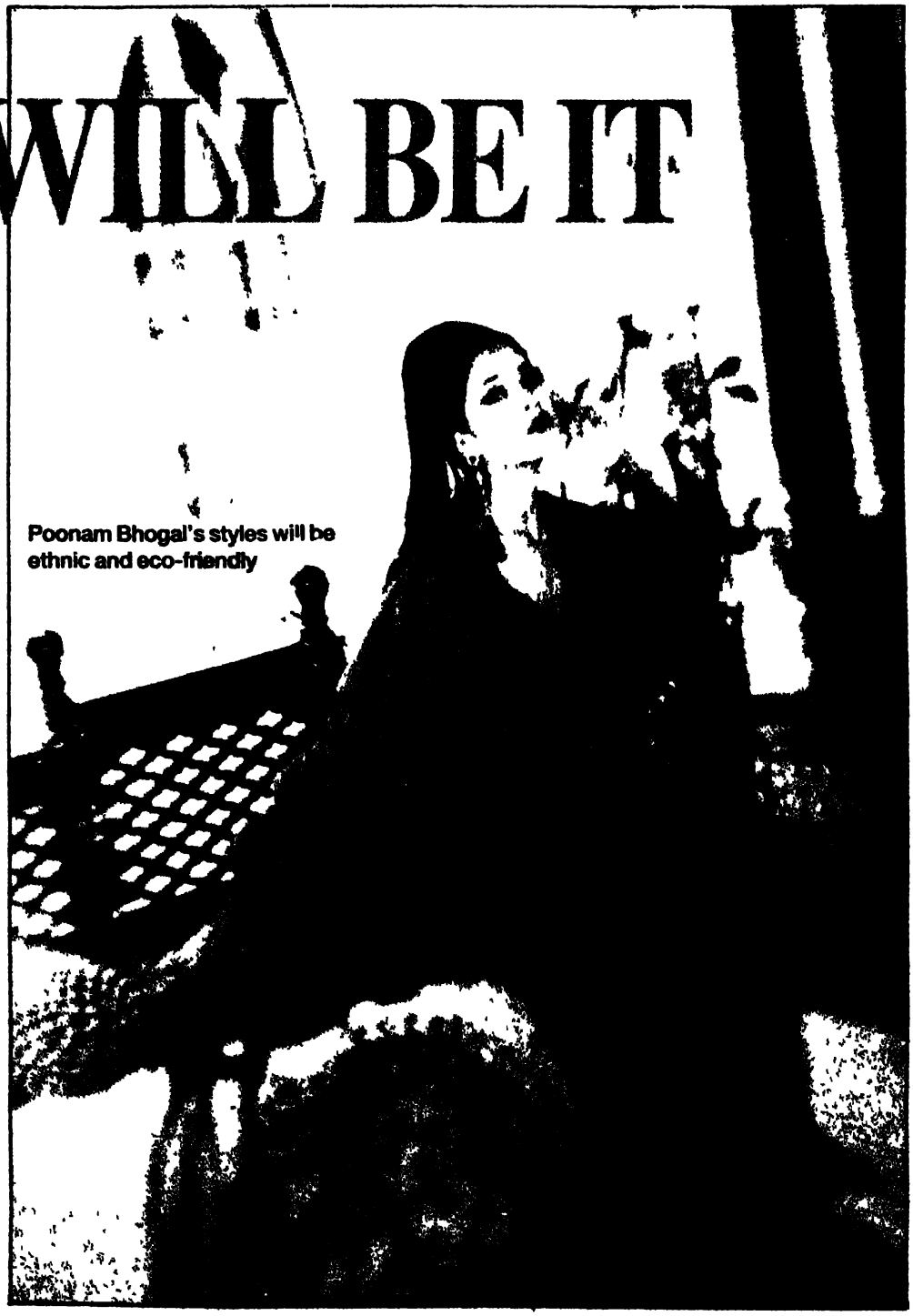
Beri says the coming new year would be the "time for the rust and earthy colours" According to her, 1995 will herald back the demand for the traditional *salwar kameez, ghagras* and jackets for women.

On her part, she is using a lot of fabrics like organza, satins, silks and pure marble cotton. Her clothes in 1995 would wear a mellow or neutral look emphasising clean, straight lines and cuts. Her apparel would have a lot of embroidery and vintage motifs matched with an elegant simplicity.

A number of other designers are turning their sights to simple lines. Rohit Bal, one of India's best known designers, predicts an emphasis on traditional creativity and craftsmanship.

Just before his untimely death, India's best known designer Rohit Khosla had said somewhat prophetically, 'The era of the grand fashion statement is over. It is the basic philosophy of life which is changing. Skirt lengths and shoulder widths are no longer the issues

WILL BE IT



Poonam Bhogal's styles will be ethnic and eco-friendly

Bal's 1995 collections reflect the rich cultural heritage of India which is unique because it is a combination of mysticism and tradition Bal's winter collection is sensual and flowing for the women

The Romance of Romany is a collection of genuine antique shawls and coats from the heart of the desert. Unaltered, untouched classic, silhouettes, exquisite examples of the creativity and craft of the nomadic tribes The worn-over unicolour *angarkhas* provide a perfect foil, thereby, enhancing and offsetting the dazzling beauty of traditional needlecraft

Bal's 1995 menswear collection comprises a range of trendy daywear as also evening suits The classic and contemporary lines in navy blue, steel grey would lend sartorial elegance. The flashy ties would add a playful note for those with a spark of adventure

Bal's Indian collection is based on the timeless beauty of the crafts re-worked in new and unusual treatments. Kalamkari motifs in vegetable dye-prints are his stunning statement for 1995

The age-old craft of Naquashi is re-invented in a shimmering range of clothes that recall the glamour and the romance of the innocent Fifties But it is in his Kashmiri collection that Bal makes a grand fashion statement

In it, he has poured his memories of the lights,



A Ritu Ben creation

sounds, smell and magic of Kashmir "The Kashmir collection is not a return to roots but a clinging to ones roots," he says and adds, "it embodies a certain joy along with a sense of despair It's a collection that has been painstakingly created over months by craftsmen living under desperate situations "

For men the black-grey off-white *bandgala* jackets will be the favourite evening dress in the coming year, he says The golden-silver thread work would add a definite touch of class to the otherwise drab-white cotton shirts

Adds Bal, "Indian fashions will be contemporary, yet classical Simple cuts and traditional values will re-define Indian classicism in the coming decade "

Payal Jain, the up-and-coming designer from Delhi, has created ripples in the country for the Western women's wear According to her, this year would be dictated by the fabric and styling

The new look of 1995 emphasises on "the modest silhouettes, neutrality would dominate the fashion scene," she says.

Payal's collections are variously called, Dream of the Lotus Eaters, Fountain of Joy, Sands of Time and *La Cote d'Azur*. Her designs present a blend of traditional ethnic element along with modernity She's created exquisite waist-coats and jackets for 1995

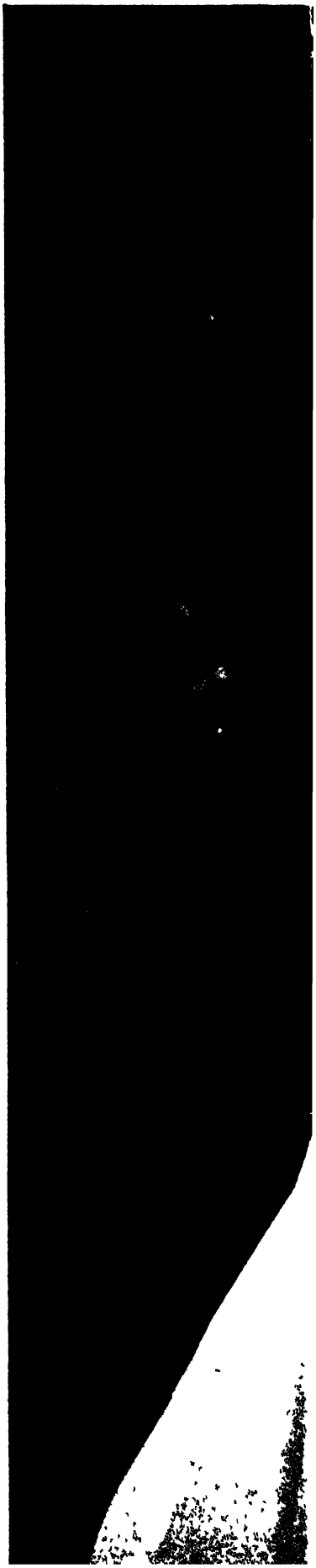
"I have gone for the classic wardrobe that's functional and visually elegant . My jacket colours are earthy rust, maroon and olive-green Simplicity marks all my styles "

If designs are going to be simple cuts spelling elegance, then fabrics will be no different In summer, cotton would be much in demand, with its near-variations running close Most fashion pundits feel that silk also will be extensively used But they feel that silk will be a winter fabric only, and would be in use more in the North where winters are well pronounced

Says a spokesperson for the leading Delhi boutique, Nalini "One is going to see a lot of new variations of the traditional *salwar kameez* in 1995 Subtle sensuality is going to creep into this age-old dress It will be a stunning merger as far as the 'Indian look' dresses are concerned "

Yet another young designer, Poonam Bhogal, says her ethnic style for this winter is in eco-friendly fabrics like cotton, linen and silk-linen blends Long tunics over crushed trousers are her favourites The tunics bearing crusty embroidery and applique work are inspired by the Turkish embellishment

Poonam glides her tails, block-prints and embroideries in order to give shape to her ideas Imagination is





something which one can see in the clothes designed by her. The silks, crepes, tussers and sandwash silk, have vegetable colours splashed in good proportion in the outfits designed by her. Headgear, metallic jewellery, bright yellows, blues and reds are her favourite colours. "These may sound very outlandish but they will not stand out like a sore thumb."

Why have designers switched to simplicity and natural fabrics? For years silk and cotton have been treated as fabrics which lose gloss and shape as the day goes by.

But now with the emphasis more on the cloth itself and creative designs providing elegance, natural fabrics are on their way back. The new-found merger of East and West has opened up a whole new world of fashions for the Indian man and woman.

"It may sound ironical, but the positive attitude of the West towards Indian fashions has suddenly made Indian designers realise that ethnic is chic," says a leading Bombay exporter.

In the last couple of years, the basic buyers of designer clothes have undergone a sudden change. From bored, rich-rich, kitty-party types, the shopper profile has shifted to a result-oriented career women and professional men. And this new genre of buyers want clothes which spell confidence, because in contemporary urban India, confidence is the key to success.

Unlike clothes, accessories would not be influenced by any one era. Tan is the shade this year. Crocodile-finish leather and sheepskin will be in vogue. Block heels and platforms are gradually wearing out and stilettos are the in thing. Even camel leather *mujris* and Rajasthani embroidered *juttis* would be in great demand on the hi-rash jet-set circuit surcharged with traditional glamour.

But, there is hardly any surprise for the conservative middle class or the upwardly mobile Indian male in 1995. The textures are mainly cotton and terry-cot in grey and black.

In apparel, too, according to most fashion retail outlets, it is the loose styles made of lighter stuff which move off the racks the fastest. For summers, it is cotton and khadi, and for winters, it is silk.

For daily wear, men are recommended to go in for thin pin-striped shirts and double-pleated trousers.

But despite fashion trends, the choice of colours depend on personal tastes. Some may like bright hues while others may go for earthen shades.

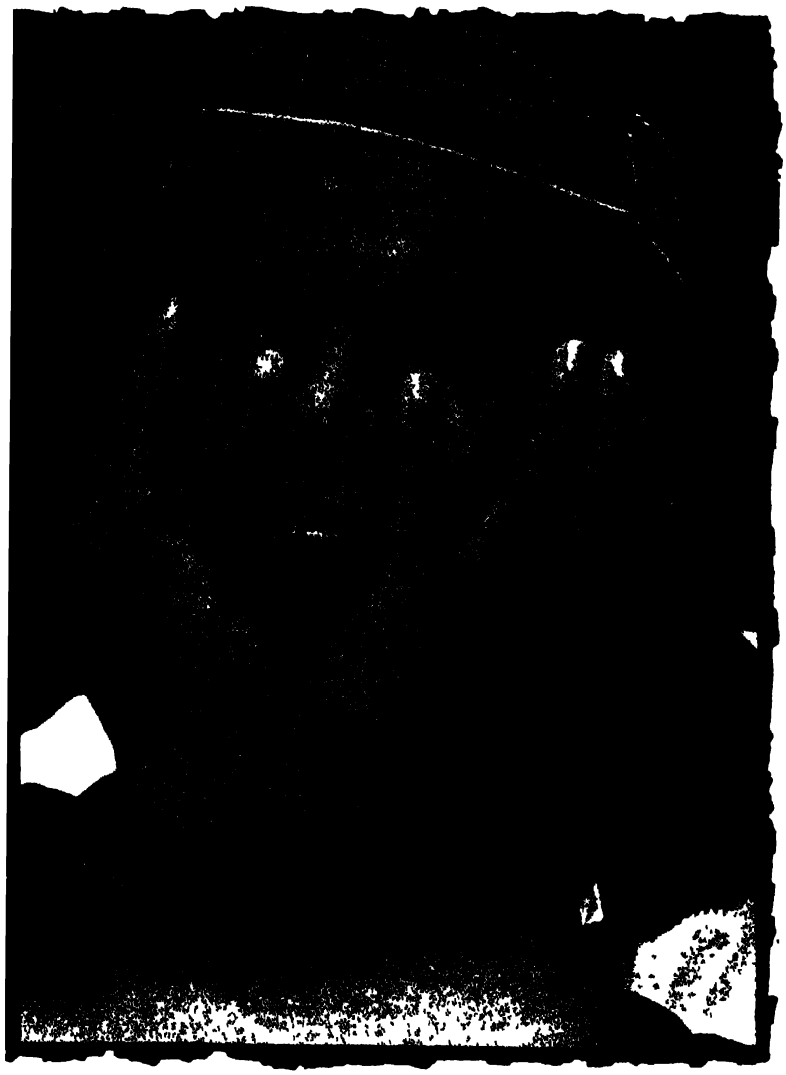
Says J J Valaya. "In the coming year, nothing spectacular will happen and most of the people will see a juxtaposing of clothes where pin-striped shirts with denims and Oxford shoes or cotton shirts and trousers would be as fashionable as the traditional suits."

(*Newsmen Features*)

In the last couple of years, the basic buyers of designer clothes have undergone a sudden change. From bored rich-rich, kitty-party types, the shopper profile has shifted to result-oriented career women and professional men

WHAT THE JAIL CAN DO TO A MAN

His success story appears straight out of an American thriller, his fall, swift and scandalous ***Robin Chatterjee*** *gives a blow-by-blow account of Mike Tyson, the boxer, the rapist and the new man*



ABOUT 15 MILES WEST OF INDIANAPOLIS, State Highway 40 moves through the neon shopping malls and weather-beaten homes in this town of 15,000 It snakes past the old village movie house on main street and Stacey's Cafe, then up a short hill. Suddenly, a narrow metal sign appears.

'Prison Area' it warns, 'Do Not Pick Up Hitchhikers.'

To the left, set back from Moon Road beyond dreary, empty fields in the flat farmland, a high chain-link fence topped with rolls of razor tipped barbed wire surrounds a thick beige-brick building.

'Indiana Department of Corrections,' a rustic sign reads, 'Reception and Diagnostic Center.'

Somewhere inside this correctional centre was Mike Tyson's grey and gloomy cell. A cell that had been his home for the last three years after he had been convicted as a rapist and sentenced to 10 years of prison. A sentence which was subsequently reduced to six years.

During these three years, the fearsome former heavyweight boxing champion of the world went through some of the most humiliating experiences of his life. When he went to jail, Tyson was



Muscle power

was only 25 years old and had the world at his feet

But to the warden and the guards of the correctional centre, he was not even Mike Tyson or the 'Champ' He was first, No 922335, in a blue shirt and blue jeans No 922335 whose swaggering stride irritated some of the guards and possibly a few other inmates

Then the time came for No 922335 to be assigned a prison job and the man who handed out knockout blows was seen behind the kitchen counter wearing a little jacket The champ served other inmates, three times a day

Humiliating

Being constantly counted out by the guards was an added humiliation Counted in his cell Counted to and from work or meals Counted to and from the yard Roll-called as many as 20 or 30 times a day

Besides there was the added frustration of living without money The millions Tyson made was useless here There was nothing to buy except candy, popcorn and potato chips on a once-a-week trip to the snack stand There were no thick steaks No liquor No cars No limos No discos No dates No sign of his former lavish lifestyle

More than anything else, Mike Tyson had to cope with the loneliness of prison Specially at night in the dark solitude of his cell

During the day he tried to keep himself busy Tyson's favourite time of the day was night But over the last three years, Tyson did not party at night Rather, he sat in his cell and took time off to reflect As he admitted, "I learned a lot while I was inside When they turned the lights out in prison, there was time to think back to what happened " To think about why he was there To think what he would do when he was released He thought about his pet pigeons and wondered if they would recognise him

Hell, if only he could watch old boxing films of Jack Johnson or Joe Louis or Sugar Ray Robinson or watch videotapes of his next opponent



Even though he still maintained that he was innocent, it was apparent that Tyson had resigned himself to his fate by deciding to spend quality time in prison. He started by embarking on an astonishing campaign of self-education

That would have to wait It would take some time for things to fall into place for Tyson, since his parole last month And till things sorted themselves out for this 29-year-old, convicted rapist, 'serial buttocks fondler' (Tyson claimed to have slept with 27 women in one night), and alleged sex maniac, No 922335 was going to be Tyson's main opponent

To say that Tyson's main problem is Tyson would be putting it mildly It is a verdict that most psychotherapists in America would not take long in pronouncing Why, even someone as immature as Tyson is not afraid of admitting that he messed up Like when he admitted in an interview to American magazine, *Esquire*, a month before he was released "I didn't even want to go to Indianapolis But I went I'm in town with the best girl (rap artist B Angie B) that everybody wants And I had to get this (jail sentence)

"Why'd I have to do that, huh, man?"

"Why'd I have to do that? I had a girl with me Why'd I have to make that call? Why'd I have to let her (Desiree Washington) come to my room?"

Judging by his statements it would be safe to conclude that Tyson is trying hard to exorcise the demons of his violent and enigmatic past His current admission of repentance reeks of a strong feeling of insecurity

Few people would believe that this was actually the same old arrogant and cocky kid, who, when asked to testify at his own trial, gave a 11-minute rambling statement that was variously defiant, a trifle remorseful and a little resigned

"I'm not here to beg for mercy," he

said "Whatever happens, happens I'm not guilty of this crime, there were no black eyes, no broken ribs When I'm in the ring, I break their ribs, I break their jaws To me that's hurting somebody I expect the worst I don't know if I can deal with it, but I expect the worst"

This statement puts Tyson's personality into perspective For one thing, it reflects his life on the streets, a life that has formed his personality to what it is today and moulded itself along the profession that he chose boxing

Today, Tyson has stepped out of his prison cell and into the civilised world, finding that the spotlight is on him once more But, perhaps, there is a change in attitude A few days after his release, the media harped on the fact that he was a wronged man and was going to extract his pound of flesh from all those who had contributed to turning his world upside down

Everyone thought that Tyson could turn out to be what is known in prison terms as a 'touch off' guy Touch him and he explodes

But contrary to these reports, what emerged on that fateful day on March 25 was a humble, chastened, repentant (though still insecure) Tyson Even though he still maintained that he was innocent, it was apparent that Tyson had resigned himself to his fate by deciding to spend quality time in prison

He started by embarking on an astonishing campaign of self-education And till the day he was released, Tyson proudly claimed to have devoured everything from Machiavelli, Voltaire, Alexander Dumas and the biographies of Mao, Karl Marx, Genghis Khan and Herman Cortes

"I loved Voltaire's *Candide*," he claimed, projecting his new-found intellectual skills like a boxer who has just redefined the upper cut

'That was about the world and how you start out with one thing and end up with another, 'cause the world don't let you do the right thing most of the time"

Tyson also went far enough to identify with Alexander Dumas, aware that the grandmother of the French writer was a Black woman from Haiti

This was a stark personality change for the fighter whose tyranny became commonplace and whose ring victories had become ritual annd uneventful But now he ought to appear more interesting, now that he had portrayed himself to the public as a totally new concept altogether

The laws of marketing are, perhaps, the most flexible and the rules of melodrama still hold And after Mike Tyson finishes airing his new-found priorities to David Letterman, Oprah Winfrey and Donahue, he will be perceived as a totally new product altogether, a highly marketable product

Tyson's 'Second Coming' will not only set the cash registers ringing, he will also be seen as some sort of saviour to the petty and fragmented world of professional boxing And irrespective of whether these bodies unite or not, every boxer will be waiting to have a shot at Tyson, because win or lose, it all translates down to some serious money



With his manager and promoter Don King



Tyson's 'Second Coming' will not only set the cash registers ringing, he will also be seen as some sort of saviour to the petty and fragmented world of professional boxing. And every boxer will be waiting to have a shot at Tyson, because win or lose, it all translates down to some serious money

Tyson, during his highly publicised three years in jail, borrowed emotional support from one Muhammad Sideeq The man who was baptised a 'born again Christian' by Rev Jesse Jackson just months before he went to prison, emerged from his cell as a 'devout' Muslim Sideeq made Tyson believe the deliverance from his problems lay in Islam

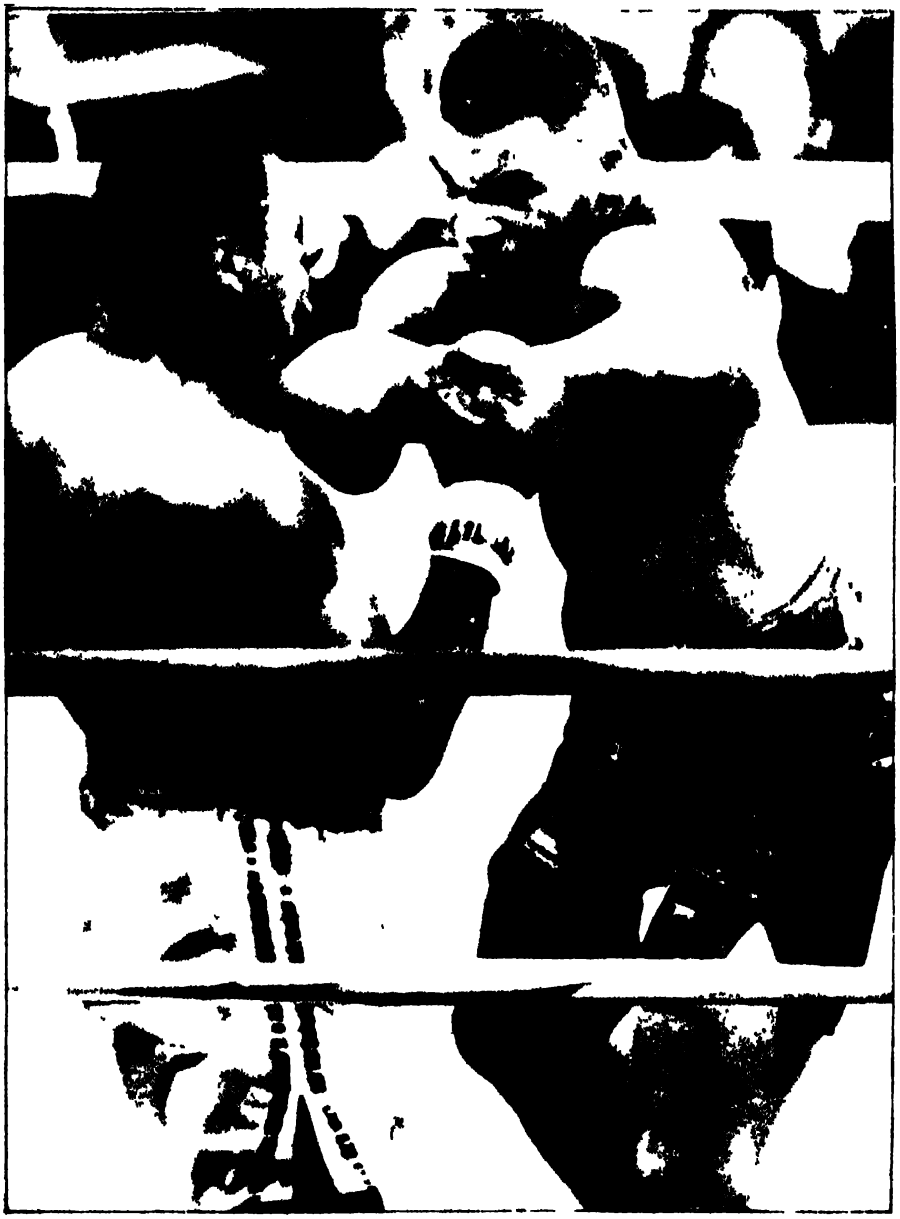
That was the spiritual angle There was another angle the commercial angle Tyson's conversion to Islam had a sort of marquee novelty value Perhaps he thought he could cash in on a bit of sensationalism following the example of a certain Cassius Clay

Let us consider these facts as a case in point with Tyson free, there are intense feeling and great curiosity about him either way This subsequently generates a great deal of interest and could be a catalyst for commercial success Financially, it means phenomenal amounts in prize money, gate receipts and revenues from pay-per-view on TV



Desiree Washington The girl behind the *cause celebre*

Fists of fury



But just what will the public get the second time around? Will Tyson be a watered-down version of Iron Mike Or will he be capable of recapturing his old fury and the laser focus that smashed his opponents?

From the boxing point of view, Tyson is still a young man considering the ages of some of his contenders His disadvantage, however, lies in the methods he has used to pursue his sport Tyson's style was based on strength and quickness, not finesse and reflexes He took boxing from the realms of sweet science to that of an abstract art portrayed by blood and thunder

Keeping his boxing style in mind, one must also accept that Tyson has spent three years of his boxing prime time in prison And it is possible that these three years may have robbed the best of Tyson

They have also taken away his peace of mind and replaced it with a deep sense of insecurity Tyson realises that those cronies and sycophants who filled his mind with a false sense of self-esteem are, today, all gone "I'm mad at a lot of people Where are all those guys I gave Rolex watches and gold rings? Where are these people?"

Friends from the original 'Team Tyson' speak of the former champion as being in a 'mental hole', unhinged by notions of vulnerability To make matters worse for Tyson, promoter Don King, the man he loved and respected, is said to have siphoned off a major portion of Tyson's wealth

It is alleged that members of King's family were paid fees that were charged to Tyson! A fee of $15,000 per fight for several fights to a son in-law, $52,000 a year to King's daughter who was president of the Mike Tyson Fan Club, consultancy fees of $50,000-$100,000 to King's sons and his wife Besides that Tyson bore substantial expenses in the operation of King's business, including a $750,000 deduction for overheads at Don King Productions

And, then, there were the phenomenal expenses that arose out of Tyson's trial But Tyson still illustrates his immaturity by retaining Don King as his manager and promoter

Today, Tyson is mad and intends to get even against society as a whole

and the only way that he can channelise this anger is in the ring "I'm going to kill the first guy who gets in the ring with me Then they'll put me back in jail for murder instead of calling it a boxing contest"

These words reflect not just Tyson's anger, but his inherent fear of the legal system, which he believes will make him pay for any little misdemeanour on his part To add to this, Tyson is not really free he is on parole for the next four years, with an undertaking to put in community service But one thing is for certain one is not going to see Tyson with a blind date for a long time

It is evident that Tyson has no other option but to behave himself If he was just another misguided kid with a lot of aggression and little cash he might not have changed because he would have nothing to lose But the fact is that Tyson has a lot to lose -- more so financially

As it is, the last three years have deprived him of hundreds of millions of dollars and to earn all that back, Tyson will have to fight almost every other boxer who comes his way dangling a heavy purse



Friends from the original 'Team Tyson' speak of the former champion as being in a 'mental hole', unhinged by notions of vulnerability. To make matters worse for Tyson, promoter Don King, the man he loved and respected, is said to have siphoned off a major portion of Tyson's wealth

To get back his respect and his admirers, Tyson has to win his fights and subsequently his money But the Mike Tyson we will see in the ring may not be the 'real thing' It is doubtful whether Tyson will be able to regain his cocky, streetfighter's attitude after the events that have changed his life

The past, for Tyson, was a series of quicksilver moments The present, and his efforts to cope with it, will be a momentous effort

Tinsel town's macho star, Sunjay Dutt, may be guilty, he may not be But the nine months behind bars seem to have crushed him forever, feels ***Vaishali Honawar***

Being led to the TADA court in Bombay



A few days back, newspapers reported a 'breakdown' by Bollywood's little boy lost, Sunjay Dutt, at a court hearing because he could not meet his lady love, model Rhea Pillai, on her birthday

While Sunjay himself denied it the next day, the agency report — fabricated or otherwise — was very much a reflection of how people have come to perceive this man who was once the *numero uno* in the Hindi film world as a broken person Broken by prison

It is not an image new to Dutt Junior The first-born of illustrious parents — the beautiful, gentle-mannered Nargis and the sincere, cultured Sunil Dutt — it would seem that in Sunjay s case, his 'high birth' has been more a liability than an asset as it has kept the spotlight firmly fixed on him and his escapades over his nearly 36 years of life

A dropout from Elphinstone College, Bombay, Sunjay made his debut at 19 as a hero in *Rocky*, a home production that fared badly The lanky Sunjay made news again when it was revealed that the sleepy look that had made many hearts skip a beat was actually induced by brown sugar

The death of his mother shattered him, he was said to be very close to her Indeed, in one of his interviews after Sunjay's arrest, Sunil Dutt was



Tearing down Sunjay's cutout from a cinema hall in Calcutta soon after his arrest

quoted as saying that so "blinded by love was his mother that she could see nothing wrong in her son"

His many affairs with co-stars like Tina Munim, Rati Agnihotri, Kimi Katkar and Madhuri Dixit — with a childlike Sunjay almost always appearing to lean on his women for moral, near-maternal, support — did not do much for him Inevitably, it was the women who walked out on him, hurtling him into a new affair destined to doom

In between came his marriage to actress Richa Sharma and it would have appeared that they were to live happily ever after But shortly after, Richa was diagnosed as having a brain tumour A prolonged period of medical treatment in the US followed and by the end of it even their daughter, Trishala, did not prove to be a bond strong enough to hold them together

To Sunjay's credit, however, he has always bounced back from his problems, no matter how grave, with amazing strength A stint at a rehabilitation centre in the US thankfully took care of his drug problem

As an actor he has proved himself always doing better than in his previous film Despite quite a few disasters at the beginning of his career - he was even written off as an actor and had no films on hand for a year - he went on to give extremely sensitive performances in successful films like *Saajan*, *Khal-Nayak* and *Sadak* which established him as one of tinsel town's best bets

A physical weakling - he was all arms and legs as the gawky Rocky he later made brawn fashionable Described once by choreographer Saroj Khan as a man with two left feet, he went on to become "a capable dancer"

But, as usual, life was not kind to Sunjay for too long No sooner had he reached the coveted number one position and was actually being compared to the Big B, no less, he was arrested in May 1993 under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act for illegal possession of an AK-56 rifle

Once again Sunjay's childish impulsiveness had landed him in a spot, this time a far stickier one than he deserved

The muscles have now disappeared and Sunjay has lost over 20 kgs in jail The man who once loved to dress up now walks around barefoot, with a shaggy beard spoiling a Rs 40-lakh-a-film face

His father has even voiced fears of



Film fraternity solidarity

his son going back to drugs after this harrowing experience "Sunjay used to be a person who could not sit still at one place for a while," says Sunil Dutt "There was a time when he would work out in the gym for two hours a day He cannot do that now and that has harmed his appetite"

Also, he has a lung problem and that, coupled with the tension, is leading to weight loss But, he is quick to add, "Sunjay can adjust to all circumstances He has no airs of stardom A lot of film workers have told me time and again that they never felt, while with him, that he was a star"

Indeed, there is a very generous side to this young man that many will vouch for, from unit hands whom he helped during a harrowing strike to the constables at the jail with whom he shares his sumptuous lunches from his father's Pali Hill bungalow

Sunjay was also one of the driving forces behind the formation of a peace committee after the Bombay riots Perhaps, it was a characteristic of his famous temper that he later went on and said, following his first arrest and subsequent release that "I will never again lift a finger to help anyone in distress"

His nine months in jail since July 1994, however, have mellowed him considerably The man who once said in the wake of a controversy surrounding Anupam Kher that "Anupam Kher only slapped the journalist, I would have shot him," now reads devotional books in jail

Says Sunil Dutt "He is a great devotee of Sri Sai Baba and reads a lot of books on him Also a couple of novels and some comics he loved as a child He also writes letters he receives a lot of fan mail—even letters written in blood, expressing love and faith in him" This helps to keep him going, he adds, along with support from his family who are allowed to meet him twice a week

Sunil Dutt admits that Sunjay is terribly lonely and in a depressed state of mind, "but who wouldn't be, given the circumstances?" "He is an innocent man who is a victim of circumstances If a person has not done anything wrong, he will feel only more frustrated Given his family background, there is no way he could have been involved in something like the bomb blasts, yet today everyone has forgotten about the other people accused in the blasts case It is only Sunjay whose name keeps coming up all the time"

Sunil Dutt, however, is still hopeful about the future, given the fact that "wherever I go in the country, from the Northeast to the south, in Calcutta, Madras, Tiruchirapalli, anywhere people come up to me and express their faith in Sunjay's innocence" This love, he feels, will also sustain his career when he returns to it, "though his career is not what we are worried about at this stage" "As long as people want to know him and love him, he can always make a comeback" ■



Says Sunil Dutt: 'He is a great devotee of Sri Sai Baba and reads a lot of books on him. Also a couple of novels and some comics he loved as a child. He also writes letters...he receives a lot of fan mail—even letters written in blood, expressing love and faith in him.' This helps to keep him going

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



The planets help you to be imaginative and ambitious, so you will be successful and lucky What you do now will have its effect in the coming months A change in your area of work seems inevitable Sail with the tide rather than resist it Trips and ties are on the cards

Taurus

April 21—May 20



This would be a good time to switch jobs, ask for help and favours Get your house renovated and decorated This is also a week when you can plan a campaign, sign a major contract, take a major decision, or go for a major lease There is a lot of hard work to be done

Gemini

May 21—June 20



This would be a great time to make pots of money, bag contracts and assignments You will not have to strive hard for either of these things It is also a phase for launching out in style News of an exciting sort will reach you shortly You could both work hard and socialise extensively

Cancer

June 21—July 20



It would be best to get on with publicity, travel, contracts and communication Expenses will be heavy, but, nonetheless necessary This is an action-packed week for you Your suspicions will prove right Do get in touch with people to further your goals

Leo

July 21—August 21



Matters of the mind work out smoothly for you this week Business collaborations will be highlighted and the scales will swing in your favour Use your contacts with discretion This would be the time to enjoy life as also to get work done Some of you will be preparing for a journey

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Fine formation of planets will favour research, education, hobbies, sports, childbirth and romance There will be a lot of pending work which you will have to handle Funds, buying, selling and investment are of the utmost importance Make plans for the future

Libra

September 23—October 22



As the planets connect in a happy way finances and a sense of well-being come together in the coming days There will be ample scope for love Your work too will take up a large part of your time Friends and colleagues reach out to you making you feel good You can take risks

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



The New Moon signifies trips and ties, conferences, meets or a new line of work You will form close associations with people who matter and that will be a permanent one In matrimony, it is time to make a decision A shift or a possible house-warming is possible

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



The importance will be on loans funds, selling buying, and investments Plenty of movement for Sagittarians now are foreseen Much can, and should be achieved in the coming months Friends will reach out to you making you feel good

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



The call of distant places and greener pastures will be irresistible Additions to the family are more than possible Things begin to happen fast and that should include both romance and finances This week could present opportunities galore The homefront brings joy

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



This a week when you can register gains There is a lot happening in terms of buying selling, renovation decoration and investments There will however, be time to socialise annd cultivate a hobby Your family members will be very pleased with you

Pisces

February 19—March 20



This is the week when long-distance connections are bound to take up a lot of your time Meetings ties and conferences are also foretold You could be asked to help out a person in dire need Trips ties and social activities take up a lot of your time Do give some attention to pending work

BIRTHDAYS

April 23: This is the time to move courageously and take what you want Travel seems strongly indicated for the footloose and fancyfree

April 24: There will be planning and performance on your part this birthyear It is a year when you should take chances and make changes

April 25: There are ample opportunities in store for you both in the sphere of work as well as property This is also a favourable time for creative people

April 26: There is no reason why you should not be doing well this year Those who are involved in teaching, finances and research fulfill their aims

April 27: The conjunction of planets promise glory and joy Success, be it in marriage, health or work, are positively assured Trips are indicated

April 28: Intuition, inspiration and luck will be at your disposal So just relax and take things easily this year Cultivate friends

April 29: You will have the drive to move ahead in matters related to property, job, children, romance and in matters related to the work front

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

■ AGARTALA

Departures Flt No	Time	Days	Arrivals Flt No	Time	Days
IC 741	0710	3 5	IC 742	0940	3 5
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5 7

■ AIZAWL

PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7

■ BAGDOGRA

PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3
IC 721	1300	1 3 5	IC 722	1540	1 3 5

■ BANGALORE

IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily

■ BHUBANESWAR

IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5

■ BOMBAY

IC 676	0640	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	2035	6	IC 274	2050	daily
AI 681	2350	1			

■ DELHI

			S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 263	0700	daily	IC 262	0815	2 4 7
S2 026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0950	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1110	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1745	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
IC 261	1900	2 4 7	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
S2 006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2110	daily

■ DIBRUGARH

PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
IC 703	0800	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	IC 702	1630	2 4 6 7
4S 815	1150	1 2 3 4 5 6	4S 816	1710	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 701	1240	2 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5

■ DIMAPUR

IC 257	1150	4 7	IC 258	1650	4 7

■ GUWAHATI

PF 735	0730	1	IC 711	1410	2 6
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 708	1430	1 4 7
IC 703	0800	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
IC 707	0800	1 4 7	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
IC 711	0800	2 6	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	IC 230	1650	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1710	1 2 3 4 5 6
4S 815	1150	1 2 3 4 5 6	PF 736	1730	1

Departures Flt No	Time	Days	Arrivals Flt No	Time	Days
IC 257	1150	4 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 258	1740	4 7
IC 229	1310	daily	IC 212	1740	4 6

■ HYDERABAD

S2 023	1045	1 3,5	S2 024	1525	1 3 5
IC 777	1600	2 4 7	IC 778	2100	2 4 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5

■ IMPHAL

IC 707	0800	1 4 7	IC 256	1320	3 5
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC 708	1430	1 4 7
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2 6

■ JORHAT

IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC 213	1315	2 4 7

■ LILABARI

PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

■ LUCKNOW

IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5

■ MADRAS

IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2-172	1740	daily	IC 766	2220	daily

■ NAGPUR

IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5

■ PATNA

IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5

■ PORT BLAIR

IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC-286	1100	2 4 6

■ RANCHI

IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7

■ SHILLONG

PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7

■ SILCHAR

IC 255	0830	3 5	IC 260	1110	1 7
IC 259	0830	1 7	IC 256	1320	3 5
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2 6
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 212	1740	4 6

■ TEZPUR

IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC 213	1315	2 4 7

■ TEZU

PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5

■ VARANASI

S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5

■ VISHAKHAPATNAM

IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5

■ ZIRO

PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

■ AMMAN

RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4

■ AMSTERDAM

KL 876	0420	7	KL 875	0235	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
IC-731	0655	2 4, 6, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3 6	IC-732	1505	2 4, 6 7
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2 3 6 7	BG-091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 2 3 5 6	IC-724	1520	1 2 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2, 3, 5, 6 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
IC-747	1115	1, 3 5	IC-748	1455	1, 3, 5
RA 214	1815	1 4	RA-213	1715	1 4
LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA 143	1525	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
PARIS					
KB 106	1200	3	KB 105	1040	2 6
KB 106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ-415	2345	2 5	SQ-416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	[illegible]	4006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	4004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun		
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun		
		Rajdhani Express via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Su Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 15	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 15	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 56	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun		
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 45	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	7 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	1 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	13 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	1 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	1 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
	11 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	11 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly**	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Vishakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Vishkhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	11 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

OLD WALL CHARM

It is time to confess that at least half my life has been spent in idleness My old school would not be proud of me Nor would my Aunt Muriel

"You spend most of your time sitting on that wall, doing nothing," scolded Aunt Muriel, when I was seven or eight "Are you thinking about something?"

"No, Aunt Muriel "

"Are you dreaming?"

"I'm awake "

"Then what on earth are you doing there?"

"Nothing, Aunt Muriel "

"He'll come to no good,' she warned the world at large He'll spend all his life sitting on walls, doing nothing "

And how right she proved to be! Sometimes I bestir myself, and bang out a few sentences on my old typewriter, but most of the time I'm still sitting on that wall, preferably in the winter sunshine Thinking? Not very deeply Dreaming? But I've grown too old to dream Meditation, perhaps That's been fashionable for some time But it isn't that either Contemplation might come closer to the mark

Was I born with a silver spoon in my mouth that I could afford to sit in the sun for hours, doing nothing? Far from it, I was born poor and remained poor, as far as worldly riches went But one has to eat and pay the rent And there have been others to feed too So I have to admit that between long bouts of idleness there have been short bursts of creativity My typewriter, after more than 30 years of loyal service, has finally collapsed, proof enough that it has not lain idle all this time

Sitting on walls, apparently doing nothing, has always been my favourite form of inactivity But for these walls, and the many idle hours I have spent upon them, I would not have written even a fraction of the hundreds of stories, essays and other diversions that have been banged out on the typewriter over the years It is not the walls themselves that set me off or give me ideas, but a personal view of the world that I receive from sitting there

Creative idleness, you could call it A receptivity to the world around me — the breeze, the warmth of the old stone, the lizard on the rock, a raindrop on a blade of grass — these and other impressions impinge upon me as I sit in that passive, benign condition that makes people smile tolerantly at me as they pass

"Eccentric writer," they remark to each other, as they drive on, hurrying in a heat of hope, towards the pot of gold at the end of their personal rainbows

It's true that I am eccentric in many ways, and old walls bring out the essence of my eccentricity

I do not have a garden wall This shaky tumbledown house in the hills is perched directly above a motorable road, making me both accessible and vulnerable to casual callers of all kinds — inquisitive tourists, local busybodies, schoolgirls with their poems, hawkers selling candyfloss, itinerant sadhus, scrap merchants, potential Nobel Prize winners

Sitting on walls, apparently doing nothing, has always been my favourite form of inactivity. But for these walls, and the many idle hours I have spent upon them, I would not have written even a fraction of the hundreds of stories, essays and other diversions that have been banged out on the typewriter over the years

To escape them, and to set my thoughts in order, I walk a little way up the road, cross it and sit down on a parapet wall overlooking the Woodstock spur Here, partially shaded by an overhanging oak, I am usually left alone I look suitably down and out, shabbily dressed, a complete nonentity — not the sort of person you would want to be seen talking to!

Stray dogs sometimes join me here Having been a stray dog myself at various periods of my life, I can empathise with these friendly vagabonds of the road Far more intelligent than your in-bred Pom or Peke, they let me know by their silent companionship that they are on the same wave-length They sport about on the road, but do not yap at all and sundry

Left to myself on the wall, I am soon in the throes of composing a story or essay or poem I do not write it down - that can be done later — I just work it out in my mind, memorise my words, so to speak, and keep them stored up for my next writing session

Occasionally, a car will stop, and someone I know will tick his head out and say, "No work today, Mr Bond? How I envy you! Not a care in the world!"

I travel back in time some 50 years to Aunt Muriel asking me the same question The years melt away, and I am a child again, sitting on the garden wall, doing nothing

"Don't you get bored sitting there?" asks the latest passing motorist, who has one of those half beards which are in vogue with TV newsreaders "What are you doing?"

"Nothing, aunty," I reply

He gives me a long hard stare

"You must be dreaming Don't you recognise me?"

"Yes, Aunt Muriel "

He shakes his head sadly, steps on the gas, and goes roaring up the hill in a cloud of dust

"Poor old Bond," he tells his friends over evening cocktails "Must be going round the bend This morning he called me aunty "

(Sanctuary Features)

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

LURE OF LUCRE

The satirist Shrilal Shukla once cruelly defined the north Indian male as someone who could always find a *paan* and a place to play lottery Over vast areas of the north the debris of spent lottery tickets litter the roadsides In Shrilal's home city of Lucknow they represent chances for dreams to come true

At the crossing of Ashok Road with Hazratganj, in the very heart of the city, hopeful young men in shaggy sweaters, looking rather like wild teddy bears, crowd round notices advertising government jobs They pour over copies of *Employment Digest* bought from the street hawkers, who sharply rebuke them when they try to look through other papers called *Money and Economics Chetna* for free

Vendors sell forms for government jobs — IAS, PCS, inter-college, railway board, the post office, intelligence bureau and even Himachal forestry where a cashier's job fetches the princely salary of Rs 1,550 a month

Just up the road these wannabe *babus* can see what joys money can buy Shiny motorcycles stand outside the showroom, the most impressive — the gleaming black Suzuki Samurai — priced at Rs 35,000 Beyond the neighbouring booze shop the lottery litter of *paan* stain, torn tickets begins — the Jai Vishnu, daily Maruti Express, Chetak Daily Morning Shortcuts to the Suzuki Samurai

For many they are shortcuts to many empty pockets, but the dapper man in a brown suit leaning on the counter of the largest lottery stall did not look like a loser He would not have been out of place at a mid-week race meeting anywhere in Britain, and he was studying the results in the Chetna lottery paper just as a betting man in Britain would study horses' form in *The Sporting Life*

In Britain racing is the sport of kings — and the gambling which goes with it Lottery for the man in the brown suit was something similar

"I always win," he told me with enthusiasm, "because I have a scientific method I play for the last figure, and bet either on odds or evens " I looked blank and he patiently explained, "When the winning number is drawn, and your ticket has the same last number as the winning number you win something Now, see this lottery I have just won Each ticket costs five rupees and if your last number is correct you win Rs 40 I bought 10 tickets each ending in 0, 2, 4, 6 and 8 which gives me 50 per cent chance of winning I invested Rs 250 — my number came up and I won Rs 400 "

"But do others have such a system?"

"No, they play on lucky numbers — superstition, of what the Chetna says is the number of the day Ninety-five per cent of the people lose "

The man in the brown suit returned to his paper, the sellers were getting ready to receive the phone-call from the UP state lottery office in Indiranagar which would give them the result of the 3 30 pm lottery, and the punters were hoping for a win

My eyes were attracted to a scrap of paper fixed on a stall beside wads of tickets for private lotteries the results of which came through daily at regualr intervals between 0900 and 1800 The paper read, "Lottery is gambling Don't buy these tickets "

The stall owner was a small man with a loud voice and a gift of oratory When I began to speak to him he harangued the crowd of gamblers around him "What I say, " he shouted, "is that these private lotteries are destroying people They are growing lazy, *aalsi, kahil and susth*! Am I saying anything but the truth?" He asked the crowd of lazy, *aalsi, kahil, susth* gamblers "No, " they replied in subdued voices

"I have been in this business for 30 years and I can tell you it wasn't like this in 1969 when the first state lottery results were announced in the Governor's house! Then it was once every three months Now it's all through the day Lottery should be held every lunchtime only, so that people will get on and do some work

"The trouble I have," he went on, "they fight, they run off with wads of tickets when your back is turned And they don't win Who wins? The main agents, the stockists The men in air-conditioned offices from where we take the tickets They earn lakhs every day "

Even if you win, greed makes life difficult Tara Chand was a peon before he won Rs 80,000 and he is a peon now He dreamed of opening a shop but his relatives got wind of his luck and went after him to share it It was a state lottery — private lotteries in UP don't generally offer more than Rs 5,000 as first prize — and the state takes months to pay out

People want ready money and go to an agent or anyone who wants to convert black money into white

Tara Chand's relatives nagged at him until his "mind didn't work" They gave his ticket to an agent who took Rs 30,000, his relatives pocketed Rs 10,000 more and left him with just enough for clothes for his wedding

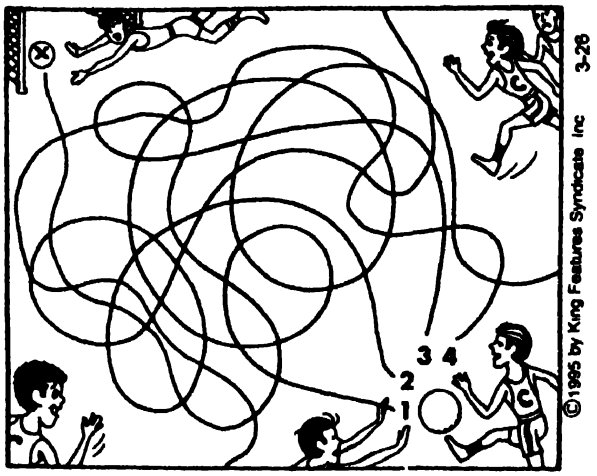
But most people Tara Chand sees never win at all "Then when they lose, their mood goes bad and they turn to drink " Even the man in the brown suit had known men who had committed suicide

Then there are young women like Suman, who is trying to rebuild her life along with her young child She has taken refuge in a women's shelter Her husband is an unemployed lottery addict in Benaras He drained the family of cash, and her mother-in-law and sister-in-law in the village beat her, asking what she brought in that they should feed her They even refused her infant child milk She ran away from home and her parents asked her why she had not died rather than leave her *sasural* "I told them," she said "what have I done? Why don't you go and find him? Was it me that ruined our lives with lottery?"

(Sanctuary Features)

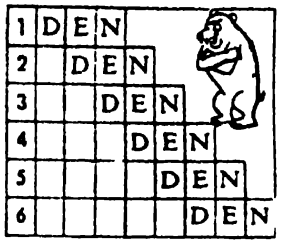
JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



NEW RESULTS! Which route does the ball take to reach the net? Choose 1, 2, 3 or 4, and see if you guessed right.

WEATHER WORDS! Find weather words — warm, windy, rainy and clear — among consecutive letters 1 Sally bought a new armchair 2 Edwin dyed his hair 3 Al met Sara in Youngstown 4 We all read the article Arty wrote



STEP BY STEP DEN WORDS

HOW quickly can you fill blanks above with appropriate DEN words?

Let's see

Definitions of six words with letters DEN in stepped off progression are as follows

1 Bear's digs (DEN, in place)
2 Adam and Eve's garden spot
3 Add another lane to a highway, for instance
4 Summerall's TV broadcast sidekick
5 Add to the general joy of things
6 Free oneself from a heavy care

Try to adhere to a two minute limit

1 Den 2 Eden 3 Widen 4 Madden 5 Glad den 6 Unburden

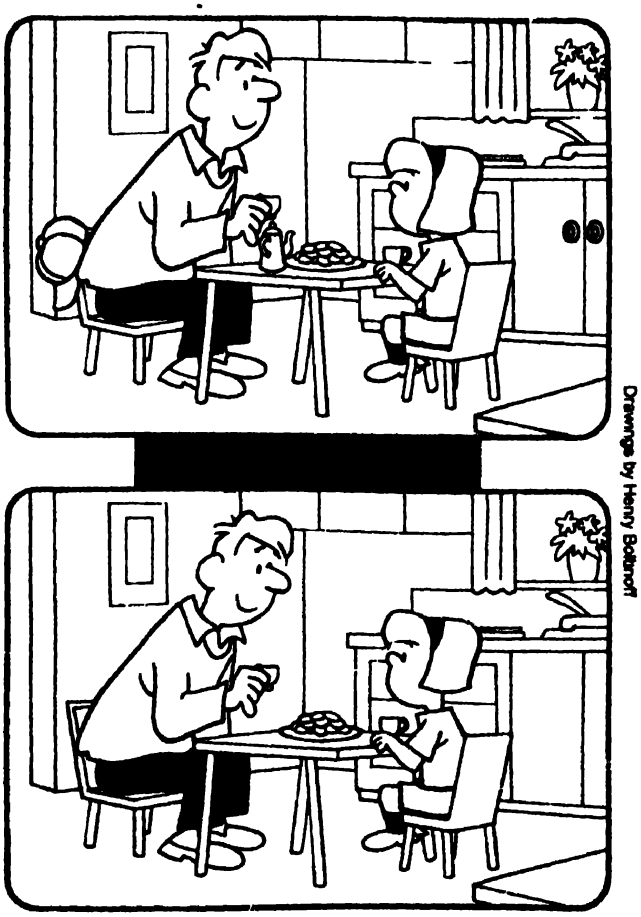
SUM LUCK! Alas, the simple magic number square shown below is missing five of its numbers. These missing numbers — 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 — are required to produce a total of 15 in all directions — across, down and diagonally. How quickly can you put them in place?

P.S. In ancient times, we are told, this simple magic number square was deemed to have mystical powers, and was engraved on lucky charms.

Top down, from 492 through 816 will do it

	9	
3		7
	1	

HOCUS-FOCUS

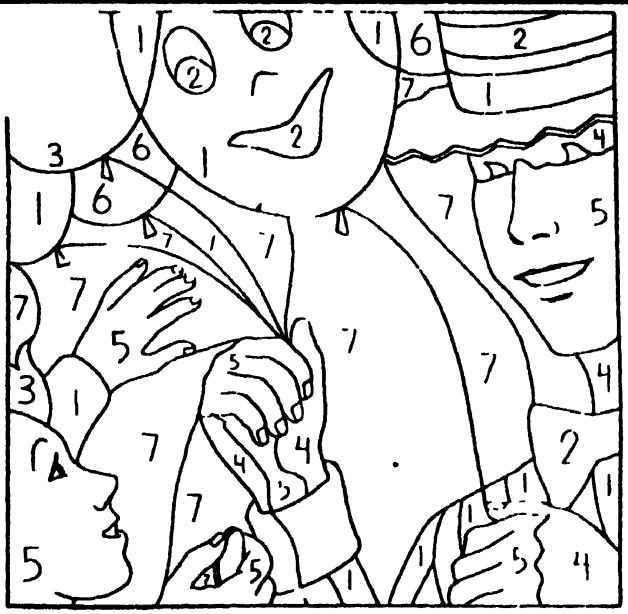


Drawings by Henry Boltinoff

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1 Cap is missing. 2 Head is moved. 3 Teapot is missing. 4 Hair is different. 5 Curtain is smaller. 6 Cabinet knobs are missing.

FUNSPOT



ON HOLD! What time does the balloon go up? Right now, son, if you don't hang on. Color code. 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Dk. green. 7—Lt. purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

OUTSHINE

- - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

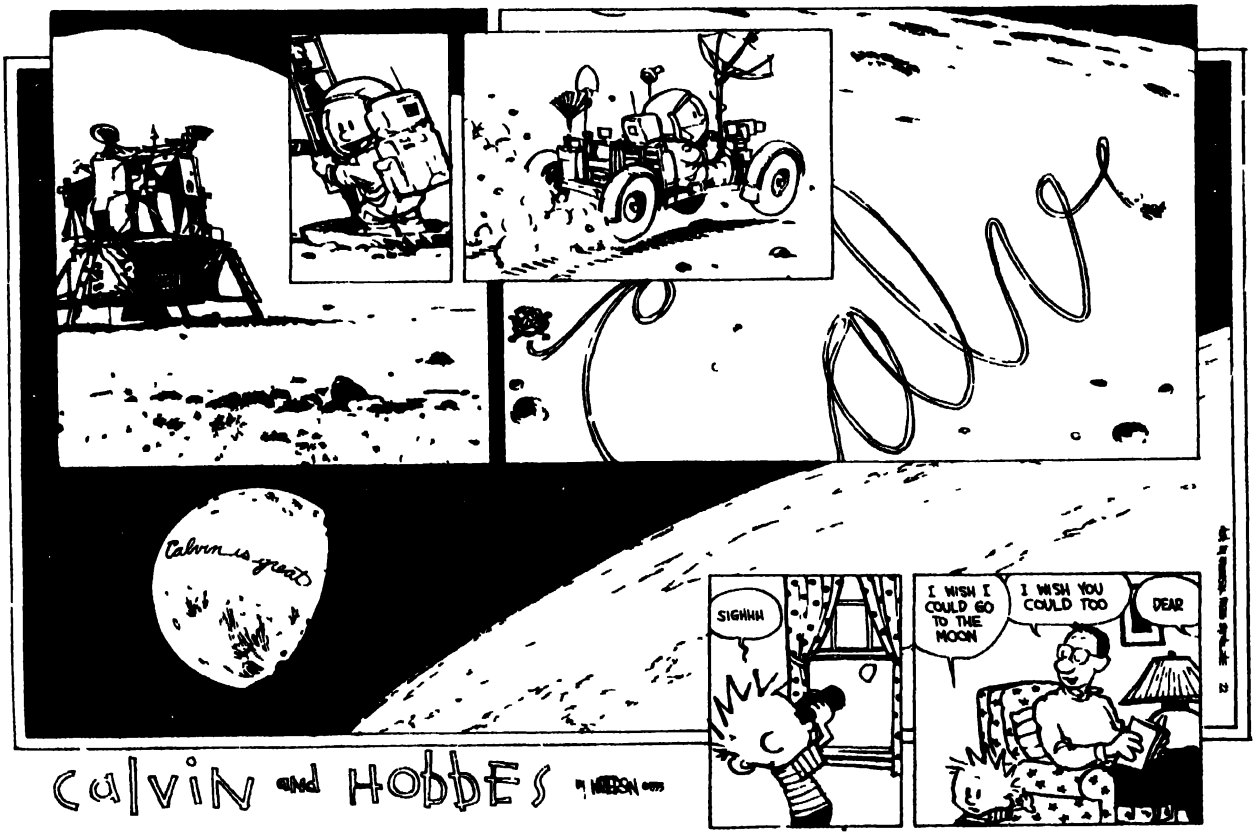
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome: Hone, sulk

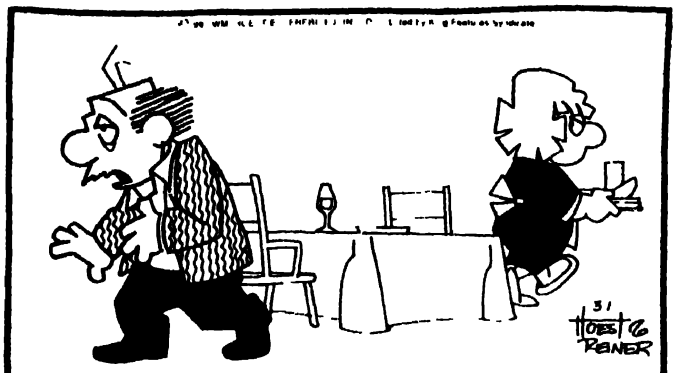
ARCHIE



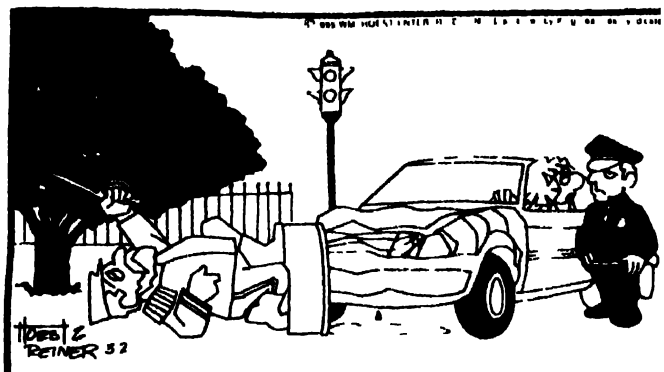
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



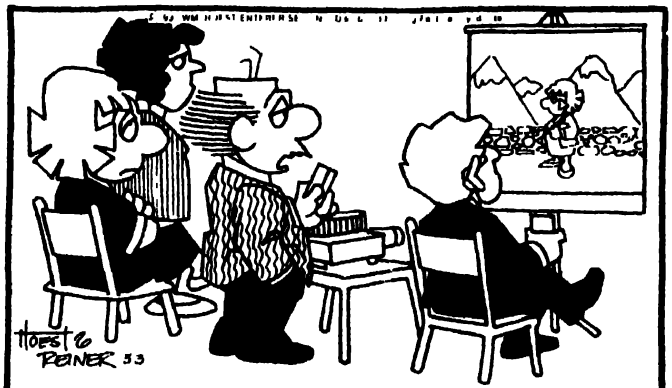
THE LOCKHORNS



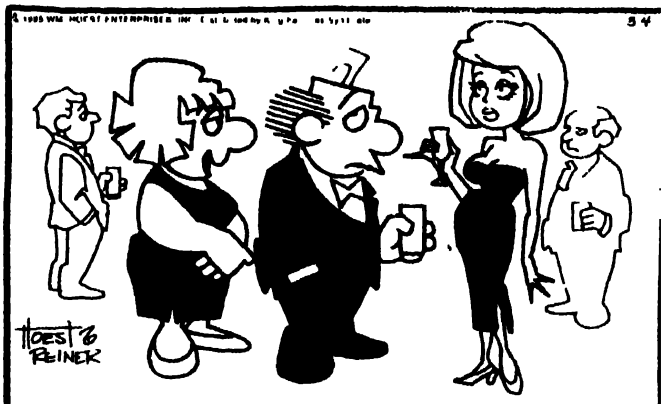
"I KNOW I JUST HAD A SQUARE MEAL, LORETTA THE CORNERS ARE JABBING ME"



"HE RAN RIGHT OUT IN FRONT OF ME!"

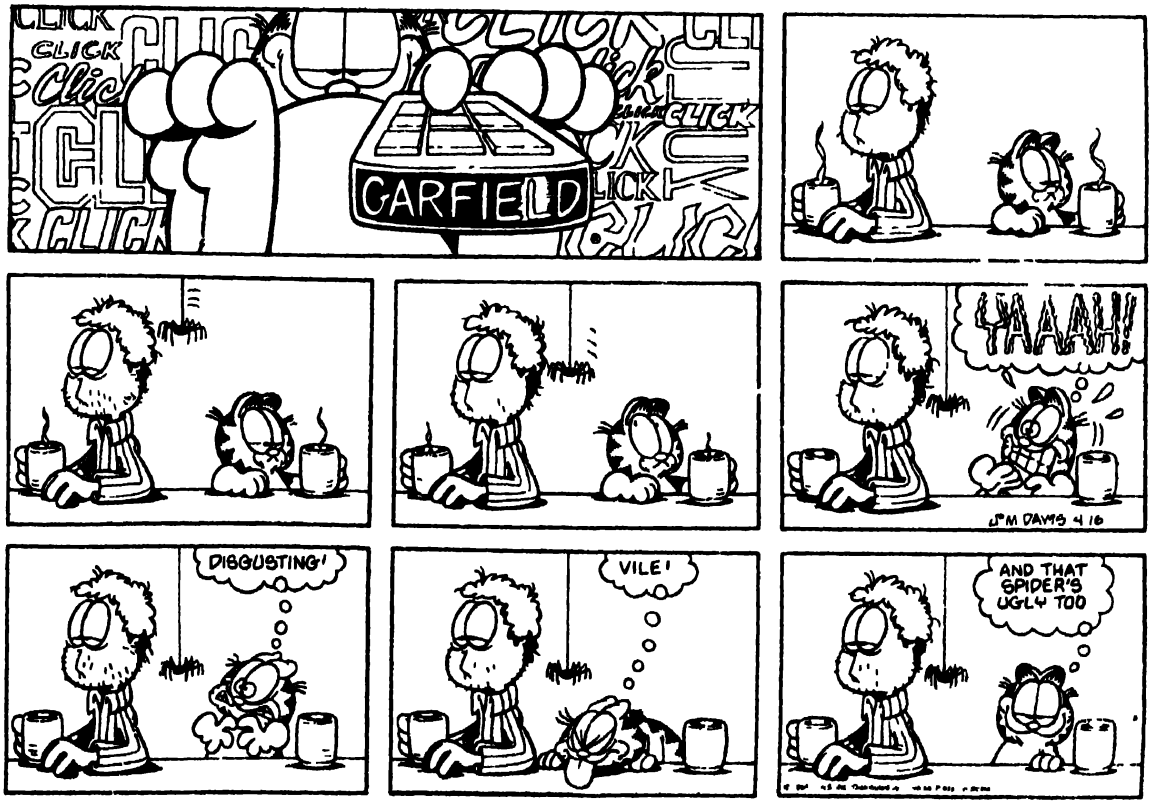


"THESE SLIDES ARE THE ONLY PART OF OUR VACATION THAT'S PAID FOR"



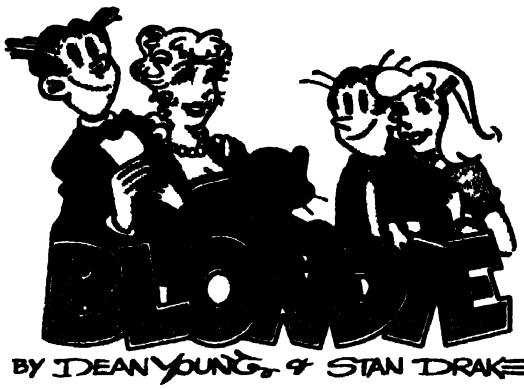
"TELL HER ABOUT THE TIME YOU MET FDR, LEROY!"

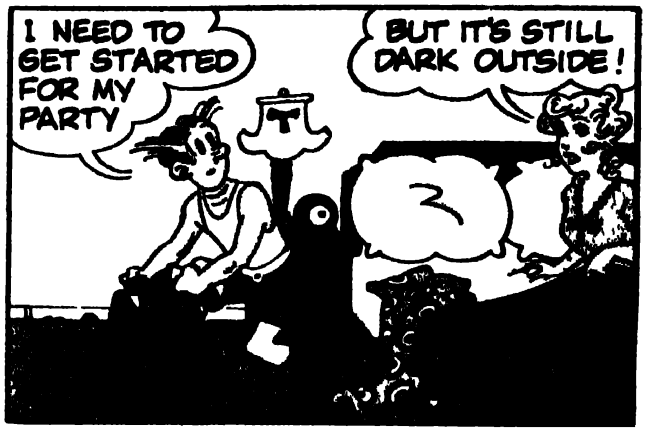
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



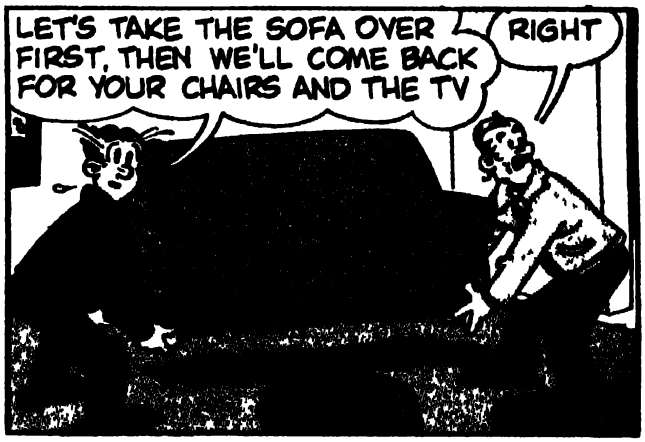
















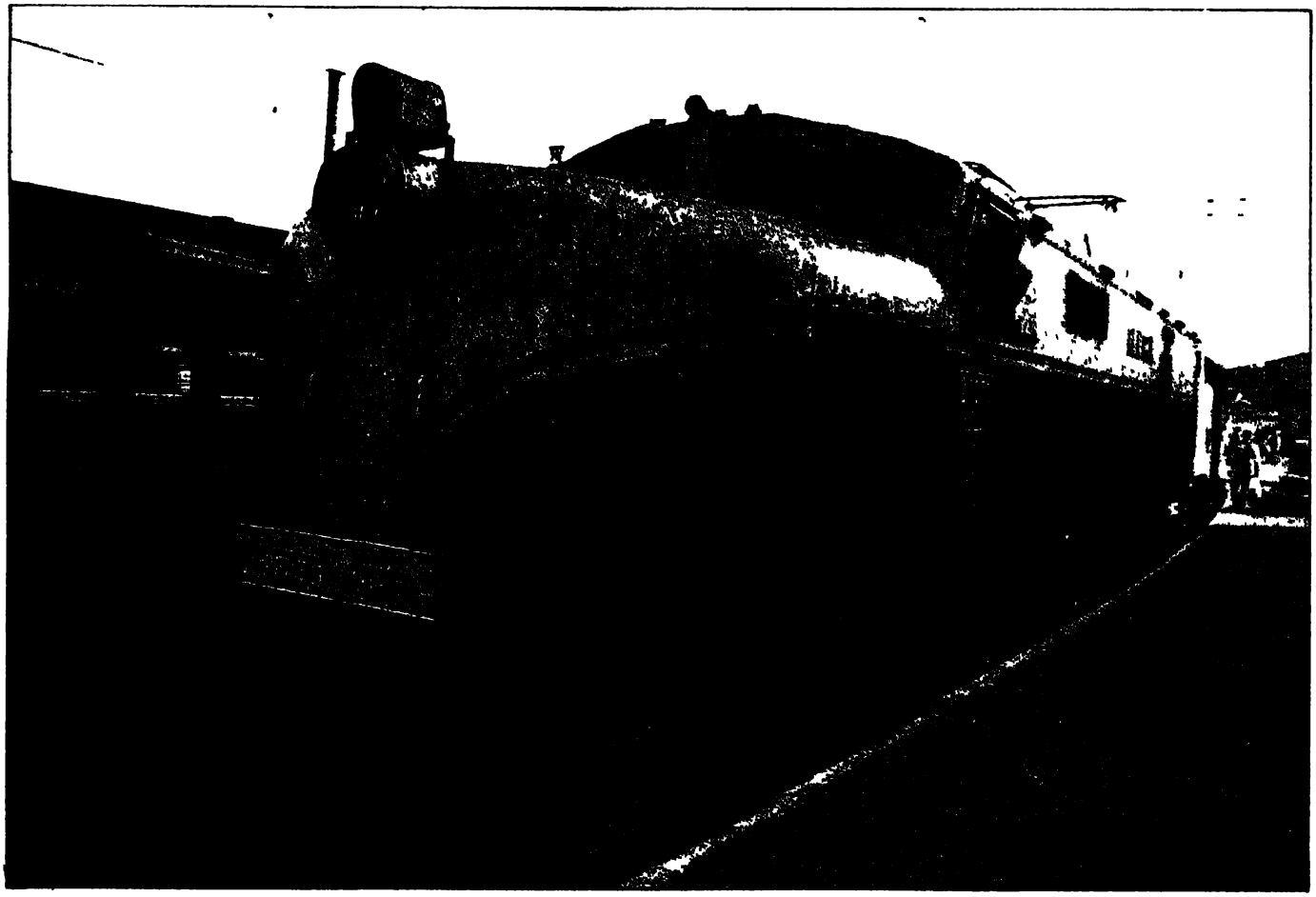
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LIFESTYLE

ON THE RUN

A large section of commuters from Bombay to Pune spend most part of their lives in offices and on wheels ***Seema Paul*** *experiences the romance, and the fatigue of travelling by the Deccan Queen*

Photographs by Gautam Patole



The Deccan Queen

It was the evening of Friday, the 23rd of December, 1994. A new weekend was beginning, which would bring with it Christmas cheer. But the mood at platform nine-A of Victoria Terminus (VT), Bombay, hardly indicated that.

For the daily commuters between Bombay and Pune, travelling by the Deccan Queen, one would have thought a weekend would be a very special day: the beginning of a two-day break from the daily grind of traversing 192 kms each way in order to earn a living in Bombay.

So it was, many of them later admitted. But the moments before the Deccan Queen chugged into the platform were unusually tense on Fridays, specially for those travelling second-class.

Many Puneites prefer to spend the working days in Bombay and travel back to families for the weekend. And the Deccan Queen, with its 17 coaches, finds it difficult to accommodate them all on seats. Long queues at the platform are a norm and petty fights for seating space also not unusual, specially in the ladies compartment.

In the crowded second class common compartments men usually prefer to stand but the obviously-tired looking women prefer to squat on the floor. Out come the newspapers from the rather large bags they all carry, filled with daily shopping like vegetables and small knick-knacks for children. They are spread on the floor and friends sit around in groups, gossipping, reading, sleeping, eating, and fighting intermittently through the four-hour journey!

The men, in the other compartments, prefer mostly to play cards or eat. The cacophony of voices is lower

in the common compartments but, then, women do have more fun than the men Introduced in 1930 as Deccan Ki Rani, the train has become an institution not only for the Central Railways but also the residents of Pune

According to the chief public relations officer of the Central Railways, H S Kambley, several generations of Puneites have travelled on it to work in Bombay "There have also been instances where bonds have so strengthened amongst commuters on the train that they have chosen to marry off their children," he says

This is hardly surprising considering that commuters daily spend nearly eight hours together on the train "For us,' said Sushma Trishnawar Ankush, who has been commuting by the Deccan Queen for the past 14 years, "it is virtually like living on wheels All the social friends and contacts I have are my fellow commuters as I have little time once I am at home to socialise "

Said Mrs Kodaikar, a senior clerk at the G I Hospital who was transferred to Bombay on promotion, "Train *ghar jaisa hai* ' So the commuters try to make the best of the time spent travelling

Once, the tension of getting seating space is over and everyone has found his or her corner, entertainment programmes begin The game of cards is very popular with the men while the women prefer *antakshari* Some of the younger girls are familiar with the latest songs and even have a good voice It's their dream that someday the Zee Television's *antakshari* programme will do an *antakshari* programme with them on the Deccan Queen "After all, it is a very special kind of *antakshri*," said Vaishali Bond, who is a chemistry teacher at the Ismail Yusuf College in Bombay



Enjoying a quick breakfast



A view of the ladies compartment

Even festivals are celebrated by the Deccan Queen community on wheels During a recent Maharashtrian festival, the regular commuters in the women's compartment contributed five rupees each and a lot of foodstuff was bought and shared by them The men, in comparison, seem dry and do not organise much festivity as a group They spend their time talking and eating besides playing cards

Equipped with a pantry car, the Deccan Queen serves excellent breakfast and snacks Since most of the commuters leave their homes by 6 30 am latest to catch the train, whose official departure time from Pune is 7 10 am, they prefer to have their breakfast on the train Omelette and buttered toast



Killing time with cards

and vegetable cutlets are the standard menu along with tea, which is stylishly served in a pot, for the first class passengers

The second class commuters carry a lot of their home-cooked and other *chat patta* stuff bought from the Bombay pavement dwellers The other favourite activity for the commuters in the morning besides eating is sleeping Since most of them get only four to five hours sleep, they try to catch up on it in the train

All the romance and fun of commuting by train notwithstanding, the journey is very tiresome and leaves them with very little time to devote to their jobs Most of them spend only four to five hours at their workplaces in Bombay, arriving later than their colleagues and leaving before the official closure time for the offices

Not surprisingly, most of them are in government service, working as clerks or school teachers – no private employer would make such concessions for its employees, unless he possessed a rare skill

Contrary to the impression in Bombay, those people choose to commute long-distance for jobs, not necessarily because they get better salaries than they would in Pune With the exception of a handful of them, they said they were working in Pune on transfer

As Smita Bhagwat, a clerk in the state government department, said, "It is not by choice that I commute to Bombay I have always lived in Pune but my employer has chosen to transfer me to Bombay I am unwilling to quit my city and am biding my time till my bosses relent and transfer me back to Pune"

In some sense, Pune is a compromise which the employers strike with their employees Women employees particularly are unwilling to leave their home cities as it would uproot their families Nor are they willing to give up the security of a government job, taking on, in the process, the burden of commuting in addition to working and running a home

For those living in nucleus families, without in-laws or parents, getting up as early as 4 am and going to bed at 12 pm is normal routine "I hardly get any time with my children," complained Mrs Cauamnia Verghese, in her early 40s who has been commuting on this route for the past 18 years to retain her teaching assignment at a Bombay Corporation School

She, as also most other daily commuters of Deccan Queen, bore tired looks on their faces Dark under-eyes and dry skins speak of the toll this schedule takes on their healths

Some men, on the other hand, preferred the routine of commuting to Pune and seemed to be doing it as a matter of choice B E Karkari, a bank-emplyee, who was recently transferred back to Pune after 12-and-a-half years of service was extemely nostalgic about the days he worked in Bombay and commuted by the Deccan Queen "I liked working in Bombay because people there are much better and I wish my bank would transfer me back again" he said

And believe it or not, Karkari insisted even his wife and children were happier when he worked in Bombay and commuted long hours "My family says I spent more time with them when I worked in Bombay than I do now," he said, with a twinkle in his eyes, and that is probably true Because long-distance daily travel, enforces a certain discipline and "you try to make the best of your time with your family and avoid unncessary socialising with friends"

Most daily commuters said Karkari's nostalgia was not out of place "Even though I am trying my best to obtain a transfer back to Pune," said Anil Sarri, summing up the feelings of many of his co-passengers "I know once it happens I will miss the life on wheels I will look back to these days and would remember it as a period when I struck some longlasting and true friendships and learnt to enjoy myself in different and even taxing circumstances" ■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Fire

Cast these dreams
into the fire
watch them burn —
then rise,
not toward resurrection
but such perfection
death cannot touch.

Anuradha Majumdar

Devotee

Someone has wreathed my neck
with a cactus plant instead of
Lord Shiva's snake
But I don't have the trident in my
hand

I admit many decorate
their drawing rooms with cactus
plants
But where am I among the many?

If 'alas' is the sum total of life,
then it is too difficult to live
like Lord Shiva with the Moon and
the Ganga on the head

Bishnu Sankar Verma

Explanation

Please don't do it
Please, I mean it
For I was soaked repeatedly
In a dark, viscous liquid
Very sticky, very clutching
And very bitter
It was called pain
But fortunately enough, these days
I've reached the saturation point
The dark liquid
Now seems colourless
The bitter, viscous liquid
Seems tasteless, light, free flowing
And intoxicating
I feel dizzy — my vision is blurred
I enjoy pain oozing out
From every opening
Every pore I have
So, please — don't touch me,
For I'm sure you wouldn't like
To wet your fingers, would you?

Debjani Chakravarty



Arpo Dey

Nowhere Man

A man walks down the road
A nameless man with nowhere
to go
Is he hurrying to meet a lover?
Or are his children waiting for
him
Is he worried about price of onions,
Or searching a match for his
sister
May be he's cheating on his wife
Or his wife, him

Is he lamenting death of a dear one
Or the money he lost on cards
May be he lost his job today
And the railway track beckons
But no, he's turning away,
He squares his shoulders, And
moves on,
Slowly merging in the approach-
ing darkness
Another day passes in the life of
A nameless man with nowhere
to go

Vinny Kaul



KAVITA KRISHNAMURTHY *won the Filmfare Award for the best female playback singer for her rendition of the superhit number in* 1942 A Love Story (Pyar hua chupke se), *an award that has come her way some 15 years later than it should have Krishnamurthy is easily the most versatile (she had a nomination also for the* Mohra *number,* Tu cheez badi hai mast mast) *singer of the present generation, if not the finest*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
When I work hard towards achieving something and actually achieve it And thus, create an extension of myself with God

What is your greatest fear?
That I should live long and become old and incapable

Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My aunt

What do you dislike most in others?
[No comment]

What do you dislike most in yourself?
I am very hot-tempered

What is your most precious possession?
I know this may sound cliched, but it is my voice Another is my faith in God Not in any diety, but in the Presence You could call me an agnostic

What objects do you always carry?
Nothing in particular

What makes you most depressed?
Cruelty to animals And sick animals

What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My big teeth

What is your favourite word?
Wonderful

What is your favourite journey?
Trips to two places — Delhi and Geneva, where my siblings are living I love these trips and look forward to them

What is your favourite dream?
I do not dream

What is your nightmare?
I have two terrible nightmares — one is that I suddenly turn completely bald Another is that I suddenly become obese

What or who is the greatest love of your life?
[No comment]

What is your source of sustenance?
My music

On what occasions do you lie?
I am an expert on white lies And always to avoid people

What is your greatest regret?
Immediately after high school, I could have got into classical music But I did not

What has been your happiest moment?
There have been many

What brings tears to your eyes?
Sad movies

How do you relax?
I like watching films on animals

What do you envy most in others?
Intelligence

How would you like to be remembered?
A person who tried hard and gave her best for whatever she did

How would you like to die?
In my sleep

What is your favourite dream?

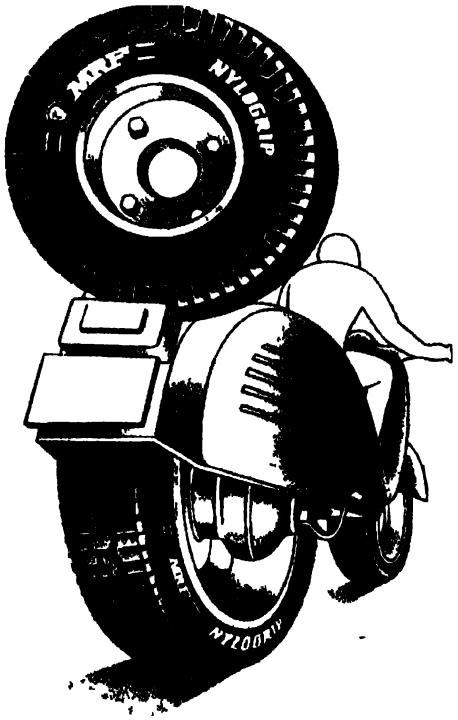
I do not dream

What do you dislike most in yourself?

I am very hot-tempered

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30 APRIL 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Hello, Bombay!

■ On a recent visit to Bombay, charmed as I was, I realised why the city is fondly called the commercial capital of India ('Soul of Honour', March 26)

It is a dazzling, bustling, colourful metropolis, wherever one looks opulence greets the eye The Marine Drive and Nariman Point can compare with any place in the West Smooth roads, modern architecture and lighting make Bombay the envy of all metros

The city provides succour to millions Villagers from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka flock to this city for their livelihood.

Bowled over by its affluence and glitz, I could not help comparing it with Calcutta But there was something missing The warmth, perhaps? Even the poorest of the poor are treated with kindness, cordiality and respect in Calcutta

In Bombay everyone is busy And everyone is out to make a fast buck and no one has time for others Because without money one cannot survive in Bombay.

B.N. Bose,
Calcutta

■ To whom does Bombay belong? Is it Dawood Ibrahim's Bombay or Bal Thackeray's or Mani Ratnam's? Opinions may differ. But the best answer is it belongs to none in particular It is the product of the collective emotions of every Indian

It is as much Juhi Chawla's as it is mine and yours.

Rajib Chatterjee,
Asansol

■ With an enviable geographical location and a very fast lifestyle Bombay sets itself apart from the other metros Its roads and gardens are immaculately maintained The skyline, dotted with hundreds of skyscrapers, reminds one of a Western city Train services are dependable; local trains may be crowded but they are clean and punctual.

Nirmalendu Chakraborty,
Cooch Behar

■ Bombay's contribution towards Indian cricket is beyond any argument In fact, it would not be wrong to call it the cricketing capital of India The Magazine should have highlighted this point

Debanjan Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ The cover story brought to mind a remark of that great actor Nana Patekar who said in an interview "Some people tried to blast Bombay, some wanted to ruin it, destroy it, but still the city lived, it is the inherent spirit of Bombay that kept the city alive *Salaam* Bombay!"

Shovanlal Bakshi,
Calcutta

■ Bombay, no doubt is a magnificent city But here the rich languish in riches while the poor wallow in poverty

Dhananjoy Patro,
Bhubaneswar

■ We have had enough of Bombay and Bangalore

■ It is difficult to describe Bombay's beauty in mere words But it can be compared to a beautiful blue-eyed girl — vivacious and mysterious, specially so after dusk

Ravi Khanna,
Howrah

Can we come back to Calcutta?

Md Sajid Hossain,
Calcutta

■ You have mentioned that the Marine Drive is known as the Queen's Necklace But I think Malabar Hills is known as the Queen's Necklace

B. Ray Chaudhuri,
Calcutta

The view of the beachline from Malabar Hills is known as the Queen's Necklace. — **Editor**

Tall, Fair and Western

■ The definition of beauty is not going to change because two non Whites have clinched the Miss Universe and Miss World titles ('Beauty Tall, Dark and Asian', February 12)

Girls from the West will continue to excel in these pageants because of Western dominance

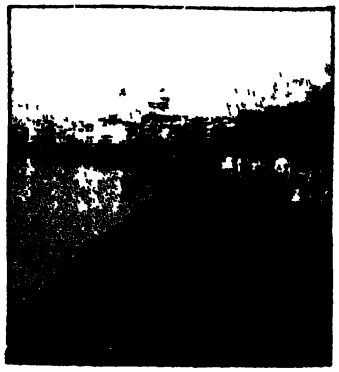
Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

De After De

■ The betrayals may be small or big, but one thing is for sure Shobha De has mastered the art of selling herself with the help of her snapshots

Arta Mishra,
Cuttack (Orissa)

INSIDE



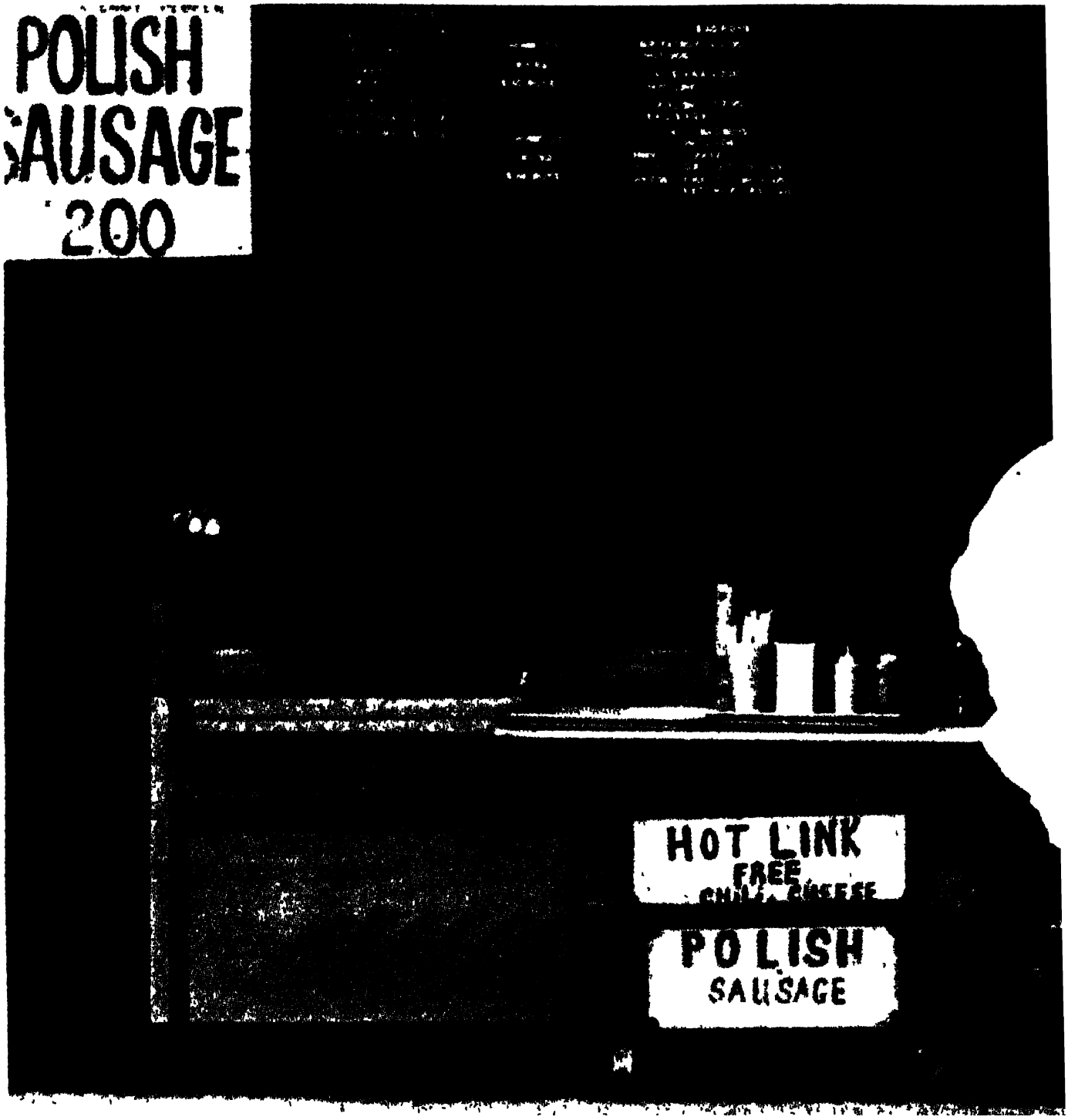
PAGE 6

BOMBAY, the great survivor, will survive yet again, to be sure But will it remain Our Bombay, a truly cosmopolitan oasis, or succumb to the juggernaut of modern politics and turn into Aamchi Mumbai? Will the reality that is Bombay turn — finally — into myth?

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
20 GILLIAN WRIGHT
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 PINUP
27 IN
28 POETRY
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Bal Thackeray by Vishal Photo


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COVER STORY

Aamchi Bombay, Our Mumbai

Bombay, 1995 The film



The truly cosmopolitan city in the country shocked itself by voting saffron into power So, now, will the reality turn into myth?
Shameem Akthar *talks to the citizens of a metropolis which has so far survived everything*



A BOMBAYITE IS NORMALLY BLASE ABOUT MOST THINGS The ululating monsoon that sends his routine scudding. The traffic snarls that send his blood pressure soaring. The suffocating crowds that can turn into unruly mobs at unseen cues. Gang wars that hit his front-page before they hit the film screen.

He even survived the blasts and riots that made the world look at him askance And the plague

But he is yet to recover from the surprising saffron victory. And the regular pronouncements of Bal Thackeray, the combine's uncrowned king, who till now only crowed from his party's organ, *Saamna*.

Scribes now rush to him for some sensational copy and he obliges And the Bombayite's relaxed morning peace, with his cuppa and the newspaper, is irretrievably shattered

Things did seem topsy-turvy for the first few days Muslims, even the hennaed old Congress loyalists from the Ullema Council, said they were actually happy. A delegation, led by none other than Islamic scholar, Rafiq Zakaria, rushed to congratualate the man and his party and to pledge support

Even sceptics and critics were willing to keep their fingers crossed, saying even children learnt responsibility when trusted with duty. And these were certainly no children.

Bombay, 1992-93 The reality





Vishal Photo

Maharashtra Dy CM Gopinath Mundhe, CM Manohar Joshi, Bal Thackeray and L K Advani The saffron hand

Everybody was waiting and watching for sobriety In vain 'Permit system' screeched headlines 'No more ration cards for outsiders,' raved the others, faithfully repeating the Sena chief's words Partymen rallied in support of their leader, doggedly insisting that some blockades had to be erected to stem the tide of humanity into India's El Dorado

The BJP, though embarrassed by this outburst, stood by in stolid support Debates were whipped up Other states issued statements Parliament, waiting for only such relief from the tedium of governance, promptly went into 'uproar'

Then came the Bangladeshi statement "Evict Bangladeshis," he thundered The minority community, lulled into a transitory moment of peace at having given the Congress a licking, was rudely shaken awake It wondered if it was being targetted obliquely Non-Maharashtrians, who have made this city of gold their home, were nagged with worry that they may be the next target

Then, there was an open invitation to the boys (Sainiks) to smoke out the Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, that worried everybody Bombayites fretted if this will be misued to settle personal scores Will the petty *hafta* that is associated with the party, particularly "the boys", become an established demand?

Then came that phone call, purportedly made by a Bangladeshi, that threatened the supremo A hysterical reaction followed, like a shrill housewife who had received an obscene call Paraphrased, the panic reaction read — "If even a hair on my body is touched, the entire community will be wiped out"

Even staid papers, which did not want to massage a cult ego, could not ignore this statement The minority community wondered if they had been foolish, after all And the fledgling government, in its very first Assembly session, had to face an excited opposition which had been provided with enough salvo for sustained attack

Clarifications and counter-clarifications were feverishly issued, in a bid to salvage party image Then the Sena chief went mum, refusing to talk to a press which, he griped, always twisted his words While the journalists were left hanging, with no 'good copy' to fill up their front page, the city lurched back into its cocoon of relief

Not for long

Soon the *Bombay* film drama happened A handful of non-representative Muslim leaders shouted for a ban on



As for the permits, J.B. D' Souza quips, 'Next time a governor is appointed to this state that poor man will have to lug his own sackloads of provisions. Otherwise what will he do if Thackeray refuses him a ration card?'

Mani Ratnam's film. Their main grouse, it seemed, was that the film had been shown earlier to Thackeray, to get his approval Of course, the other objections to the film followed The city's police commissioner, Satish Sawhney, not wanting another riot on his hands, tried to placate these self-appointed Muslim leaders by postponing the film by a week

This, coming on the heels of the government's assurance that the film would not be banned, finally cracked the self-imposed *maunviradh* (fast of silence) of the Sena leader In a blistering report in *Saamna*, he ran down Sawhney as "a coward" and called for his resignation

Whatever the merits of his actions, the police commissioner certainly had public sympathy And this attack must have shocked many And even the city's elite, normally disdainful of political antics, tch, tch-ed at this latest paroxysm of Thackeray anger

But Bombayites continue with their daily grind, after checking out if their newspapers have any such fresh pronouncements And deciding if these warrant a nervous reaction But the rest of the nation continues to wonder if the 'cosmopolitan fabric' (that cliched description of Bombay which unfortunately describes it so well) will be ripped apart by this convulsive beginning to a new government

Foy Nissen, that adorable historian who loves this city, thread by thread weaves the background that created this cosmopolitan fabric "This migration started in the 19th century The Western coast, up to Gadkh in Karnataka district, had soil conditions suitable for cotton The climate was also ideal for storing it in the staple, raw form Migrants started trickling in from all over Maharashtra initially, as labourers for this textile industry When British entrenched this industry here, they started pouring in from other parts of the country as well "

The island's location along the western coast also helped, geographically making it an important port of call, from where cotton could be exported. This gave it a head-start over other metros of today, as Madras and Calcutta, which despite being important British destinations then, could never catch up with that historical advantage of Bombay.

And the economic wealth of this city, whose footpaths are paved with gold (and muck), attracted hordes of migrant labour which had changed its demographic pattern so much that



The Bombay Stock Exchange



These leaders [Muslim fundamentalists] were trying to fill a vacuum of leadership among Muslim youth, he [A.M. Arif] angrily remarks, and the press was playing into their hands and helping to create these monsters. And silly controversies, like the one over the *Bombay* film, would continue to unsettle the city

today less than 50 per cent of it is Maharastrian

The infrastructural facilities as transport also grew, primarily to support the industries "In a way, this growth of Bombay had been unplanned, almost incidental And this growth continued even after the British rulers left India and it has choked even suburban Bombay today"

Nissen points out how, even in 1947 when the British quit the country, almost 75 per cent of the economic wealth in Bombay was held by foreigners The British clung on to their industrial base for long, with Bombay gaining an economic lead over the other metros Thus the migrating population always had a sound reason to make this their journey's end

Here is what historian-authors, B K Boman-Behram and A N Confectioner, have to say of Bombay in 1949, their description spiced with some sage advice that is uncannily relevant today "This bastion of the British Empire has now become a city of free India Its security until now was the security imposed by the foreign conquerer Its preservation now depends on the good sense of its citizen and the enterprise of its wealthy community to render justice to the millions of peasants and artisans whose labours and toils have gone to build up Bombay's prosperity"

Former municipal commissioner of the Bombay Municipal Corporation, J B D'Souza, shares that concern expressed almost half-a-century ago He dismisses this Sena-induced fear over the slumming, illegal migrants as irrelevant "These poor people are not parasites The minute anybody enters this city he or she is ploughing back money into its coffers Not all are beggars And compare the census figures for 1981 and 1991 — it is 8 4 million and 9 91 million"

He does a quick calculation and announces that instead of "the lakhs of migrants" who reportedly pour into the city, less than 480 persons are added to the population daily "Mind it, most of this is from births and not from migrants entering the city," he explains

He also laughs off Thackeray's pronouncements as "off-stage noises" and that despite his criticism, nobody is likely to accept his description of Sawhney as a coward "Everybody knows that Sawhney had been instrumental in motivating the locals to participate in the *mohalla* committees (set up after the riots to instil confidence and bring together the different communities) Other commissioners only spoke about it But he has been serious about these peace efforts Naturally, he was worried that this fragile peace was not torn by the row over the film Instead of supporting him, what is the point in trying to revile him?" he asks

"Is there not something called the law in this country? How can Thackeray run down the city commissioner? How can he order the Sainiks to identify illegal migrants? How many of us carry ready proof over our nationality? Outrageous!" D'Souza exclaims

As for the permit system, he quips, "Next time a governor is appointed to this state that poor man will have to lug his own sackloads of provisions Otherwise what will he do if Thackeray refuses him a ration card?"

WHAT'S YOUR RELIGION?

An open letter asks filmmaker Mani Ratnam

Dear Mani Ratnam,

I saw *Bombay* in Bangalore. In Tamil. I don't understand Tamil. But I saw the film twice. So okay, what does not understanding Tamil have to do with seeing *Bombay*?

I did understand the *Wuthering Heights* kind of landscape of love etched by you in the first half, and the mellifluous music of A.R. Rahman to which I swayed, with the superior acting by almost everyone in the cast and the ethereal otherworldly beauty of Manisha Koirala. Maybe, that is why they say cinema is a visual medium.

But then morning newspapers told me many states planned to ban *Bombay*. Even Bombay was ambi- [illegible] of Bombay. Different versions floated about:

Some say the Muslims have not liked a Muslim girl eloping with a Hindu boy, others say that the Hin- [illegible] et because one gets the [illegible] t you don't much care



Mani Ratnam

for the idea of a Ram temple at Ayodhya?

After reading all this, I have started wondering whether your film is all that good. India is a communally sensitive state, you know. Besides, you also seem to be very [illegible] whose side you are on.

Why is there no point of identification? I cannot identify with the hero or the heroine. You know, if I were a Hindu, I'd proudly say some of my friends are Muslims. If I were a Muslim, I would say, most of the Hindus I know are really very good. But a Hindu-Muslim marriage — *toba, toba*.

Even when you portray the leaders of the two communities, you show both to be equally blood-thirsty.

We are not like that. Nor are our leaders. Only they are, and their leaders. We only retaliate. What were you trying to do? Shake our age-old prejudices and question our pet peeves and hates?

Too much, I say. Why do you not stick to safer formats like cops and robbers or the Bombay underworld where black is black and white is white, where I can idolise the heroes and hate the villains?

Here, you made me feel as if both the hero and the villain were [illegible] me. How [illegible] routine [illegible] die. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Though the emotion behind this rationale for permit system and eviction of illegal migrants may even be acceptable to locals like Bhai Bhandarkar, who presides over the National Fishermen Committee, and is president of the Maharashtra Machchhimar Kriti Samiti, he does not feel that the 'sons of the soil' theory really helps anybody or anything, except the Sena vote-bank

Bhandarkar, who has lived all his life along Bombay's coast, notes bitterly that the fishermen, who are the original sons of the soil, have been regularly pushed off the coastline by successive generations of politicians who only mouthed phrases that soothed parochial needs But the *kolis'* (fishermen's) real and simple needs for a clean coastal stretch, more space along the sea that was regularly consumed by reclamation, and education and training for their offspring have all been relegated to the background

Their fishing villages, with evocative names like Gorai, Versova, Danda, Worli, Colaba, Mazgaon, have all been sacrificed to the engulfing land reclamation And where date palms used to sway sleepily against a twilight sky, now skyscrapers dot the horizon



Both [Congress and the Shiv Sena] have dug into, and will dig into, the goldmines that this city throws up and give nothing in return. They will develop their constituencies with the money pumped in from this inexhaustible cache and both will spout different policies.

Bhandarkar's grouse Even when the Sena was the ruling party in the Bombay Municipal Corporation, when they had a chance to set right the wrong done by the Congress government, they did nothing for the *kolis* "Then what right have they to go on talking about the 'sons of the soil' theory?" he questions with anger "Manohar Joshi (now chief minister) and Pramod Navalkar (minister for culture) are friends from my MLC days But they don't know a thing about local needs

"So what can they do for us *kolis* anyway? Take Manori Island, for example The BMC used to charge one anna originally for its ferry services When the Sena ruled the corporation we started paying Rs 2 50 for these irregular services Despite taking money from us regularly, they had not introduced ordinary bus link "

And when parties rise to power on their empty theories, it is not just the unique cosmopolitan nature of a city like Bombay that becomes a casualty It is also the local groups that get a beating, Bhandarkar says

Another local, A M Arif, who heads the United Economic Front which works for the uplift of Muslims, would wholeheartedly agree He continues to be incensed over the fact the 'sons of the soil' policy does not include the Maharashtrian Muslims He can reel off statistics to substantiate his complaint, on how from employment exchanges right up to the jobs itself his community has been discriminated against by successive local governments

But, the anxiety that consumes him has little to do with the new saffron government Arif explains, "Of course, we cannot expect anything for us from a party, whose chief has a brick from the Babri Masjid in his house and displays it to every visitor But our problem lies with the fundamental Muslim representatives, who will now seize this opportunity, to groom themselves as leaders, trying desperately to grow alongside the saffron government as parallel power centres, trying to rake up or create controversies to get attention "

These leaders were trying to fill a vacuum of leadership among Muslim youth, he angrily remarks, and the press was playing into their hands and helping to create these monsters And silly controversies, like the one over the *Bombay* film, would continue to

---

Who wants all this *jhamela*.

One of my pseudo friends, who says he is politically correct (whatever that means) was telling me the counterpoint is, why should one man's creative obsession unnecessarily endanger innocent lives? So that means he is also coming around to thinking your film was wrong.

You know you have behaved like that Rushdie fellow. The one who wrote that book denigrating Islam. What was it called, Forgot. But they hung a price around his neck, didn't they? And now there is that [illegible]

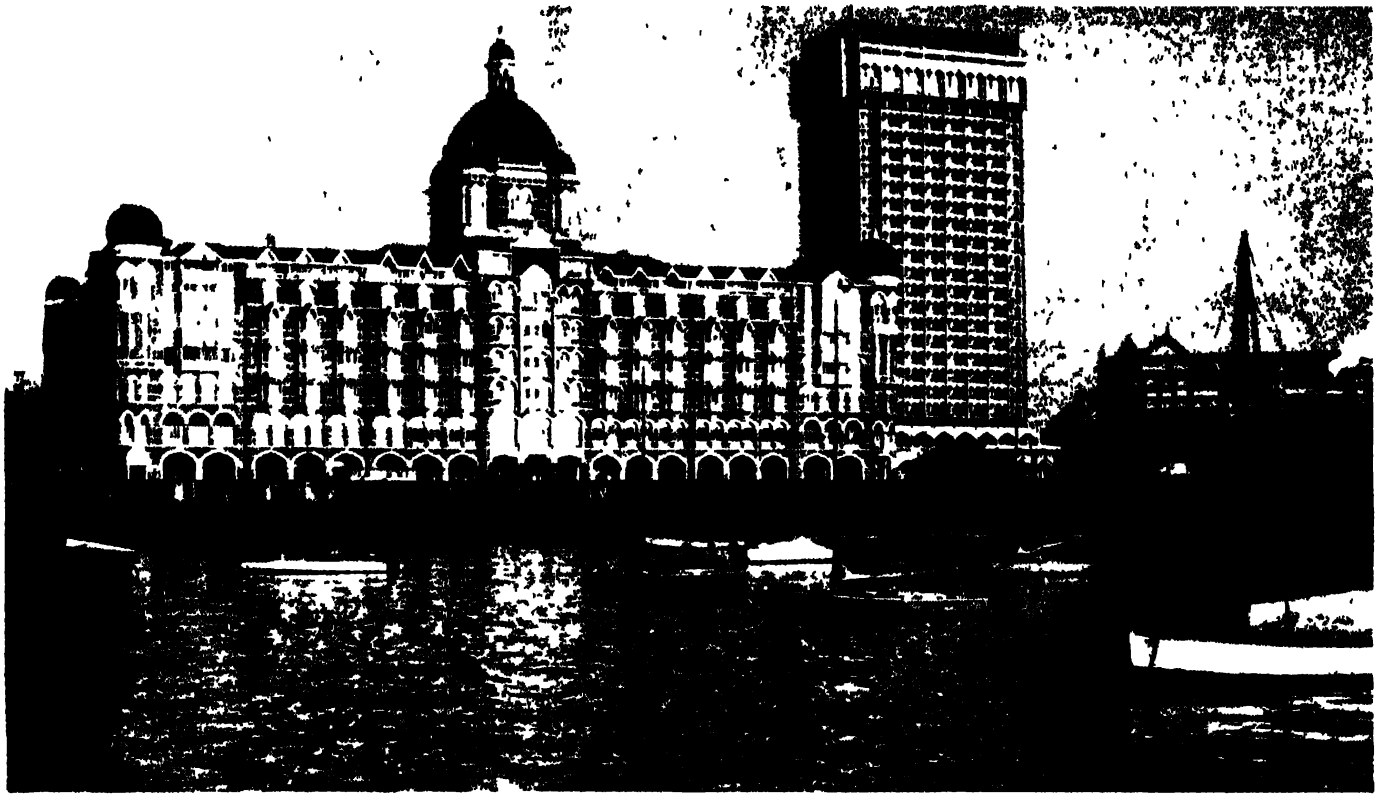
cheese.

All this is Western influence, I say. What do you people understand about the Indian context? You create all this chaos. *Arrey*, *baba*, who is asking you not to be creative or be free. But can't you see that freedom of expression means being free the way everyone else is free. Why feel special?

No, don't tell me you are just making a humanitarian statement. And if Sadhvi Rithambara or Imam Bukhari can get away with rabble rousing why can you not at least make an honest appraisal of how Muslims are misled into the realm of death and destruction; why indulge in wishful thinking?

No one is going to ban them. They are religious leaders, you do not even seem to have a religion. Why should they let you go scot-free? You reap as you sow.

Take my advice. Make your next [illegible] with Govinda and Chunky, or [illegible] a monkey. So soothing to [illegible] no. I'll love it. I'll watch it [illegible] first show. I like my thrills



The Taj Intercontinental hotel, Bombay

enabled carriages and cars to drive right up to the entrance Inside, the theatre was accommodated with private boxes and orchestra stalls furnished with cane chairs Each floor had a separate refreshment room and bar and a promenade for taking the air during intervals

By 1917, the Opera House, like many other dramatic theatres, began to show films, catering to the growing popularity of the cinema industry and in 1925, the whole theatre was rented by Pathe's Cinema From 1929 to 1932, however, the Opera House was leased to various Indian theatrical concerns like the Parsi Elphinstone Dramatic Company and Bombay audiences were captivated by performances by leading actors and musicians like Bal Gandharva, Manji Khan, Bapu Pendharkar, Londhe, Pandit Dinanath, Jyotsna Bhole, Hirabai Barodekar, Jaddanbai, Fayyaz Khan, Nissar Hussain and Siddheshwari Bai

Meanwhile, with the arrival of many Maharashtrian intellectuals, Marathi musicals and social dramas with political overtones flourished from the early years of the 20th century The dramas were also enacted in local parks and within the courtyards of *chawls*, specially during the Ganesha festival celebrations initiated by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, under the guise of which political propaganda was made

The *chawls* built by the City Improvement Trust and the Development Directorate, in fact, formed a perfect setting for these dual purpose dramas and the forms of entertainment favoured by the labouring classes such as *bharuds* and *bhajans*, powadas and *tamashas*, which often had an underlying political message In fact, as the freedom movement gathered momemtum, ironically, the entire new city built by the British, became a vast podium for the nationalists

The period also saw the establishment of politically activist religious organisations like the Hindu Mahasabha and the growth of the Khilafat Movement Popular venues for meetings of the various political parties were open spaces like the Chowpatty beach, the parks and *maidans*, and the courtyards of *chawls* and *baghs* such as Shantaram's Chawl and Madhav Bagh

The early 20th century also saw the establishment of several new clubs in the city The Orient Club, founded in 1900 was perhaps one of the first of its kind, which although run on European lines, admitted European as well as Indian members Initially, it was housed in a hired bungalow owned by the Rogay family at Chowpatty, but within the decade the Club constructed its own imposing premises, designed by Charles F Stevens on the City Improvement Trust's newly laid out plots at Chowpatty

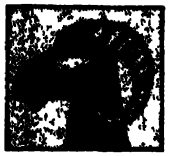
The first large and prestigious club open to Europeans as well as Indians was the Willingdon Sports Club. The idea of establishing the club which stands on Clerk Road (now Bapurao Khadya Marg) opposite the Race Course on Horby Vellard, was mooted by Lord Willingdon, the Governor of Bombay Soon after taking office, the Governor told Sir Stanley Reed, editor of the *Times of India*, that he had come "with a direct mandate from the king and the secretary of state to break down this damning racial exclusiveness" The club, with sporting facilities like tennis and badminton courts, a swimming pool, a polo and golf club and cricket fields, was opened in November 1917

Horse racing, which had been a popular sport at Bombay since the closing years of the 18th century, was given a fresh impetus when the Royal Western India Turf Club race course, buildings and grandstands designed by Robertson & Marks of Sydney, Australia, were completed in 1924, opposite the Willingdon Club The land level of this turf is noticeably much lower than that of the Hornby Vellard promenade Perhaps it was originally intended to be left as a swampy open tract to accommodate overflows in case the Vellard gave way! ■

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha announces buying, selling, shopping, leasing and funding for Ariens At the same time, you will have enough energy and drive to socialise and entertain Children and creative enterprise will give joy and this trend will continue for the next 27 days

Taurus

April 21—May 20



The moon's newness in your sign, according to Western astrology, makes you concentrate on the professional and financial side of your nature Here, gains are foretold Those in chemicals, the arts and wholesale business do well Many of you will be decorating/buying/selling house/office

Gemini

May 21—June 20



While expense will be great, rest assured you will cope with it, because Mars, according to Western astrology, gives you courage, wit, daring, energy and the right confidence Do not be in a hurry to get things done, but be keen to do a thorough job of any assignment given

Cancer

June 21—July 20



Action time! The more people you meet, the better your contacts, the greater the chances of joy and success It would be advisable to take decisions on April 30 and May 1-3 May is also the month to make money, socialise and get things done Contracts and assignments should come your way

Leo

July 21—August 21



It's high time indeed that you came into your own, did the things which really excite you and get on with your life While your work will occupy you fully, thanks to the placing of the moon's newness, it will just not do to neglect your home now You will thus have to maintain a balance

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Venus in your eighth sign this week, according to Western astrology, makes you adorable and charismatic A journey at short notice is probable Despite mounting expenses, you will make headway in your work Communication and ties are predicted for you

Libra

September 23—October 22



There are two dominant directions this week The first involves loans, funds and capital raising The next indicates entertainment, socialising and lots of fun as well as fanfare Many Librans will be in for buying, selling and negotiating The dice will fall right for you, so to say

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Period of kicks and kisses, bricks and bouquets, bliss and bruises as the moon's last quarter makes life very personal and relationships mighty important Romantic escapades are possible Many of you will be working hard to better your prospects

Sagittarius

November 23 - December 20



Those in employment may go in for a job-switch or hop, which could be profitable in the long run Extra care of health is a must, even though you might feel energetic Long distance plans and connections will be unusually important to Sagittarians in the next 22 days

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



The week can be bisected in terms of travel, children, joy, in the pursuit of a hobby and money too You will take risks Financial considerations, bargains, negotiations, settlements, loans, funds, joint finances, particularly, insurance and claims should be mighty important

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Sharp and clear focus on property and assets such as house, shop, warehouse, office, vehicles, land, shares and stocks Here finances will flow fast Beware of conmen A home away from home is also indicated Alliances, and paradoxically enough, separations are in evidence

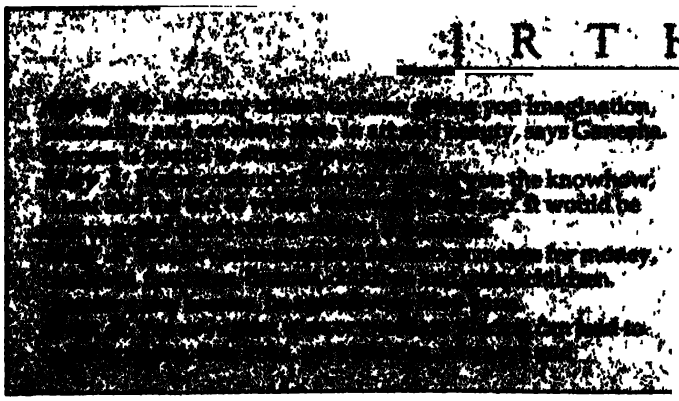
Pisces

February 19—March 20



While the wholeness and the sanctity of life will help you to endure, you should take extra care of health and money Many Pisceans will be travelling, experiencing spiritual insights as well as moodiness or even gloom The first two days will be for correspondence

BIRTHDAYS



...sometimes an immigration.

...ect but emphasis will be on house, the ..., communication, contacts and contracts. Long range ... will be ideal.

Moon connects well with sun and Saturn giving joy ... sweet satisfaction in life. Now is the time to make the changes you desire in your family, house or even the workplace.

May 6: Moon opposition Neptune, trine Pluto is conducive to partnerships and marriage. In your working life, you could be deceived or misunderstood.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY



FLIGHTS

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0710	3 5	IC 742	0940	3 5
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5 7
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2 4 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
[redacted]					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1300	1, 3 5	IC 722	1540	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
[redacted]					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC-676	0640	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W-212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI-309	2035	6	IC-274	2050	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
[redacted]					
			S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-263	0700	daily	IC 262	0815	2 4 7
S2-026	0845	1 2, 3 4 5 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI 682	0950	1
IC-812	1515	1 3, 5	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3, 5	4S 806	1110	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S-805	1745	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
IC 261	1900	2 4 7	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
S2-006	1930	1 2 3 4 5, 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
IC 703	0800	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 3 5 7
D2-181	1135	1 3 5 7	D2-183	1620	2 4 6
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	IC 702	1630	2 4 6 7
4S-815	1150	1 2 3 4 5 6	4S 816	1710	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-701	1240	2 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 257	1150	4 7	IC 258	1650	4 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	IC 712	1410	2 6
PF 737	0730	3, 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC-708	1430	1 4 7
IC-703	0800	3 5	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
IC-707	0800	1 4 7	D2-181	1620	1 3 5 7
IC-711	0800	2, 6	D2 183	1620	2, 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 3 5 7	IC-230	1650	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1710	1 2 3 4 5 6
4S 812	1150	1 2 3 4 5 6	PF-736	1730	1



FLIGHTS

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC 257	1150	4 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 258	1740	4, 7
IC 229	1310	daily	IC 212	1740	4, 6
HYDERABAD					
S2-023	1045	1 3, 5	S2 024	1525	1, 3, 5
IC-777	1600	2 4 7	IC 778	2100	2, 4, 7
IC 769	1525	1, 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3, 5
IMPHAL					
IC 707	0800	1 4 7	IC 256	1320	3, 5
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC 708	1430	1, 4, 7
IC 253	1100	2, 6	IC-254	1550	2 6
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	2 4, 7	IC-213	1315	2 4 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1515	1, 3 5	IC-811	1930	1, 3, 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1, 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2 172	1740	daily	IC-766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1525	1 3 5	IC-770	2120	1, 3, 5
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2, 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC 260	1110	1, 7
IC 259	0830	1 7	IC 256	1320	3 5
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC-254	1550	2, 6
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 212	1740	4, 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC 213	1315	2 4 7
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1, 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1

INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0420	7	KL-875	0235	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 6, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2 4, 6, 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2 3, 6 7	BG-091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 2, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1 2 3, 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3, 5, 6 7	BG-093	1825	1 2, 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
IC 747	1115	1 3, 5	IC 748	1455	1 3 5
RA 214	1815	1 4	RA 213	1715	1 4
LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA 143	1525	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
PARIS					
KB 106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2 6
KB-106	1900	5			
[illegible]					
SQ-415	2345	2 5	SQ-416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri-Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 15	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21-00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11-45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 45	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
	11 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THE DAFFODIL CASE

It was a foggy day in March that found me idling along Baker Street, with my hands in my pockets, a scarf wound round my neck and two pairs of socks on my feet The BBC had commissioned me to give a talk on village life in India and, ambling along Baker Street in the fog, thinking of my talk, I realised I didn't really know much about village life in India

True, I could remember the smell of cowdung smoke and the scent of jasmine, and the flood waters lapping at the walls of mud houses, but I didn't know much about village electorates and that sort of thing and I was on the point of turning back and making my way to India House to get a few facts and figures when I realised I wasn't on Baker Street anymore

Wrapped in thought I had wandered into Regent's Park And now I wasn't sure of the way out

A tall gentleman wearing a long grey cloak was stooping over a flower bed and, going up to him, I said, "Excuse me, sir, can you tell me how I can get out of here?"

"How did you get in?" he asked me in an impatient voice, and when he turned and faced me, I received a severe shock He wore a peaked hunting cap and in one hand held a large magnifying glass A long curved pipe hung from his sensuous mouth He possessed a long, steely jaw and his eyes had a fierce expression — they were bright with the intoxication of some drug

"Good heavens!" I exclaimed, "You're Sherlock Holmes!"

"And you, sir," he replied, with a flourish of his cloak, "are just out of India, unemployed and due to give a lecture on the radio "

"But how did you know all that?" I stammered "You've never seen me before I suppose you know my name, too?"

"Elementary, my dear Bond, the BBC notepaper in your hand on which you have been scribbling, reveals your intention to give a talk Your name is on the envelope which you hold upside down behind it It is 10 o'clock in the morning, and if you were not unemployed you would be sitting in your office "

"And how do you know I'm from India?" I said, a trifle resentfully

"Your accent betrays you," said Holmes with a superior smile

I was about to turn away and leave him when he laid a restraining hand on my shoulder

"Stay a moment," he said "Perhaps, you can help me I'm surprised at Watson He promised to be here 10 minutes ago but his wife must have kept him at home Never marry, Bond Women sap the intellect "

"In what way can I help you?" I asked, feeling flattered now that the great man had condescended to take me into his confidence

"Take a look at this," said Holmes, going down on his knees near a flower bed "Do you notice anything odd?"

"Someone's been pulling out daffodils," I said

"Excellent Bond! Your power of observation is as good as Watson's Now tell me what else do you see?"

"The ground is a little trampled, that's all "

"By what?"

"A human foot And a dog has been here too, it's been helping to dig the bulbs!"

"You astonish me Bond You are quicker than I thought you were Now shall I explain what this is all about? You see, for the past week, someone has been stealing daffodils from the park and the authorities have asked me to deal with the matter I think we shall catch our culprit this afternoon "

I was rather disappointed, "It isn't very dangerous, is it?"

"Ah, my dear Bond, the days are past when Ruritanian princes lost their diamonds and duchesses their tiaras There are no longer any Ruritanian princes in existence and duches-



'Ah, my dear Bond, the days are past when Ruritanian princes lost their diamonds and duchesses their tiaras. There are no longer any Ruritanian princes in existence and duchesses cannot afford tiaras...and the East End has been cleaned up. And those cretins at Scotland Yard don't even believe in my existence!'

ses cannot afford tiaras The more successful criminals have legalised their activities and the East End has been cleaned up And those cretins at Scotland Yard don't even believe in my existence!"

"I'm sorry to hear that," I said "But who do you think is stealing the daffodils?"

"Obviously, it's someone who owns a dog Someone who takes a dog out regularly for a morning walk That points to a woman A woman in London is likely to keep a small dog—and judging from the animal's footprints, it must be either a Pekinese or a miniature Pomeranian What I suggest, Bond, is that we conceal ourselves behind those bushes and wait for the culprit to come along She is sure to come again this morning She has been stealing daffodils this past week And stealing daffodils, like smoking opium, becomes a habit "

Holmes and I crept behind the bushes, and settled down to a long wait After half-an-hour, our patience was rewarded A large elderly woman in a green hat came walking stealthily across the grass followed by a small white pom on a lead Holmes had been right! More than ever I admired his brilliance We waited until the woman began pulling daffodil plants out of the soil and then Holmes leapt from the bushes

"Ah, we have you madam!" he cried, springing upon her so swiftly that she shrieked and dropped the daffodils but my efforts were rewarded by a nip in the leg from the outraged Pomeranian

Holmes had caught the woman by the shoulders, I don't know what frightened her more —being caught or being confronted by that grim visaged countenance, with its pipe, cloak and hunting cap

"Now madam," he said firmly, "why were you stealing daffodils?"

She had begun to weep and I thought Holmes was beginning to soften, he always did when confronted by weeping women

"I would be obliged, Bond, if you would call the park attendant," he said to me

I hurried off towards a greenhouse and after a brief search found a gardener

"Stealing daffodils, is she?" he said, running up at the double, a dangerous looking rake in one hand

But when we got to the daffodil bed, we couldn't find the lady anywhere Nor was Holmes to be seen I was overcome by doubt and embarrassment. But, then, I looked on the ground and saw a number of daffodils scattered about the place

"Holmes must have taken her to the police," I said

"Holmes," said the gardener "Who's Holmes?"

"Sherlock Holmes, of course The celebrated detective Haven't you heard of him?"

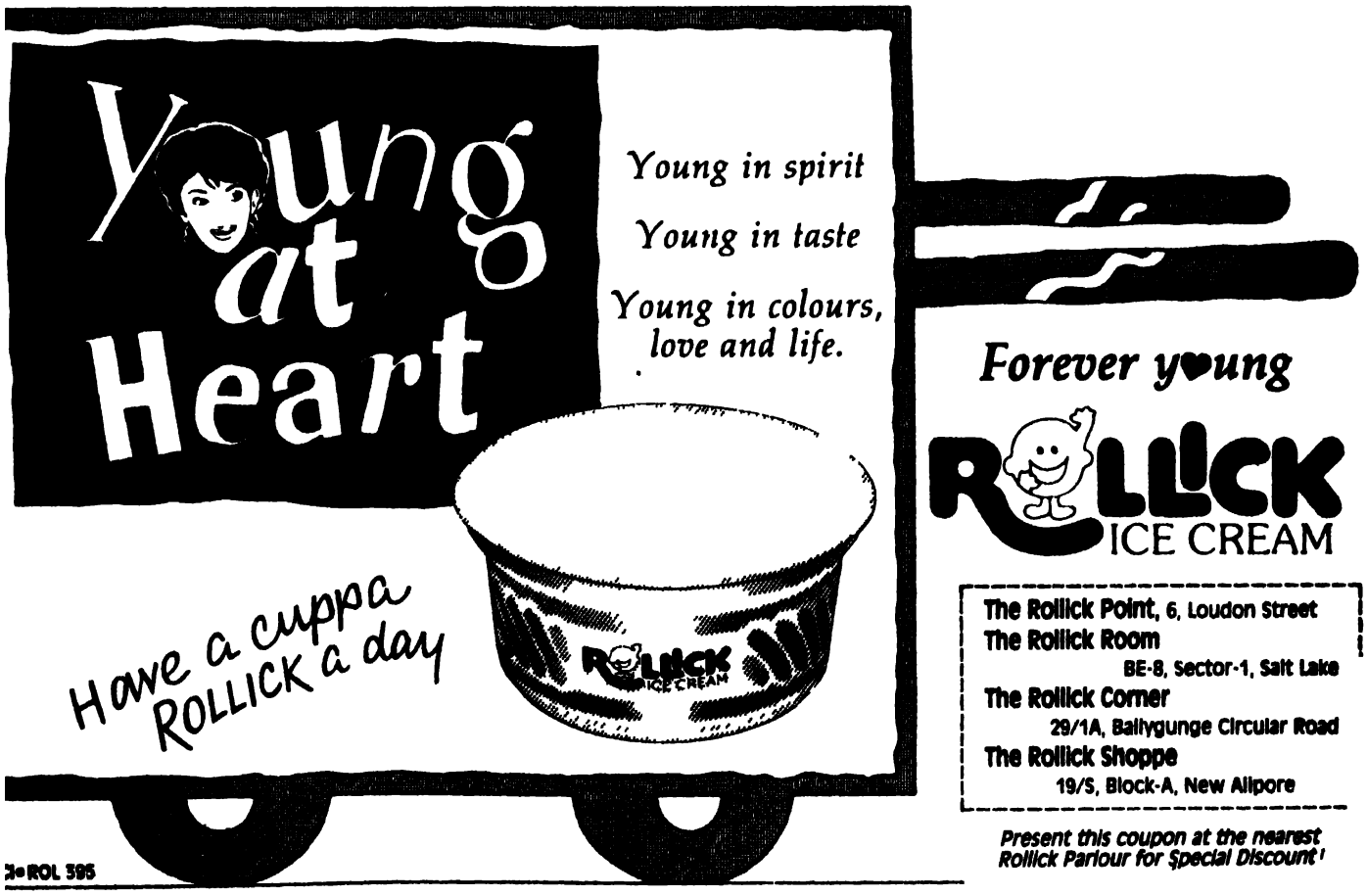
The gardener looked at me with alarm

"Sherlock Holmes, eh? And you'll be Dr Watson I suppose?"

"Well, not exactly," I said, but before I could explain, the gardener had disappeared

I found my way out of the park eventually, feeling that Holmes had let me down a little Then, just as I was crossing Baker Street, I thought I saw him on the opposite curb He was alone, looking up at a lighted room, and his arm was raised as though he was waving to someone I thought I heard him shout, "Watson!" But I was not sure I started to cross the road, but a big red bus came out of the fog in front of me and I had to wait for it to pass When the road was clear, I dashed across By that time, Mr Holmes was gone and the rooms above were dark

(Sanctuary Features)



GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

HAMMER AND TONGS

"If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning, I'd hammer in the evening, all over the world"

So runs what was once a popular American song It would be the natural song to come to the lips of millions of modernday people, were it not for the fact that they already have hammers

I live surrounded by them in Nizamuddin east, once a very fashionable place to be buried Now the living outnumber the dead and market forces are forcing up the price of land, and forcing down the old bungalows built here after Partition by refugees from Punjab

Construction is not new to Nizamuddin In the 13th century this area was called Ghiaspur, after Ghiasuddin Balban, the last but one of the Slave Kings, who built a beautiful Red Palace here — few traces of which remain

After him came the Sufi saint Nizamuddin who would not have fitted too well into the market economy as he is reported to have wept over his wealth and made arrangements to give it away to the poor immediately The Hazrat wisely kept his public and private life separately, meditating in a small room near the river Jamuna and meeting all and sundry on a wide level piece of land where the *dargah* stands

The first purpose-built royal mosque of Delhi was built here and its huge halls reverberate five times a day to the recorded tones of a *muezzin* giving the call to prayer

The fact that even in sultanate times, this area was no remote patch of forest is proved by the construction of another mosque, the Kali Masjid

The sultans only bothered to build mosques where there were people to use them Until a few years ago, this edifice served as a buffalo and goatshed Now, it is a place of worship again, but the hammer has not spared it One part has been demolished and replaced by a modern minar Tiles of the type more often found in bathrooms have appeared on some walls, stone pavements have been relaid with marble and on a new tank built for washing

If this is the fate of a building of the 14th century, there can be no surprise at the wide-scale destruction of lesser buildings with no history They are carved out of the ground to be replaced by three-four storey flats with basements, most of which defy all planning permissions but are seldom touched by the administration The consolation is that they appear so badly made that they will fall down by themselves one of these days

As buildings fall and rise, rubble litters the streets in mounds and hammers work from dawn until late into the night Whatever modern technology may have done for us, buildings are still painstakingly knocked down by hand They are renovated by hand, too — with the occasional help of power drills, and polishing machines which grind the mind

There is one going in the flat upstairs as I write and it conjures up the image of a great giant at the dentist's, his mouth open in the chair while a horde of Liliputian humans dig holes in his molars

The effect of this is added to in our area by two sets of panel beaters who prefer to be known as denters and painters In fact, they dedent Drivers do the denting So whenever there is a pause in the cacophony of construction, they fill it with percussion of their own More vehicles mean more accidents and denting is as inevitable as death

Therefore, it is natural for men who were traditionally craftsmen of other types to move into this noisy business

Husna annd Bhinder are well known personalities to locals here, but one of the benefits of frequent travelling, is that one gets to know denters further afield, too

Recently, in Lucknow, I had a contretemps with a telephone pole, uprootinng it dramatically from the ground, disconnecting several officials' telephonnes and coming to rest halfway over a stone wall The car, unfortunately, was not mine

Oh, the agonies of guilt I felt after the initial shock of the adventure The hunt went on for a denter Munna in Nishatgunj, near the Karbala, was recommended to be the best by Kunwar Narain, a leading poet Who else should one go to at a time of crisis?

Munna was himself an artist He had never worked on a Contessa before and wasn't sure what it should look like, but was gifted with imagination

Not only that, out of sheer dedication to detail, we cycle-rickshawed around the state capital looking for undented Contessas We stopped where we spotted them parked and examined the bonnets

A suspicious policeman called us over outside the state guest house, but once we explained the problem, he called over a driver to assist us Two weeks it took And I sat in the dust and sun and noise and learned the theory of the art of panel beating

The energy required to sit in the sun for hours and beat is awesome, besides which there is the risk to hand and limb of burning yourself with the torch as you repeatedly heat and then beat

Munna, Bhinder and Husna are master craftsman of this new art born of the rising living standards of many The new flats in Nizamuddin, retailed in a cocktail of black-and-white money, also indicate newfound purchasing power

But while standards of living improve for some, the quality of our environment worsens through noise, air and water pollution Standards of living are mere economic indicators, but customers (for in the market economy that is all that we are) in the new century will demand something more On their shopping list will be not so much Standards of Living as Quality of Life

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN

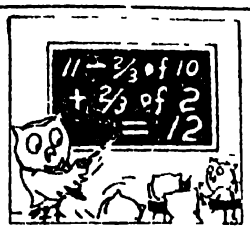


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FIND TWINS! Rain, rain, please go away, who needs another umbrella day? Which two umbrellas here appear to be twins?

WORD CIRCUS! Given a word and a letter, juggle letters to form the name of an animal 1 ROSE plus H 2 GRIT plus E 3 MALL plus A. 4. LACE plus M 5 BEAR plus Z See if you can name all five

1 Horse 2 Tiger 3 Llama 4 Camel 5 Zebra



FIGURING IS A HOOT

"LISTEN UP," says the Wise Old Owl, pointing to the blackboard above "Perhaps the problem you see does not make sense, but a case can be made that the answer is correct

'Hear me out

Ordinarily we would say 11 minus two thirds of 10, plus two thirds of 10, plus two-thirds of 2 (6 2/3 plus 1 1/3) is equal to 8, is it not?

But at the same time, ELEVEN minus two thirds of TEN, which may be regarded as EN, results in ELEV plus two-thirds of TWO, TW is ELEVTW which, rearranged becomes TWELVE the answer displayed

'Anyone give a hoot? No? Class dismissed"

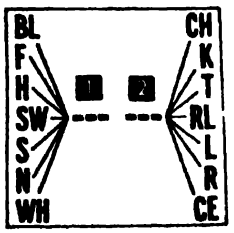
Second the motion

THREE AWAY! Two three-letter words will complete the word-run sequence below In sequence No 1, for instance, addition of the word "are" would result in blare, tare, hare and hare, but end there

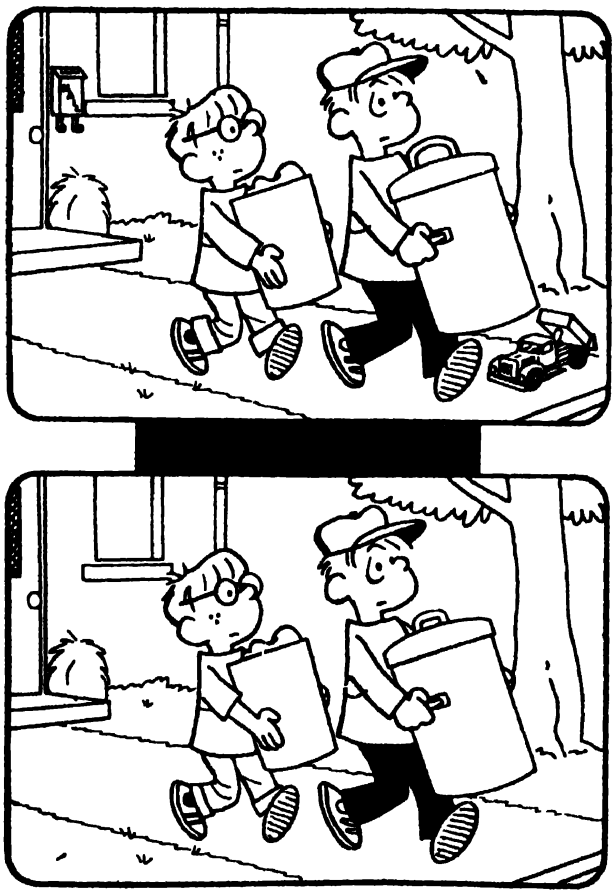
In sequence No 2, addition of "pin" would result in pinch, pink and pint, but leave another four words unfulfilled

What two words then will comply with needs of each?

Bat and pie respectively will comply



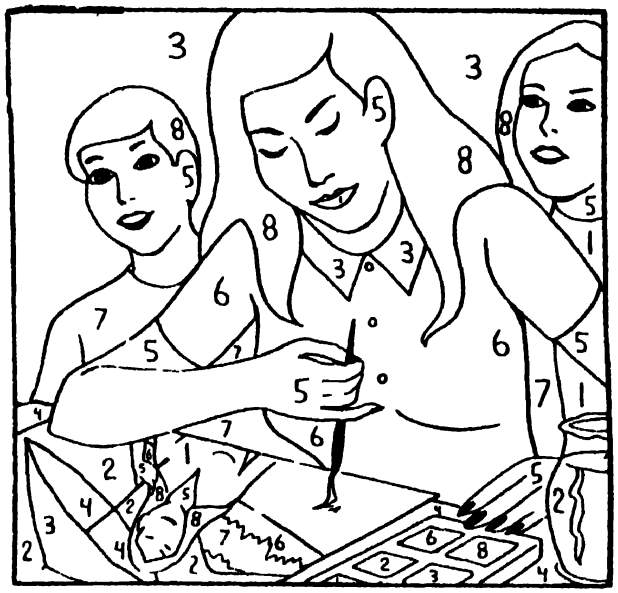
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Mailbox is missing 2 Platform is shorter 3 Sleeve is shorter 4 Curls are smaller 5 Handle is smaller 6 Truck is missing

FUNSPOT



BRUSH PARTY! Our artist friend is at work on a scene from her homeland. Coloring code: 1-Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones, 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Black.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

ATOMIZER

- - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

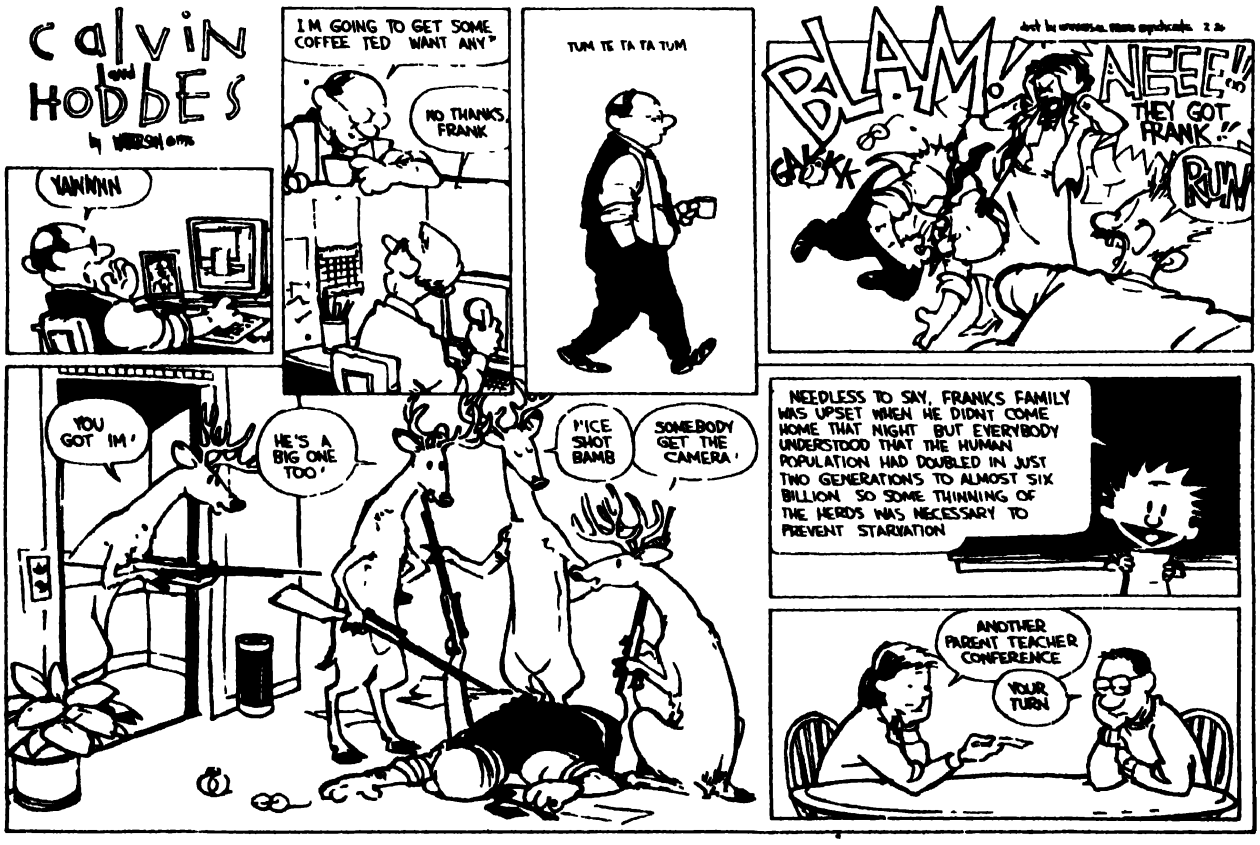
Possible awesome Riot, mazes

COMICS

ARCHIE



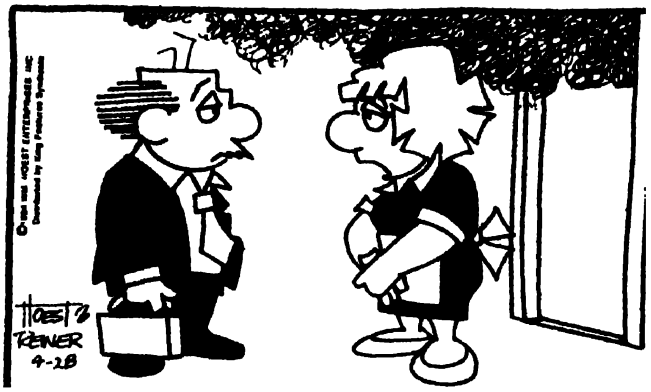
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



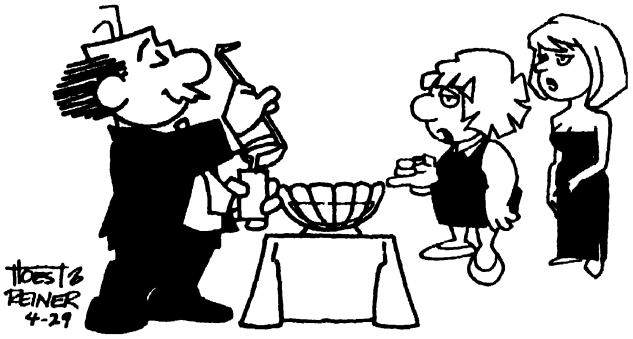
THE LOCKHORNS



"LORETTA CHANGES HER MIND TWENTY TIMES A DAY, AND STILL HASN'T COME UP WITH ONE THAT WORKS."



"I DIDN'T BURN THE DINNER, LEROY. THE STOVE DID."

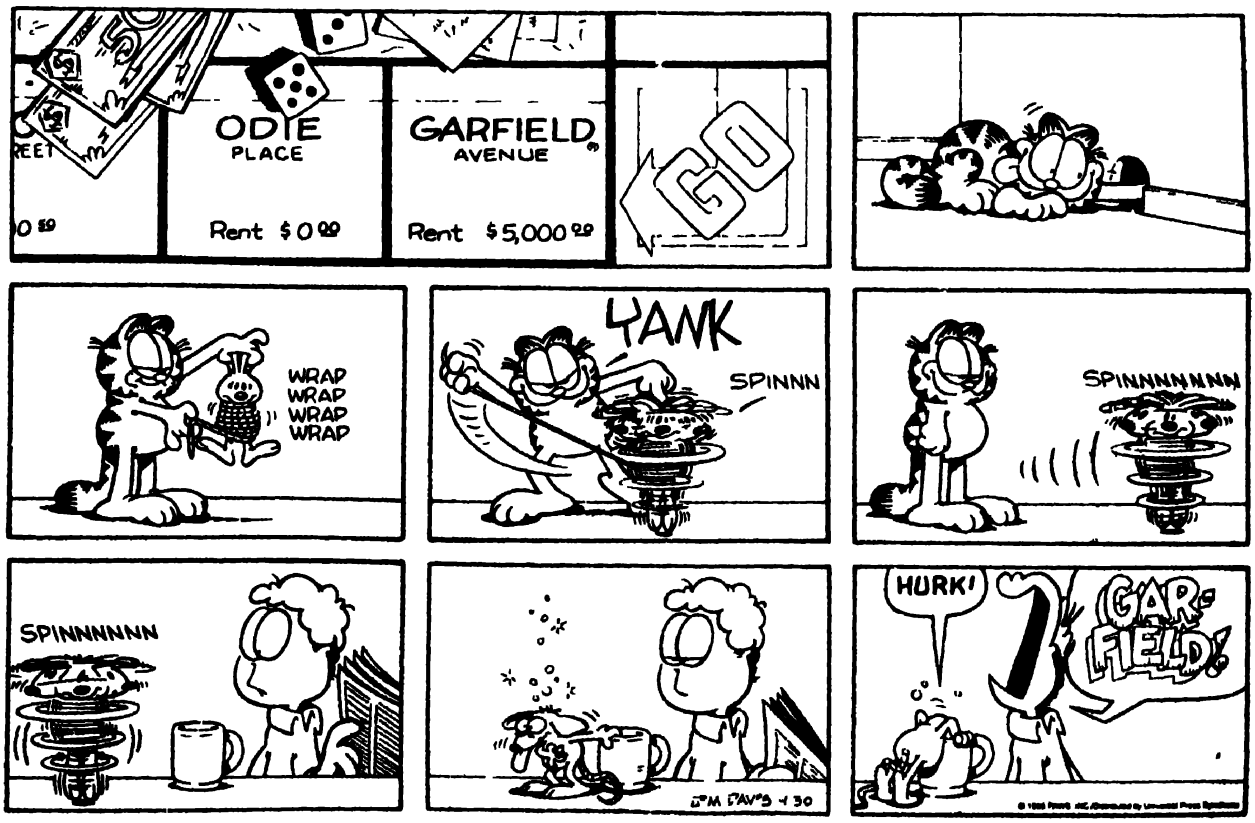


"AFTER LEROY FINISHES YOUR PUNCH, HE'S GOING TO GET ONE FROM ME."

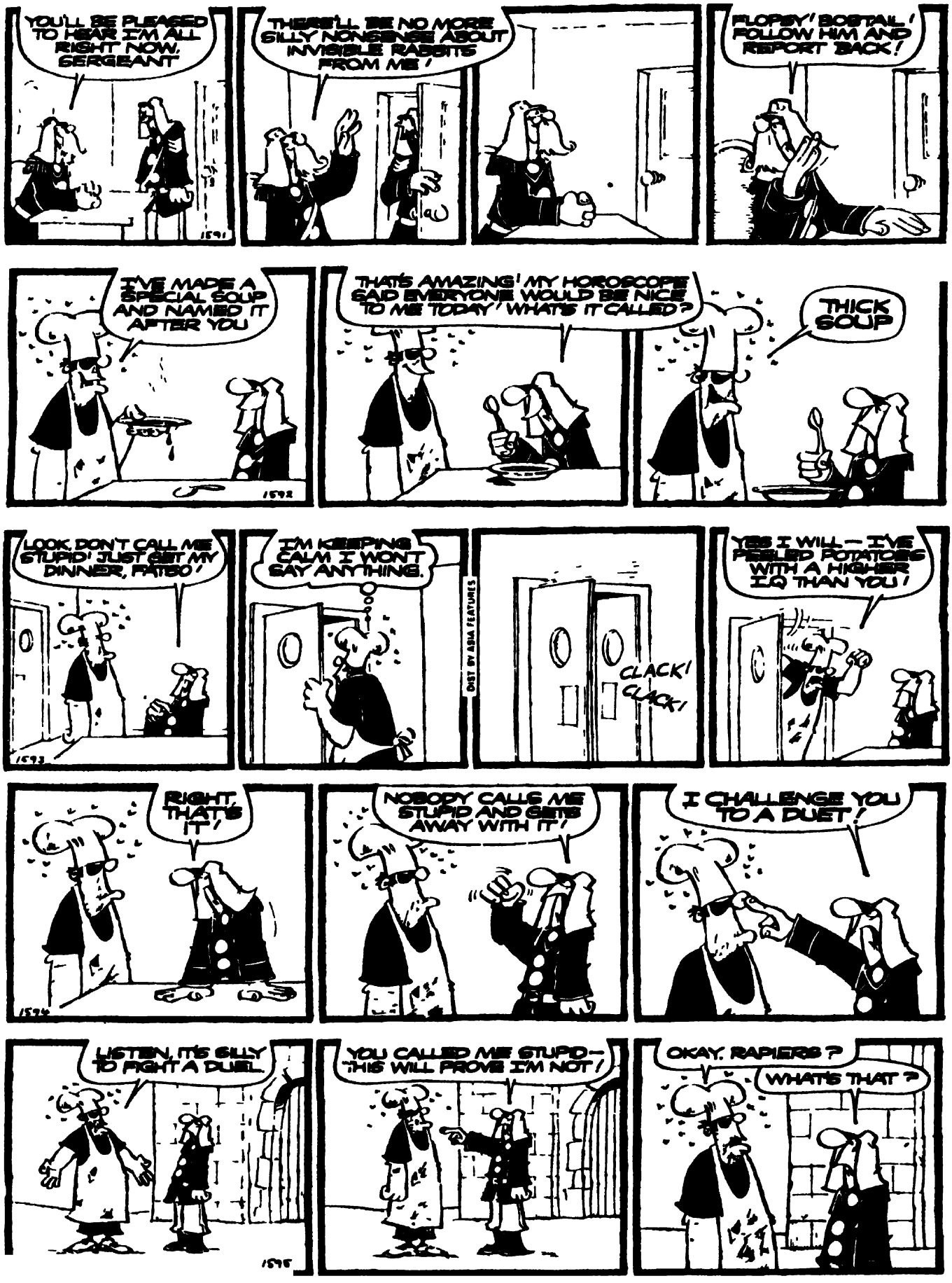


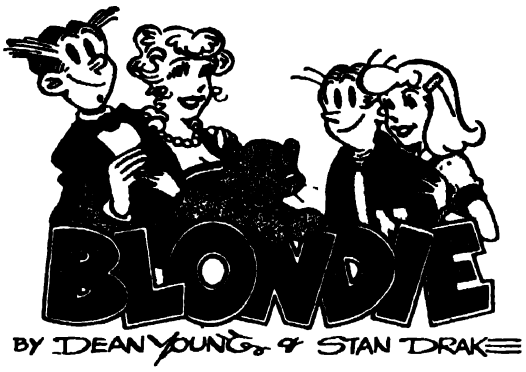
"AFTER TEN COMMERCIALS IN A ROW, I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT SHOW WE'RE WATCHING."

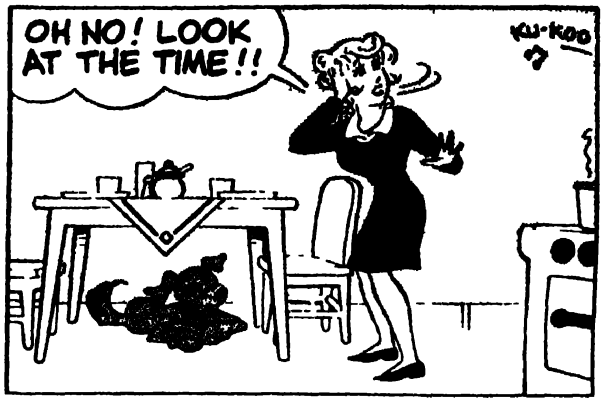
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



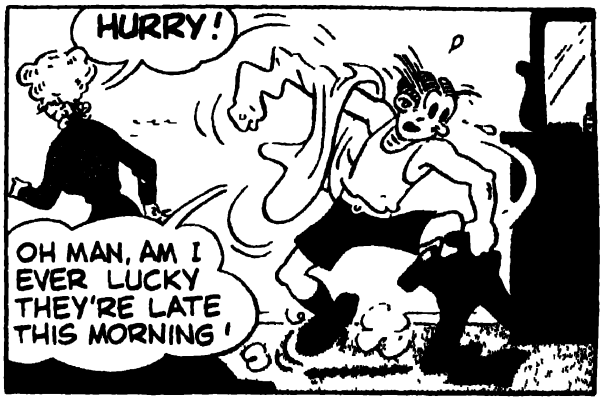
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



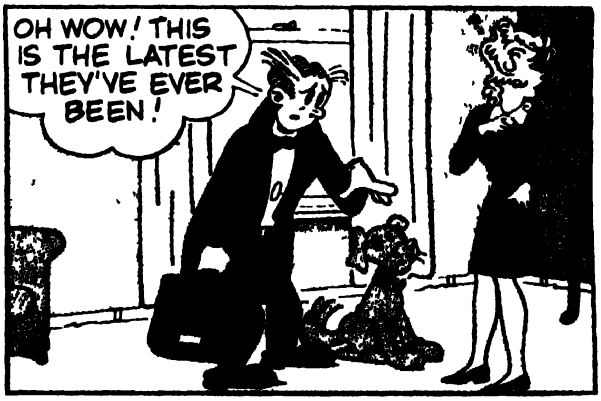






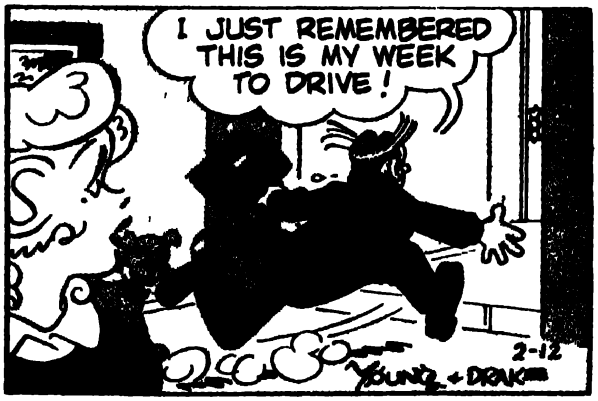






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PIN UP

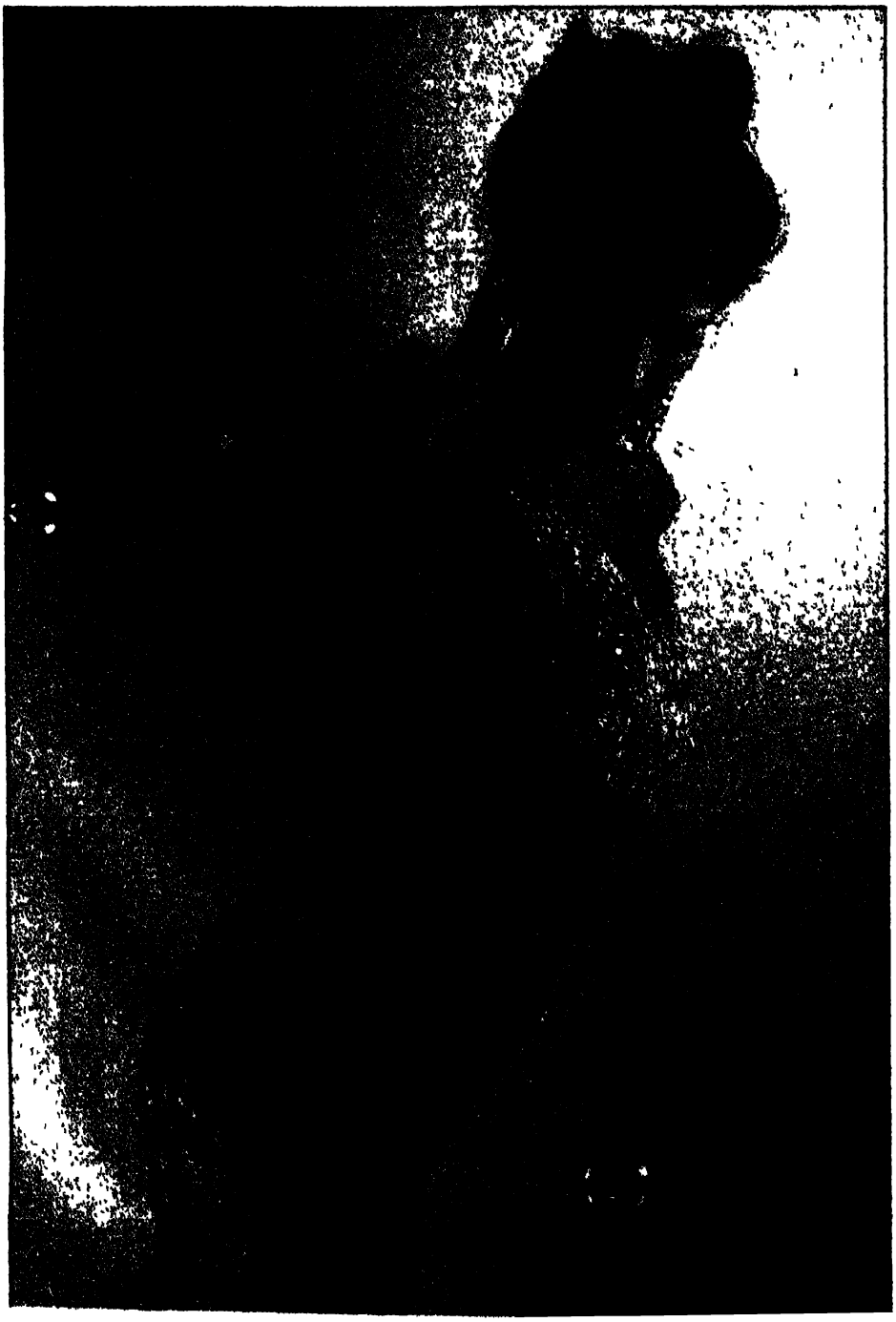
HUMMA BIRD

The face to watch out for in Bombay

A sensational guest appearance in Mani Ratnam's *Bombay* has caught the public fancy even while the rest of the film is embroiled in controversy after controversy Sonali's feverish dance is set to the pulsating tune of A.R Rahman and exotically choreographed by Sundaram Raju

The song rendered by Remo Fernandes, *Humma humma* lends a touch of wantonness to *Bombay*

Sonali was not sure whether she would study labour law or personnel management But as destiny always has the last word, she found herself strolling into tinsel town and saying cheese to the camera Gone were the dreams of academics and higher studies



She became a model Remember the Strepsils girl? Or the Fem bleach model? Sonali Bendre, the 20-plus model-turned-actress, the mix-n-match Moushumi Chatterjee/Mamta Kulkarni look-alike is in the habit of springing surprises on everyone, including herself

For who would have thought she would waltz away with the Screen-Panasonic Discovery of the Year Award? And pick up the Filmfare Fresh New Face Award as well? "It is almost as if the Screen-Panasonic Awards were instituted just for me!" Sonali beamed after winning the honour

Tall, lithe, with a feline grace and a string of successful modelling assignments and movies (*Aag, Naraaz, Takkar* and *Gaddar*) trailing her, she is the hottest debutante in film town today

Sonali feels she is lucky as things easily come her way Like the *Screen* awards The *Filmfare* awards Mani Ratnam's *Bombay* And *English Babu, Desi Mem* opposite Shah Rukh Khan coming soon

How does she view herself five years from now? "I hope I won't have any more sleepless nights before a dance shoot!"

Susmita Banerjee

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

Once Were Warriors: **This brutally fascinating film unleashes the gory side of Maori life and New Zealand temperament kept well under wraps even two decades back.**

The film, based on a novel by Alan Duff, is directed by Lee Tamahori who shifts the focus from husband Jake, to his wife, Beth, played by the dynamic Rena Owen.

The movie, crude and shocking in parts, turns out to be the story of Beth's awakening when her husband



rams her against the walls and pummels her face constantly. She is in danger of losing her life.

If Beth still manages to hang around, it is out of a sense of stubborn pride and not because she is a masochist.

Caught in the vortex of an attraction which many women find hard to resist in tough guys, Owen takes everything to the very limits, showing love fighting back rage and then shame and despair tearing away at love.

BOOKS

Indian Cricket (1994) Last year was a year of records galore for Indian as well as international cricket Kapil Dev crossed Richard



Hadlee's tally of 431 Test wickets Dashing West Indian, Brian Lara, programmed himself into a superior run making machine when he scored 375 against England and eclipsed the 36 year-old record of Gary Sobers

In this 48th edition, P V Vaidyanathan compiles facts with figures, statistics with records of Indian victories and losses and national championship scores

This packed-with-info volume is priced at an affordable Rs 45 and is published by Kasturi & Sons Limited of *The Hindu*

FASHION

Short Circuit: **Cool and chic. That's the kind of casual garb, up for grabs this season.**

Gone are those heavily flounced up skirts with frills and laces. The trend is more towards wearing the itsy-bitsy natty look.

Hip-hugging cotton minis in bold black polkas are in, as is the black silk scarf passing off for a classy sash.

Legs, slim and shapely, should be left unhindered save for the black velvet ballerinas encasing the feet.

The top, in long zebra stripes, is brief, synchronising beautifully with the partly chequered matrix of the mini. Arms are left bare with just a strip of fabric as the only hint of a sleeve.

This gorgeous gear which looks best on glowing tanned skin was part of the Shringar Utsav, a fashion show put up by Delhi's IIFT and Business Nexus earlier this month.

And for reasons obvious had set pulses racing this summer.



FESTIVE

Count on Kellogg The cola war is turning cold and the liquor boom is stale news Now Calcuttans can gear up for some wholesome distraction at their breakfast table

Kellogg's is here to fill you with health flakes of different varieties — wheat, Basmati and the oh-so-common corn

This should be music to the ears of calorie-freaks as Kellogg's is a simple diet of complex carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins, iron and is 98 per cent fat free

The company did some serious research for quality cereals and finally managed to get the corn from



Andhra Pradesh, wheat from Madhya Pradesh and rice from Punjab

Competitively priced at Rs 16 40 for a 100 gm pack, Rs 27 30 for the 200 gm pack and Rs 37 15 for 250 gm pack

Sultry and sweet You've said 'mmm' to their mango, jived with their orange, pined for their pineapple and slurped their guava Now it's time



to jumpin' for Litchis

Yes, Godrej now adds a 'litchi' flavour to their list of soft drinks This exotic tetrapak has been introduced in select markets and is now ready to tantalise the tastebuds of every major city this summer! You can go litchis for Rs 7 per 200 ml pack!

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

The Night Chorus

' crows calling at night wakes
,'
and I wonder what is wrong
The sound is full of danger
Or is it simply one's own mind
That sings its sad song
In the small hours?

They spoke the same language the night you died
I wanted to run far away and hide,
But I stayed and heard them as I held you in my arms
Not sleepy croakings, but shrill with alarm

Can they sense that Death is near?
Most things they hear
These crows
The approach of a strange cat, one they don't know
And call out a warning

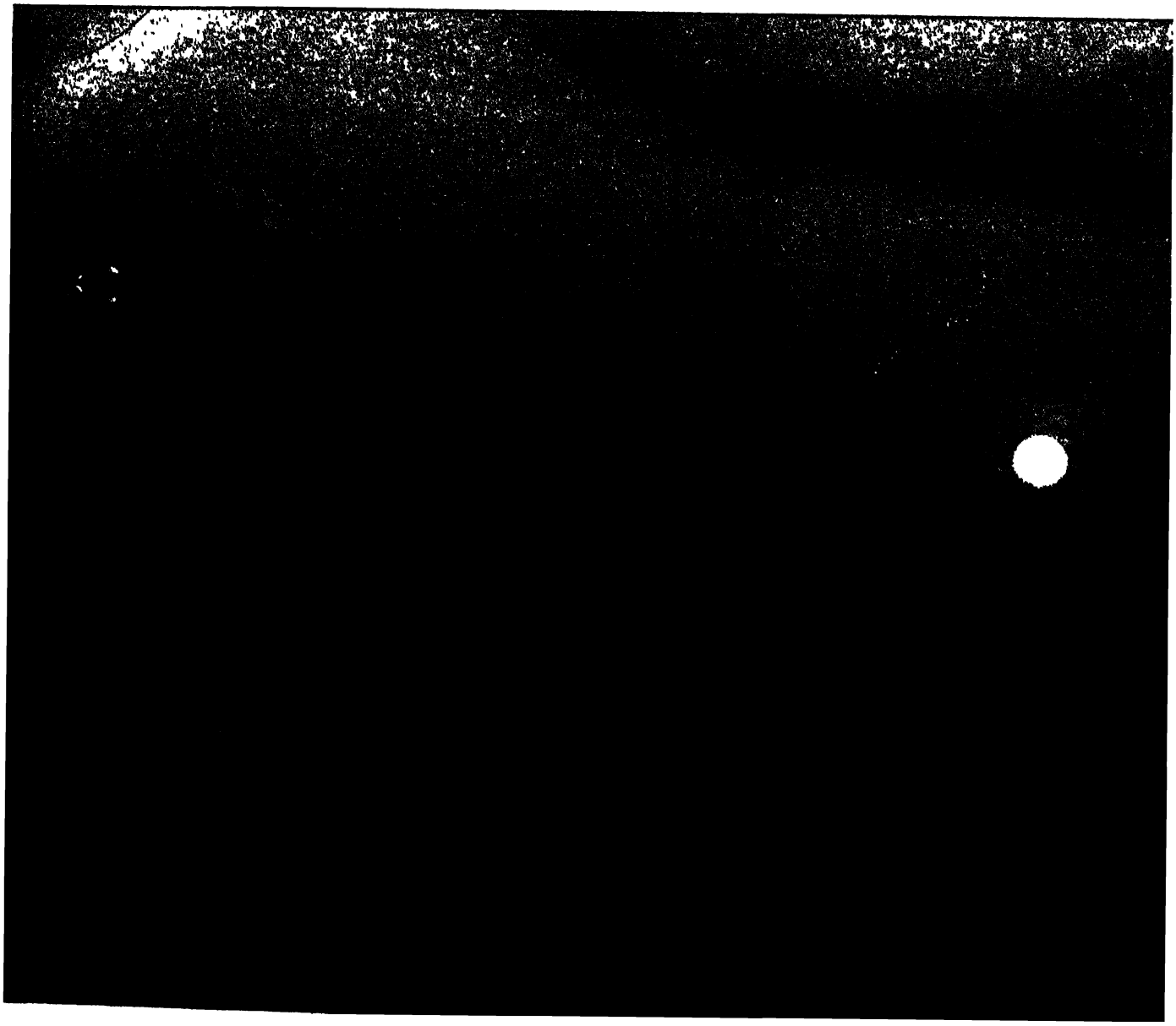
I go to the window
"Are you somewhere there? Or anywhere?"

I ask, as I stare up at the sky
There is a disturbance in the trees
And I watch a crow fly sleepily to another

They are quiet now, but not so my heart
There is pain and longing, although
I accepted long ago we had to part
They're calling again Is something else in store?
Can there be much more?
"Yes", is the short answer to that

I return to bed
Perhaps what I hear
Is only the sound of my own fear

Tara Kidwai



You

I saw you in the majestic beak of a
pied hornbill
Glittering in the morning sun
from the peak
Of the tallest silk-cotton tree
In the thick forests of sub-
Himalayan Abor hills

I saw you in the shells of the fresh
water mussels
Sprinkled over the sandy banks of
Brahmaputra
At Majuli, the biggest river island
of the world

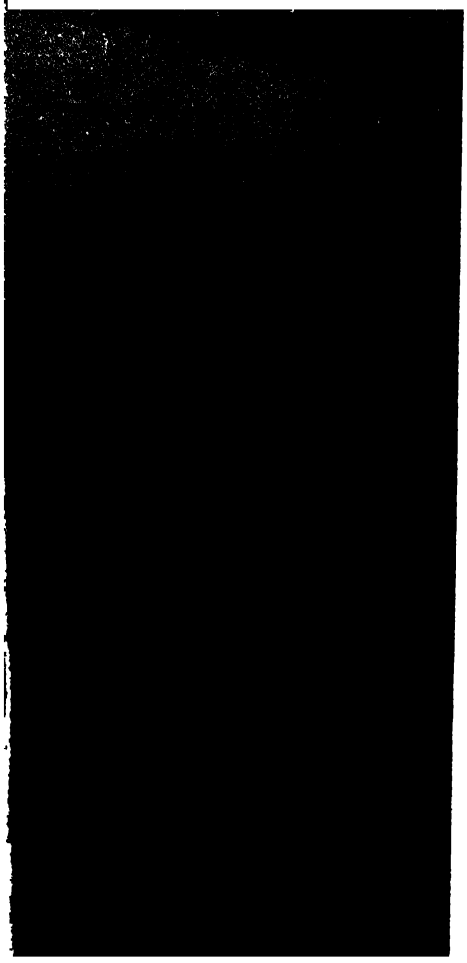
I saw you in the hood of the giant
King Cobra
Prowling through the ferns
Luxuriantly dancing in the
swamp of the Nambor forest

I saw you in the canter of the one
horned King,
The rhinoceros with his pre-
historic skin,
Paleolithic bonnes and timeless
gaze
Reigning over the grass lands of
Kaziranga

But now,
When I am here with my sons,
And tell them of you, they only
smile,
They talk of AK47 and Robots,
I weep and I cry

Pratap Bora





India

Ask the man who sells shadows
under that lonely tree in the scorch-
ing desert
in the kindness of some legendary
God
He can only point out where India
is

At midnight, the caretaker of the
burning-ground,
Harishchandra, with those words
incised on his terrible stave
The cost for a body's cremation

Aware that not even one among
them belongs
to the flute-playing youth grazing
cattle
in the twilight hour of home-
bound cows
India's freedom hides in the cloth
tied to his head

And yet, when night gives birth
everytime
to the still-born morning which
must come,
we crowd around it, crying out
with joy
"Mother India! O India, our
Mother!"

Sanat Ray
Translated from Oriya
by Jayanta Mahapatra



To Calcutta

So what if your face is wrinkled?
So was the face of my mother
So what if your lanes turn on
themselves?
And smog conceals your soft cool
dawns?

Those whom I love — a friend, my
mother,
A favourite book, a beloved city —
Even if wrinkled, even if
moth-eaten
They have something which you
can't put in words

I hear your song in my blood,
My arteries are tied to your pulse
You gave me all the dreams that I
dream
And your womb covers all my
fears

Susmita Bhattacharya

NIKKI BEDI, *the golden-haired, blue-green-eyed lady might soon give TV chat show hosts something to think about. She is in a 'fun, frothy show' and not striving to emulate the 'intellectual' ones being aired now. This vivacious and ebullient damsel first made waves in India for her role as Desdemona in the Alyque Padamsee-directed* Othello. *With Star TV's* Nikki Tonight *chat show she's hit big time. No longer will she be known only as Kabir Bedi's wife.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
To be able to juggle a career, marriage and my family
What is your greatest fear?
I have so many But mainly, not being able to control my feelings
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mistakes
What do you dislike most in others?
Hypocrisy
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My lack of patience
What is your most precious possession?
Kabir
What objects do you always carry?
My wedding ring — I wear it always And a harmony bell (a tiny brass bell with inscriptions, attached to a long string)
What makes you most depressed?
My menstrual cycle
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
I have finally learnt to accept myself completely But the part I disliked was a huge nose with a bump in the end I changed that (with plastic surgery)
What is your favourite word?
Gobsmacked



What is your greatest regret?

Leaving my first husband the way I did

What is your favourite journey?
[No comment]

What is your favourite dream?
I am very superstitious But I have no dreams

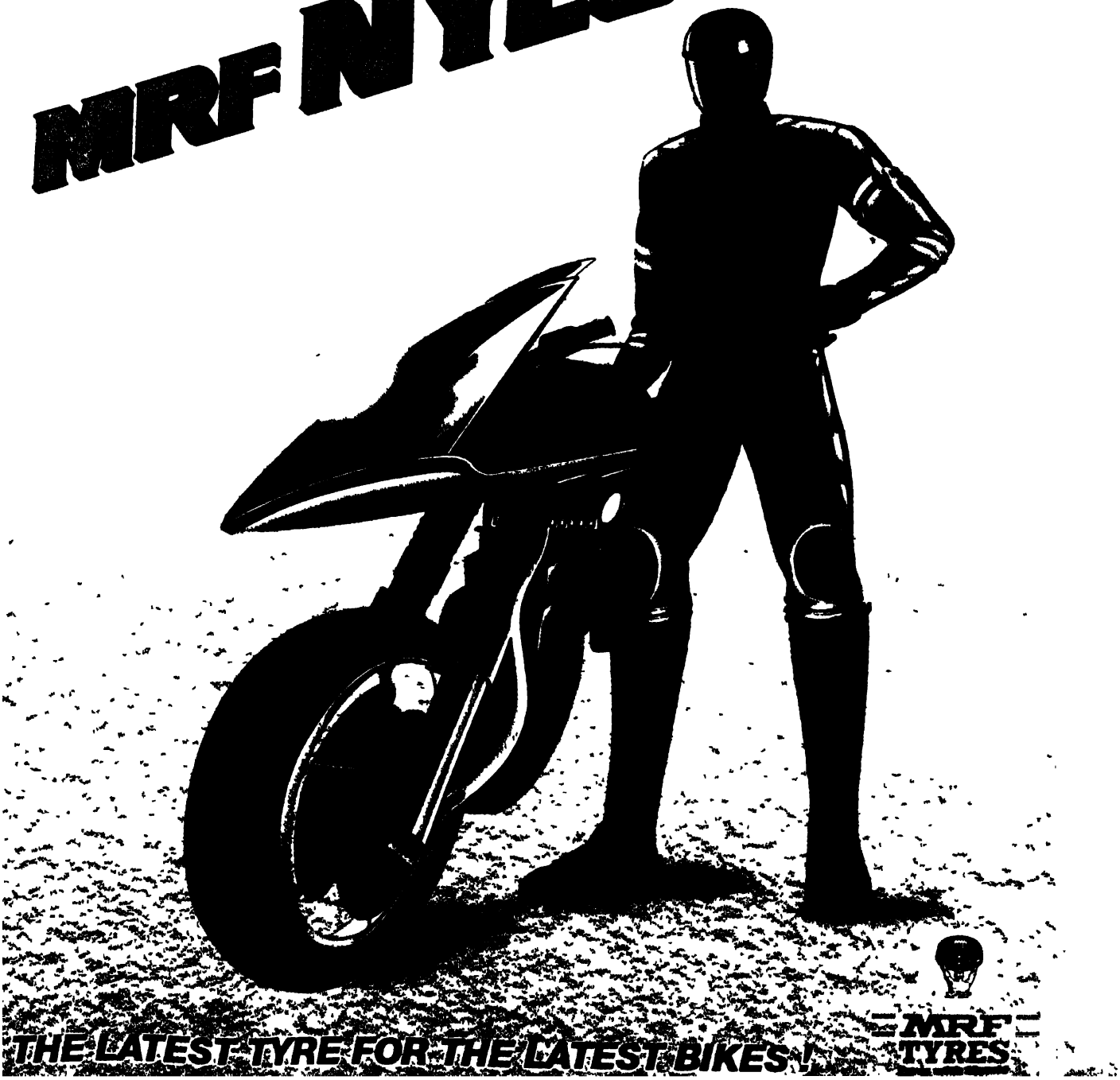
What is your nightmare?
The people I love, dying
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Kabir

What makes you most depressed?

My menstrual cycle

What is your source of sustenance?
[No comment]
On what occasions do you lie?
Only to protect somebody's feelings It is always a white lie
What is your greatest regret?
Leaving my first husband the way I did
What has been your happiest moment?
Yet to come
What brings tears to your eyes?
Picket Fences
How do you relax?
I play scrabble And I am a mag hag I love reading magazines
What do you envy most in others?
Self-discipline
How would you like to be remembered?
This is what was said of Amrita Shergill — 'I would like to be remembered as a comet that hit and left a dent'
How would you like to die?
In my husband's arms.

THE MAN.
THE MACHINE..
THE TYRE...
MRF NYLOGRIP



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MRF TYRES



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collection of fabrics
slightly ahead
of their time

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in pure silk
and blends

A revolution
in pure merino wool
Woven from
the world's best yarn,
with fine air spaces
to keep you cool
winter through
summer

Rare fabrics
that bring home
the world's best.

Bare your soul
Weave romance
around your body
In colours you have
only dreamt of

Don't believe me
Trust only your eyes

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The Telegraph

7 MAY 1995

POST MORTEM

Panditji's Sitar

■ The tribute to Pandit Ravi Shankar was enlightening ('Alaap', April 2) The views of the three musical maestros bring out Panditji's inherent mastery over the sitar

Ravi Shankar is the first to take Indian classical music beyond the shores of India His dedication and contribution to the cause of Indian classical music and the sitar, in particular, have made him the best cultural ambassador of India

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

■ Can we look forward to another such cover story on Ustad Ali Akbar Khan Saheb?

Avra Banerjee and Abir Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ I was greatly surprised to see such a divine subject on the cover of the Magazine, used as we are to seeing bare beauties

R Sarkar,
Calcutta

■ Ravi Shankar took the musical world by surprise with his talent and made the sitar a household name in India

Although a classicist he is at ease playing a *jugalbandi* with rock musicians also

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore (Orissa)

■ Ravi Shankar has taken the sitar to every corner of the world His music for Satyajit Ray's film, *Pather Panchali*, greatly enhanced the beauty of the film We wish him many more birthdays and hope he creates some dedicated disciples

Sukla Das,
Jamshedpur



Pandit Ravi Shankar One with his music

From Sahir's Sister

■ Thank you for the cover story on my Bhaijaan, Sahir Ludhianvi ('Timeless', March 12) It is because of people like you that the memory of Sahir is being kept alive in the hearts of the new generation

My Bhaijaan occupies a permanent place not only in my heart, but in the hearts of millions of people who relate themselves with the emotions expressed in his poems

Bhaijaan was a poet of the downtrodden, the masses and the have-nots

As a member of the Progressive Writers' Movement, Sahir's vision was revolutionary However his revolution was not characterised by slogan shouting and destruction

He was critical of the negative values and the customs of an exploitative social order He dreamed of an egalitarian society based on the values of secularism and universal brotherhood His yearning for peace in the world finds expression in poems like *Parchhaiyan*

Anwar Sultana,
Bombay

INSIDE



Ashoke Chakrabarty

PAGE 8

ASIAN TAXI drivers in New York live in danger, every night Fear lurks in their hearts for they could be the next target of a killer

PAGE 4

AN EXTRACT from T N Seshan and Sanjoy Hazarika's book, *The Degeneration of India*

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
20 GILLIAN WRIGHT
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 RAINBOW
28 ENVIRONMENT
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover A P Kamath

EXTRACT

Tu Cheez Badi Hai

MAST MAST

BY T.N.SESHAN



Extracted from** The Degeneration of India **by T.N Seshan with Sanjoy Hazarika, Viking (Penguin India), Rs 299

There is a cultural revolution of sorts taking place in India today New styles of music, dance, movies, the advent of satellite television, and new trends in newspapers, books and magazines, are changing the concept of India among Indians as well as that of Indians about themselves and the world around them Communication has suddenly become much quicker through fax, electronic mail and satellite technology A disproportionately high value is placed today on information and entertainment The tragedy is that our sources of entertainment have begun to redefine our culture And the world of entertainment in our country today is overly monopolised by films

There is programme on Doordarshan's Metro channel that my wife and I sometimes watch on Sunday evenings It is called *Superhit Muquabla* and purports to show the ten most popular songs from Hindi and regional films over the previous week

We don't usually watch all of it but only glance at it intermittently Sometimes we turn off the volume, switch on some Carnatic music and then sit back to watch the Hindi film dance sequence with a classical song playing in the background Others should try it it is hilarious

What appears to be taking place is a frenetic competition on who can gyrate his or her pelvic girdle the most, with the winner taking the grand prize of obscenity The film world seems to be pandering to cave man or cave woman instincts, with neither depth of thought nor sensitivity to the fact that these messages are being beamed into our bedrooms and living rooms where children, tradition-bound women and men may be watching

In fact, the new infotainment on film and television has spawned new lifestyles, where consumerism, not the consumer, is king What we have done is inflict the worst possible torment on our lower middle class and poor those who have access to television but who do not have the income to buy anything substantial from the washing powder advertised by Lalitaji to the sleek mixie-grinders, refrigerators, washing machines and soft drinks Nor can they savour the mouth-watering range of culinary dishes that international chefs serve up on TV channels

Few surveys have been conducted on the impact of television programmes and advertising on people, especially in the rural areas What is important to study is not just its impact in villages but also among communities which have little real understanding of India or the world and which must span many decades in a short span of time to them soap operas like *The Bold and the Beautiful*, *Santa Barbara* and *Kurukshetra* represent the elusive ideal, where life is a tangle of beauty, scandal wealth, sex, power and stunning palatial homes There is little or no ugliness in these serials except when it comes to deceit and betrayal

It is when life begins to imitate art that things take an ugly turn This has happened in many villages which are turning into sub-towns on the edges of major cities like Bombay and Delhi, where men are becoming hooked to pornographic movies and expect their wives to perform the kinds of contorted sex that they see in these films When the wives express horror and opposition, they are beaten and even raped That the men are frequently drunk makes the offence more vicious

People's visions of what they are or want to become are no longer being determined so much by peer example as by what they see on infotainment



channels

Children, especially, are confused between what they want and what is the larger good A survey conducted by the *Indian Express* threw up some interesting findings (*Express Magazine*, 29 January, 1995) A fourteen-year-old says her role model is the actress Madhuri Dixit and she says she wants "a good job, a huge house and a chauffeur-driven imported car" Another wants an imported car but "I also wish there was no poverty in India" Others want to be cricketers in the mould of Sachin Tendulkar (how educated is Tendulkar?), businessmen, engineers and architects Very few say they would like to be teachers, professionals or even administrators Most of them watch satellite TV and the common denominator running through their remarks is that they would like to earn pots of money and live abroad

The current level of programming is thoughtless, corrupt and far removed from reality It only raises expectations beyond all realistic norms and increases the social tension in the country By essentially pandering to very basic human instincts revolving around sleaze, sex and money, indicating no option but violence to achieve results, entertainment is both degenerative and idiotic

Adding to the problem is the fact that Indian programmes which attempt to focus on serious issues find it difficult to get sponsors and advertisers who will underwrite costs Much of prime time advertising goes to programmes with the maximum pelvic thrusts or steamy masala sequences

But it is not as if our programme managers are able to efficiently handle serious programmes either Take the pathetic unprofessionalism of a news bulletin on Doordarshan Forget for once, its non-adherence to English grammar, forget its describing a landslide in Colombia South America, as occuring in Washington DC , forget even its utter unwillingness to attempt the correct poronunciation of places and names which even a foreign newreader finds possible to achieve Look instead at the basic aim of any news programme the skilful and comprehensive dissemination of news and current events Even here Doordarshan fails abysmally News here, is a series of bad shots of various 'leaders of the nation' taking turns at placing wreaths at Rajghat, or inaugurating some inconsequential facility Only the names of the VIPs change, according to the warrant of precedence News on All India Radio is much the same, minus the bad pictures, of course And more often than not, what appears as 'news' in the electronic media , would already have appeared in cold print 24, even 48 hours earlier

One of the reasons for the ineptness of our media is the constant interference by people in power, who, in this free country, very often determine what should constitute 'news' Telephone calls are made to the news editors by high officials and politicians on how to highlight an incident or play it down Naturally, the poor editor has no choice but to hold the torch Of course, add to all this the merriment of flies buzzing around the faces of news readers and cats sauntering across the studio floor

Occasionally you do see on the television a programme which even when it is hostile to the person being interviewed, is obviously professional in its hostility and relentless in its pursuit of truth Sometimes this is gentle, at other times needling, sometimes offen-



sive but always exploring new problems and new lifestyles Examples that come to mind are episodes of *Aap ki Adalat* on Zee television and *Hello zindagi* on Doordarshan

To summarise, what is apparent is that a sanitised version of the news, dressed up in boring garments, is all we are allowed to watch instead of the r[illegible]thing Will our leaders ever see [illegible]w their policies will get them [illegible]owhere? One can only hope so

But why should we focus merely on the mess in television? Decades before the video and television boom, before satellite dishes and antennae bristled on the rooftops of our cities and towns, was the era of trend-setting films where violence was glorified, step by step rape was shown, where lechery and teasing of women was encouraged, where sickening innuendoes and open anti-woman biases were developed in songs and dances, not to mention hastily written scripts

Here we run in to the chicken and egg theory the film makers say they are making these kinds of films because this is what the audiences want "If they did not want them, then they would reject these movies," that is their attitude

My point is different it is not that you should not give the viewer what sells But you also have a broader responsibility to see that people can absorb this kind of punishment you are inflicting on them without adverse reactions The act of stoning a district magistrate to death, of molesting and blackmailing women, of police assaulting women in custody or in the fields, of people avenging themselves on oppressors in uniform with sharp brutality — these undercurrents may have existed for centuries But now they have resurfaced as adaptations from the pages of film scripts or clips from these films

All forms of crime, ordinary violence and brutality against woman are encouraged on screen and replicated in real life India is perhaps the only country where life imitates debased art we have chief ministers who strut about like heroes and movie actors have become chief ministers In reverse, the assasination of a Prime minister is converted into a film with music, songs and *tamashas* A tragedy is turned into a contemptible farce

I am not making a case for censorship But I am calling for upgrading the quality of entertainment That is the answer, not government control

People are tired of violence in movies, as in real life Real life too can be most unpleasant and there is a thirsting for better made, better quality products We see it these days in the greater number of non-obscene songs (albeit with pelvic thrusts) that are making it to the top of the popularity charts, there is a return to romance, pleasanter songs, cleaner comedy The mood of the pevlic has turned from supporting the Angry Young Men and their bevy of heroines, armed with mindless violence against a bunch of villains, to gentler, yet firm storylines

The answer as I have said does not lie merely in further government control Controls have never worked but have only served to drive both talent and mediocrity underground The government frequently talks about a censorship policy which even it cannot properly define We therefore need to develop an information system that is based on responsible information-entertainment gathering The Central Board of Film Censors must confine itself to laying down broad guidelines as to what is permitted and what is not It is not necessary for it to develop individual judgments on each dialogue and song The industry must ipsi facto apply it Self-control is the only enforceable form of

Sachin Tendulkar Role model





Madhuri Dixit Doing the *choli* number

control Eventually there will come a time when there will be no Censor Board at all

Even now, one cannot control satellite channels In the not too distant future, we will be bombarded, it is believed, with scores of channels, perhaps hundreds of foreign and domestic channels In such an era of electronic chaos, it would be better to have a film industry that is unregulated by the censors but provides a strong alternative to the satellite programmes

Violations in the non-censor era must be punished with a ruthless hand under existing or amended laws, and with the assistance of the industry The Censor Board these days passes sequences that an ordinary, well-meaning person would find totally unacceptable, whether it is songs, about a man's pair of trousers being sexy or 'breaking a *khatiya* Indeed, I feel an exposed female body is far less prurient than lewd semi-exposure through dialogues or songs with lines like *Choli ke peechhe kya hai* Given the talent we have in this country, it would not be difficult to compose a lilting tune without the sleaze or produce a heart-warming film with less violence that would still capture the imagination or large audiences

But there are bigger issues at stake here than the exposure of the human anatomy or obscene lines and bawdy lyrics To understand these issues, one must look at the factors that first led vulgarity to find its way in large doses into our films When the Hindi film world was battered by a recession in the 1970s It was the Bombay underworld that came to its rescue A severe jolt came shortly after when the movie going audiences began to plug into the video world The people who helped finance the film world at the time where those who themselves did not believe in the system of justice, of governance, of culture And sure enough, this amoralisation was reflected in the new genre of films Violence became the trend, the destruction of the police evolved as a common theme in most films and the deification of criminals who mete out a vigilant brand of justice as the answer to ills plaguing society became the basic criterion for success And, unfortunately for us, the effects of the criminal element in the film world continue to be felt today

★★★

THE POLITICISATION OF CULTURE

In the aftermath of independence, royalty was abolished and we had instead politicians and bureaucrats The *zamindari* system was thrown out, breaking even that source of support to the traditional arts Artistes, whether in the cities or in the rural areas, came totally under the mercy of the new rulers and their whims

New institutions came up at the Centre and in the states to draw the best out of the cultural community but it soon became mired in controversies Favouritism and corruption were rife This trend has continued to the present day

The Lalit Kala Akademi, Bharat Bhavan and other institutions exist ostensibly to promote talented performers Yet, they have become politically oriented and invariably it is the elite, those with the best political and bureaucratic contacts, who get the best support

Where partisanship has crept in – and one can think of a few cabinet ministers who are supportive of female artistes — the concept of patronage has become corrupted Merit has gone out of the window, leaving many younger artistes frustrated and deeply unhappy Government administrators play favourites against one another, the system of *sipharish* has become common Indeed, merit has become the last item of consideration for many classical performers, especially if they are in the middle rung, trying to climb to the top

The one cause for hope is that because of the commitment of local communities and groups, the classical arts continue to be preserved in a few pockets as far apart as the deserts of Rajasthan and the hills of Northeastern India

What of the highly touted festivals of India that have sought to promote our culture abroad, whether in the United States Europe or the former Soviet Union? To my mind, these have been examples of growth without development, for there are no trickle-down effects at all However, to their credit, they have made us think once more of the essential question what is Indian culture? It is not just an approach to life and its myriad strands but as cultural czarina Pupul Jayakar once wrote, 'the matrix these shared beliefs, perceptual modes, customs and rituals from which artistic expression springs' (Jayakar, 1994) 'Culture provides both the vocabulary as well as the terms of reference for the artiste and the audience in a traditional society Art in India has never been the expression of an individual artist's isolated sensibilities, but has reflected values formed over many centuries Culture has been closely linked with inner springs, encompassing both the outer world and holding a mirror to the self' (ibid)

Culture spans every waking moment of every Indian In no other society does culture define a people so clearly as it does in India whether it is religious culture and clan culture or guilds of work culture brahmin or mullah, tribe or community, caste and *jati* It is our common heritage and we should guard it to the best of our ability, if not for our own sake then at least for the well-being of the generations to come ■

COVER STORY

DRIVEN BY FEAR

Thousands of cab drivers from the subcontinent ferry passengers back and forth the streets of New York But with murder breathing down their necks most of the time
Arthur J. Pais *in an on-the-spot report*



Parin Singh (second from left) and other Asian taxi drivers outside a cab-leasing office in New York

OPERATING ON LESS THAN FIVE HOURS OF SLEEP AND EIGHT CUPS OF STRONG TEA, MOHAMmad Tariq nibbles on goat *biryani* at New York's Shaheen Restaurant at the end of a 12-hour shift, and wonders why anybody would want to drive a cab in the city

"I am living day to day like an animal, even though I manage to smile and be courteous," he said in decent English. "It's not just work, food and sleep, it is work, food, little sleep—and plenty of fear. I would have been better off in Bombay."



Cabbie Muhammad Tariq Keeps smiling, nevertheless

Over the past three years, about 120 taxi drivers in New York city — out of an estimated 94,000 — have been killed on duty, most while driving 'for hire' cars that provide door-to-door service and, unlike the yellow cabs, are ordered by telephone from despatch centres

Tariq, who worked for a United Nations agency in India and has a Bachelor's degree, dreams of starting a business of his own, a common thought among hundreds of Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi cabbies in New York

"But, till then, I have to put up with danger every night," he says "The law prohibits cabbies from refusing to take passengers even in the most violence-prone areas of the Bronx and Harlem We try sometimes to get past the law," he adds "But it is not easy "

Tariq, a four-year cabbie veteran, laughs at the mention of a colleague's prescription for combating violence against the drivers Let the passenger drive the cab while the cabbie sits in the back seat with a shotgun and a hunter's knife.

Not everyone is laughing, however.

Many cabbies say that the situation is so dangerous — not only in New York but also in Washington D C., Chicago and Dallas — that cabs should be converted into rolling tanks "No good," says Parin Singh "Will anybody get into my cab if I make it look like a tank or a prison cell?"

As Singh talks to a reporter in the Little India segment of Manhattan, more than 30 of his colleagues and friends are sitting in a nearby Indian restaurant, share jokes, trade information and exchange the cassettes of the newest hits including *Karan Arjun*

"Though most of the conversation is in Urdu and Punjabi, you also hear plenty of Bengali Their license plates display such names as Mohammad Qasim, Trevor Pinto, Shabal Ahmad, Altaf Hussein, Sher Singh, Hussain Chowdry and Peter D'Cruz

The majority of cabbies from the sub continent is Muslim "On a Friday afternoon, if you want to get a taxi in New York," says Shabal Ahmad, "you better wait outside a mosque for the *namaaz* to end "

Driving a cab in New York is not an easy job for anyone But for a foreign-born cabbie the job entails an additional burden "You have to deal with a lot of passengers who say that they cannot understand our English," says Trevor Pinto, speaking slowly, clearly and with a slight New York accent "There are men and women who get into our cab and ask 'Do you speak English?'"



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CABBIES AND CURRIES

When Jackie Mason cracks a joke, a lot of people get offended but a lot of people laugh, too. He spares no one, particularly his own Jewish community But his critics point out that Jews get far less scathing criticism than the gentiles

Mason's one-man shows run for months in big American cities, and his recent show, *Jackie Mason, Politically Incorrect*, has been on in New York for nearly a year.

In a show that carries heavy barbs against Bill Clinton, the Democrats, Liberals and the news media, Jackie Mason reserves some of his sharpest venom for Indian cabbies.

Whether the cabbie is from Kapurthala or Dhaka or Islamabad, it does not matter to Mason. They are all Indian cabbies, and they reek of curry, their bodies radiate unpleasant odour and they speak atrocious English

Mason complains how he was dropped 12 miles from his destination by an Indian cabbie, and when



Jackie Mason: Maker of a controversial show that pours venom on Indian cabbies

he called the Taxi Commission's office to complain, the guy who took the call also sounded like an Indian

The dig at Indian cabbies got some bad publicity for Mason, but he has not changed the script of his show. *The New York Times* as well as New York *Newsday* said the attacks were mean-spirited. Said a critic for the *Daily News*: "It is an entirely different thing to laugh at the foibles and mistakes of Bill Clinton and Edward Kennedy, but why pour your venom on poor cabbies?" *Time* magazine's critic said that soon after the show he got into a taxi which was driven by a polite Indian driver. The critic felt very guilty indeed.

"Is Indian food the only food that has an overpowering smell? The hotdogs with mustard and sauerkraut smell, too. And so does Italian food. I mean the proper Italian food that has tonnes of garlic in it"

As for Mason getting lost, is it possible that Mason's own thick Jewish accent — which many Americans have some problems with — confused the cabbie?

Many cabbies from the subcontinent admitted that their English caused some problem to the custo-



tions. "But many of us are trying to speak slowly and clearly," said Trevor Pinto.

Like many cabbies, Pinto is studying for a graduate degree, and drives the cab for eight hours three times a week. "Though the complaint that our English causes some problem is genuine to a degree, I think there is some exaggeration and bias in the complaint," he says. "The previous wave of cabbies from Eastern Europe, Russia and Greece also spoke English with a heavy accent," he adds. "But there was not much of complaint

"Was it because many Americans grew up listening to their parents speak English with a Russian or a German or a Polish accent? And they found no problem understanding a newly-arrived immigrant from that part of the world"

Pinto also does not understand what is the big fuss about the accent. "After all, most fares (passengers) have minimum contact with us," he says "I guess those who are complaining are the lonely guys and women who want to keep a steady stream of conversation with us."



Echoing Parin Singh's fears, Trevor Pinto adds: 'We are easy targets for drug addicts and bums who want money for their quick fixes. They know that at any given time we have a certain amount of cash on hand'

Murders and cultural conflicts apart, there are hundreds of instances of drivers being robbed, often during the day After prolonged protests, the city adopted a mandatory bullet-proof partition that could make it difficult for back-seat passengers to rob the drivers

Drivers say that this has led to about 25 per cent reduction of robberies "It makes it difficult for a man, or a woman, to put a gun or hold a knife to my head," says Parin Singh "But it will not stop him or her from robbing me at the end of the trip as the fare is being paid"

Echoing Singh's fears, Trevor Pinto adds "We are easy targets for drug addicts and bums who want money for their quick fixes They know that at any given time we have a certain amount of cash on hand"

Immigrant drivers — who constitute the majority of taxi drivers — are particularly at risk because they do not know how to say 'no' to potentially dangerous customers, adds Mira, one of the 900 women cabbies in New York city

A Russian immigrant, she says that while the White taxi drivers have mastered the art of refusing a passenger who wants to go to a crime infested area, the immigrant drivers comply with the request

"Immigrants take a long time to understand the tricks of the trade," she says. "Besides, the competition in the business is so strong that many immigrants take up driving the black taxis which are often called through phone calls, and there have been many instances that the passengers are not interested in going anywhere All that he wants is to rob you You give the address of the house and tell the police you have been robbed, the culprit will spin his story And since there are no eyewitnesses, your case is lost"

A few months ago, cabbies took a mile-long procession in New York demanding the right to refuse fare "Or the authorities should give us shotguns or other weapons," says Shabal Ahmad, who was mugged recently by four teenagers

After they robbed him of $74, they looked into his frightened eyes and chorused "Thank you very much, Mahatma Gandhi"

A Pakistani, Ahmad, felt he was being insulted after being injured

"Some muggers think that immigrant drivers won't fight back and lodge complaints with the police," he says "This is not true, but the police often look the other way when we complain They would rather deal with murder cases than with someone who has been robbed of $80 or $120 at gun point"

Despite the inherent dangers in the profession, taxi business in New York city, which grossed about $1 8 billion



Illustration Krishnendu Chatterjee

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ADMISSION OPEN



Illustration: Kyshnendu Chakraborty

last year and serviced over 420 million passengers, continues to draw immigrants — both as cab drivers as well as the owners of taxis

"The demographics have been changing dramatically since the last 10 years," says Susan Feinstein, former director of the Taxi and Limousine Commission in New York city "In the past, majority of cab drivers were from Eastern Europe and the Caribbean

But in recent years, about 45 per cent of the new applicants are from the Indian subcontinent — roughly 20 per cent are from Pakistan, 10 per cent from Bangladesh, and the rest from India "

While the proportion of applicants from the subcontinent rose to 45 per cent in 1993 from 10 per cent in 1984, the proportion of candidates born in America dropped to 10 5 per cent in 1993 from 26 per cent in 1984

"In general, the taxi industry is an immigrant industry," she says "It takes a lot of guts and stamina to be a taxi driver in New York, and separately, it also takes a lot of guts, a lot of stamina and a lot of wherewithal to be an immigrant

"So these people who have the wherewithal and wits about them to uproot themselves from their country to come here to start a new life, they also have the quality to be good taxi drivers "

Feinstein's analysis notwithstanding, it does not explain why Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi immigrants, who constitute less than 0 5 per cent of New York City's population, comprise such a high proportion of the city's cabbies

Drivers from the subcontinent constitute a high percentage of cab operators in Washington,D C , Boston and San Francisco

One explanation is that many drivers from the subcontinent work only part-time, attending technical institutes or universities while not driving Another reason is that approximately one third of New York's 12,000 yellow cabs and 30,000 black taxis are owned by people from the Indian subcontinent

"So when they lease their cars or hire drivers, they prefer someone from their part of the world," says one cabbie

"The kind of money you can make in this business may not be attractive to a White man who has lived here for many years," says Trevor Pinto "But it is good money for a recent immigrant who is dreaming of starting his own business in a few years

"If you lease a car, and drive 12 hours a day, you can make about $100 a day," he says "If it is your own car, you can make about $150 a day, and at the end of the year, you have made as much money as a professor

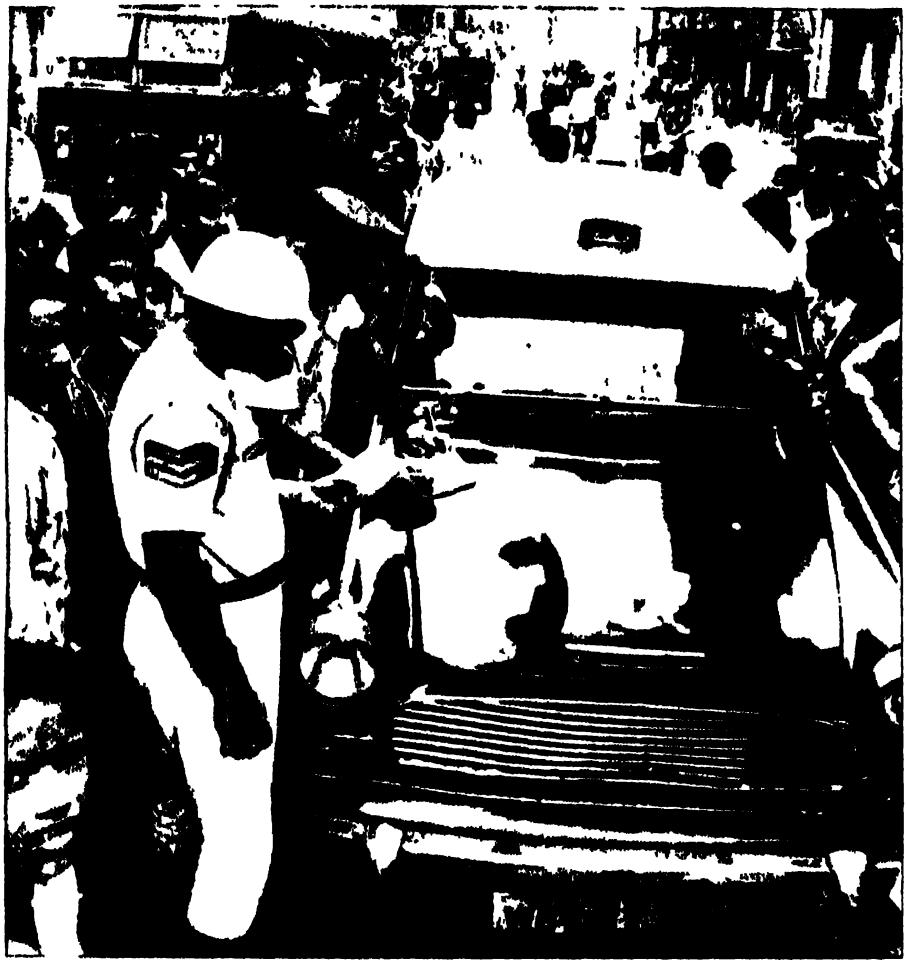
"Given the continuing state of the economy, we grab the kind of jobs that are easily available" he adds "And being a cabbie, you earn far more money than working in a newsstand, where the chances of being robbed are not all that minimal "



A few months ago, cabbies took a mile-long procession in New York demanding the right to refuse fare.... After they mugged and robbed Shabal Ahmad of $74, they looked into his frightened eyes and chorused: 'Thank you very much, Mahatma Gandhi'

FARE AND FOUL

Calcutta cabbies also have much to complain about



It was a familiar evening in Calcutta the roads were crawling with vehicles, the persistent honking piercing the blackhole of smoke There was a long queue of taxis in front of Victoria House in central Calcutta But they were all on the lookout for passengers on a 'share' basis More passengers, longer distance and, of course, more money

There are at least 16,000 taxis plying in the city and more than 25,000 drivers take turns to drive them Yet almost every short-distance passenger is refused bluntly

Is avarice the key reason behind their cussed refusals? Maybe they should think about the risk to themselves on the longer journeys, specially with passengers 'sharing' the cab "I don't have the time to think about it If I work hard for a day, I can account for that day's meal for my family That is, if I return home at night, if not well, there are plenty of *bekar* drivers on the look-out for an empty taxi ", said Bimal Ghosh, a veteran cab driver, summing up his life on the streets of Calcutta without much feeling

Our taxi screeched to a halt as a cyclist decided that it was time for him to cross the road After tottering precariously before the cab, he glided to safety But not before hurling a string of abuses at the driver

Ghosh grinned and went on, "He was definitely more well behaved than our *mamas* (an endearing though sarcastic sobriquet for traffic policemen) He as Ghosh related, would have banged his *danda* on the bonnet, yanked him out and then proceeded to chastise him, verbally or otherwise

"Therein lies the problem," says Madan Mitra, the secretary of the Progressive Taxi Drivers' Union "Is it asking for much if one expects a little courteous treatment on the road?" Mitra points out when owners of private cars or motorbikes flout traffic rules, they are rarely manhandled or abused "Why does everyone treat taxidrivers as social outcasts?"

A far cry from their US counterparts where a cabbie might annually earn as much as a professor, Calcutta's cabbies are caught in a vicious contract of *baatchit*, which entails a hefty payment of Rs 250-300 a day to the owner of the taxi This excludes the price of petrol, mobile oil, attendant's allowance and daily meal

"We never have more than Rs 50-70 with us on a busy day and are often left with as little as Rs 20." So the only way out to earn the daily bread is by undertaking long, risky trips

These trips often involve illegal traffic of goods, dubious passengers, and there is every possibility of taxi hijacking and murder

Are they aware of the danger? What safety measures are there to protect themselves and their vehicles?

Das waved aside the query with an impatient air "These men (ministers and police officials) talk big and do nothing " There have been meetings about formal uniforms, red-light/sound alarm systems But they are all very expensive "Where will the money come from? The *maaliks* would pay? Buh!"

Kalyan Bhadra, the president of the Bengal Taxi Association, mentioned an insurance scheme for the drivers in West Bengal, the first of its kind in the country, which gives them Rs 50,000 in a fatal accident or if murdered while on duty

"Yes, they get the money after they are dead," retorts Madan Mitra. He rattles off measures like doing away with *baatchit*, driving on a daily commission basis, block insuring the drivers and "Then let the police do their duty if we misbehave with passengers "

So the two unions vie with each other to put the meters straight, while files containing improvement measures and benefit schemes gather dust at Writers' Buildings The police pacifies and punishes in turns And the cabbies continue to refuse passengers, spit on the ground when abused and speed off to some remote destination

Trina Mukherjee

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Aries

March 21--April 20



Ganesha says romance and riches make a happy duo for you Shortly, it will be journey time Many Ariens will be going in for buying/selling in a massive manner Birth of a child, a spirit of adventure and enterprise should possess you A week of joy

Taurus

April 21—May 20



The accent will be on the homefront and possessions that could range from shop, office, shares, financial negotiations to legal cases While there is a danger of accidents and operations, a little care should see you through very nicely Travel seems likely

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Many crucial decisions will have to be taken Travel is a distinct possibility Many of you will be chalking out plans and getting ready for a line of action It would be best to take the initiative on May 7, 8, 11 and 12 You could be in an introspective mood Take time out to relax

Cancer

June 21—July 20



The spotlight will be on your finance and family Money should pour in This is most certainly the week to go in for group activities You will have a chance to make a headway, be it in terms of material progress, emotional happiness or spiritual illumination

Leo

July 21—August 21



You should go all out for the kill In your work, your creativity and output will be commendable Many of you will be regaining confidence and lost positions A promotion is on the cards The love life of Leons will be the envy of the rest of the people

Virgo

August 22—September 22



You will be off and away to pastures green Your gloom and sense of doom will be replaced by faith, hope and sweet reason Journey, ceremony, publicity and a forward thrust await you Many of you will plunge headlong into creative pursuits

Libra

September 23—October 22



While the focus continues on joint-finances and loans, you will widen your circle of contacts, spread your tentacles far and wide, go in for the occult, psychic phenomenon, philosophy and religion thus improving your mind A week to explore new areas

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Kicks and kisses await you, but you will respond with brilliance and flair There's money for you now You will have to strive with might and main to get ahead of your rivals May 7-8, 12-13 find you in your rightful element Many of you will be on the move

Sagittarius

November 23--December 20



Except for a possible health problem this is going to be a fine week You may expect a promotion, a fatter pay-packet and more responsibilities The contacts you make should be not only useful, but eminently enjoyable The lure of distant places will ensnare you Time to be yourself

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



A week to go places Many Capricornians will be taking chances and coming up trumps The fine placing of Sun-Saturn assures you of taking the lead, be it in films, sports, business, research or employment Opportunities await you this week Make the most of it

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



You will be caught in the crossfires of the home and the outside world Many Aquarians will be taking pot shots at love, business, share market, and some will even change course mid-stream The final outcome should be pleasing The week also finds you locking horns

Pisces

February 19—March 20



A chance to make up lost ground, recover your poise, win new friends Also, you will have your full share of supporters and backers Rest assured, you will be able to carry on your tasks with great skill, dexterity and smoothness Letters, calls, news make your day

B I R T H D A Y S

May 7: **The moon's first quarter helps you in all matters related to house and property, says Ganesha. There is plenty of movement for you**

May 8: **Moon-Mars conjunction assures you of financial deals, affairs of the heart and restructuring of your life and goals, which is the issue in 1995**

May 9: **Moon-Mercury happy placing could lead to misunderstanding and misconceptions, delays and disappointments Do not lose faith.**

May 10: **Moon-Sun fine formation leads to enormous success, specially if in business or profession Those in employment can look forward to a promotion**

May 11: **Moon-Pluto fine placing assures you of victory and wish-fulfillment However, you will have to be wary of secret enemies and gossip mongers Health will improve**

May 12: **Moon connects superbly with Mars-Jupiter promising you expansion at all levels If opening a new branch or marrying or switching jobs, you will not regret**

May 13: **You will be earning and spending a lot of money This is the right time to start a new project Children and creative pursuits give joy**

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0710	3 5	IC 742	0940	3 5
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1300	1 3 5	IC 722	1540	1 3 5
BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0640	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI-309	2035	6	IC-274	2050	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
DELHI					
			S2-025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 263	0700	daily	IC-262	0815	2 4 7
S2 026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0950	1
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1110	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S-805	1745	1, 2, 3 4, 5 6	S2-005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
IC 261	1900	2 4 7	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
S2 008	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9-301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC-264	2210	daily
GUWAHATI					
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
IC-703	0800	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	IC-702	1630	2 4 6 7
4S 815	1150	1 2 3 4 5 6	4S 816	1710	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-701	1240	2, 4 6 7	PF 736	1740	3, 5
IMPHAL					
IC 257	1150	4 7	IC 258	1650	4 7
GUWAHATI					
PF 735	0730	1	IC 712	1410	2 6
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 704	1430	3 5
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 708	1430	1 4 7
IC 703	0800	3 5	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
IC 707	0900	1 4 7	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
IC 711	0800	2 6	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	IC 230	1620	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1710	1 2 3 4 5 6
4S 812	1150	1 2 3 4 5 6	PF 736	1730	1
IMPHAL					
IC 257	1150	4 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 258	1650	4 7
IC 229	1310	daily	IC 212	1740	4 6
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	1045	1 3 5	S2 024	1525	1 3 5
IC 777	1600	2 4 7	IC 778	2100	2 4 7
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
IMPHAL					
IC 707	0800	1 4 7	IC 256	1320	3 5
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC 708	1430	1 4 7
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2 6
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC 213	1315	2 4 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	11 5	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	1 2 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1740	1 2 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1525	1 3 5	IC 770	2120	1 3 5
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0830	3 5	IC 260	1110	1 7
IC 259	0830	1 7	IC 256	1320	3, 5
IC 253	1100	2 6	IC 254	1550	2, 6
IC 211	1240	4 6	IC 212	1740	4 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	2 4 7	IC 213	1315	2 4 7
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3, 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0420	7	KL 875	0235	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
BANGKOK					
IC-731	0855	2 4 6, 7	KB 106	1115	3
			KB 106	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2 6	TG-313	1240	1 3 6
TG 314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 4 6 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6
BUCHAREST					
RO-076	1950	5 7	RO 075	1055	5 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC-225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG-696	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
DHAKA					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 2 3 5, 6	IC 724	1520	1 2 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2, 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KATHMANDU					
IC 747	1115	1 3 5	IC 748	1455	1 3 5
RA 214	1815	1 4	RA-213	1715	1 4
LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA 143	1525	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1855	4	SU 537	1655	4
PARIS					
KB 106	1200	3	KB 105	1040	2 6
KB 106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	5 5	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fr & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	1r 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fr & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	17 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8010	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	8 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	18 10	
-	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

DISTANT THUNDER

March is probably the most uncomfortable month in the hills The rain is cold, often accompanied by sleet and hail, and the wind from the north comes tearing down the mountain passes with tremendous force Those few people who pass the winter in the hill-station remain close to their fires If they can't afford fires, they get into bed

I found old Miss Mackenzie tucked in bed with three hot-water bottles for company. I took the bedroom's single easy chair, and for some time, Miss Mackenzie and I listened to the thunder and watched the play of lightning The rain made a tremendous noise on the corrugated tin roof and we had to raise our voices higher to be heard The hills looked blurred and smudgy when seen through the rain-spattered windows The wind battered the doors and rushed around the cottage, determined to make an entry It slipped down the chimney and stuck there, choking and gurgling and protesting helplessly

"There's a ghost in your chimney and he can't get out," I said

"Then let him stay there," said Miss Mackenzie

A vivid flash of lightening lit up the opposite hill, illuminating for a moment, a pile of ruins which I never knew were there

"You're looking at Burnt Hill," said Miss Machenzie "It always gets the lightening when there's a storm"

"Possibly, there are iron deposits in the rocks," I said

"I wouldn't know But it's the reason no one ever lived there for long Almost every dwelling that was put up there was struck by lightening and burnt down"

"I thought I saws some ruins now"

"Nothing but rubble When they were first settling in the hills they chose that spot Later they moved to the site where the town now stands Burnt Hill was left to the deer and the leopards and the monkeys and — to its ghosts of course "

"Oh, so it's haunted too"

"So they say, on evenings such as these But you don't believe in ghosts do you?"

"No Do you?"

"No, but you'll understand why they say the hill is haunted when you hear its story Listen"

I listened, but at first I could hear nothing but the wind and the rain Then Miss Mackenzie's clear voice rose above the sound of the elements and I heard her saying

" it's really the old story of ill-starred lovers, only it's true I'd met Robert at his parent's house some weeks before the tragedy took place He was 18, tall and fresh-looking, and full of his manhood He's been born out here but his parents were hoping to return to England when Robert's father retired His father was a magistrate, I think — but that hasn't any bearing on the story

"Their plans didn't work out the way they had expected You see, Robert fell in love Not with an English girl, mind you, but with a hill girl, the daughter of a landowner from the village behind Burnt Hill Even today it would be unconventional Twenty-five years ago it was almost unheard of!

"Robert liked walking, and he was hiking through the forest when he saw her or rather, heard her It was said later that he fell in love with her voice She was singing, and the song — low and sweet and strange to his ears — struck him to the heart When he caught the sight of the girl's face



The hills looked blurred and smudgy when seen through the rain-spattered windows. The wind battered the doors and rushed around the cottage, determined to make an entry. It slipped down the chimney and stuck there, choking and gurgling and protesting helplessly

he was not disappointed She was young and beautiful She saw him and returned his awestruck gaze with a brief, fleeting smile

"Robert, in his impetuosity, made enquiries at the village, located the girl's father and without much ado asked for her hand in marriage He probably thought that a sahib would not be refused such a request At the same time, he was really quite gallant on his part, because any other young man might simply have ravished the girl in the forest But Robert was in love, and therefore, completely irrational in his behaviour

"Of course the girl's father would have nothing to do with the proposal He was a Brahmin, and he wasn't going to have the good name of his family ruined by marrying off his only daughter to a foreigner Robert did not argue with the father, nor did he say anything to his own parents, because he knew their reaction would be one of stock and dismay They would do everything in their power to put an end to his madness

"But Robert continued to visit the forest — you see it there, that heavy patch of oak and pine — and he often came across the girl, for she would be gathering fodder or fuel She did not seem to resist his attentions, and, as Robert knew something of the language, he was soon able to convey his feelings to her The girl, must, at first, have been rather alarmed, but the boy's sincerity broke her reserve After all, she was young too — young enough to fall in love with a devoted swain without thinking too much of his background

She knew her father would never agree to a marriage and he knew his parents would prevent anything like that from happening So they planned to run away together Romantic isn't it? But it did happen Only, they did not live happily ever after '

"Did their parents come after them?"

"No They had agreed to meet one night in the ruined building on Burnt Hill — the ruin you saw now It hasn't changed much except that there was a bit of roof on it then They left their homes and made their way to the hill without any difficulty After meeting, they planned to take the little path that followed the course of a stream until it reached the plains After that — but who knows what they had planned, what dreams of future they had conjured up!



The storm broke soon after they reached the ruins They took shelter under the dripping ceiling It was a storm just like this one — a high wind great torrents of hail and rain and the lightning flitting abut and crashing down almost every minute They must have been soaked, huddled together in a corner of that crumbling building, when lightening struck. No one knows at what time it happened

"But next morning their charred bodies were found on the worn yellow stones of the old building "

Miss Mackenzie stopped speaking and I noticed that the thunder had grown distant and the rain had lessened, but the chimney was still coughing and clearing its throat

"That's true, every word of it," said Miss Mackenzie. 'But as to Burnt Hill being haunted, that's another matter I've no experience of ghosts "

"Anyway, you need a fire to keep them out of the chimney," I said, getting up to go I had my raincoat and umbrella and my own cottage was not far away

Next morning, when I took the steep path up to Burnt Hill, the sky was clear and though there was till a stiff wind, it was no longer menacing An hour's climb brought me to the old ruin — now nothing but a heap of stones, as Miss Mackenzie had said Part of the wall was left, and the corner of a fireplace Grass and weeds had grown up through the floor and primroses and wild saxifrage flowered amongst the rubble

Where had they sheltered, I wondered, as the wind tore at them and fire fell from the sky?

I touched the cold stones, half expecting to find in them some traces of the warmth of human contacts I listened, waiting for some ancient echo, some returning wave of sound, that would bring me nearer to the spirits of the dead lovers, but there was only the wind soughing in the lonely pines

I thought I heard voices in the wind and perhaps I did For isn't the wind the voice of the undying dead?

(Sanctuary Features)

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

MEDICINE MAN

In previous millennia, when wildlife and wild plants were plentiful, there were different ways of healing Many things which today would seem disgusting, foolish or superstitious, had meaning

Ramesh Bedi, one of the grand old men of Indian wildlife, who is by training a Sanskrit scholar, *vaid* and botanist, is researching ancient connections between animals and healing, described in one of the great books of Ayurvedic medicine — the *Charak Samhita*

He has listed references to nearly 200 animals — from tigers to owls All of us are familiar with owls, or at least, sons of them And so I asked Ramesh Bedi, as he sat swathed in woollens and scarves in his small office, what Charak had to say about them

He searched out numerous references — the smoke of burning owl feathers, nails and skin would soothe the insomniac, its meat would be beneficial in the treatment of TB

As no one would generally relish owl meat, it should be cooked well and fed to the patient as peacock Other strange food is prescribed for TB patients — cat, mongoose and jackal should be given in the disguise of rabbit, snake should be fed to them as eel, and crow as partridge Lion, bear and tiger should be fed as venison

(The practice of eating lions and tigers, or, for that matter bears, is now thankfully extinct, or so we devoutly hope Indeed, it stretches the imagination to suppose that these cures were ever really tried) It has always been Ramesh Bedi's speciality, however, to marry traditional knowledge, modern science and personal experience of the jungle (He is now looking for connections between the *Charak Samhita* and the knowledge of those who live very close to nature)

He remembers, for example, being in UP when a maneating tigeress was killed The first reaction of the local *Adivasi* population was to condemn the killing of a jungle goddess and to garland and pay respects to her body

But when she was skinned, they all wanted a little meat The skinner was an old professional — he gave away most of the meat but kept the best for himself When Ramesh Bedi asked him why, he replied, "If you boil it without the lid on the pot, the smell goes and it tastes like venison " Words straight from the *Charak Samhita*

The *Charak Samhita* also contains great praise for the goat, the sight of which is very auspicious for a man critically ill Its fresh blood is prescribed as treatment for a number of diseases, specially, if someone has lost a lot of blood himself

Again, Ramesh Bedi tended to think that drinking goat's blood would be unacceptable Then he went to Ladakh There, around 15,000' high, nomads are dependent on their goats, sheep, yaks and horses For them, goat's blood is a valuable part of their diet It is mixed with barley flour and the resulting dough is stuffed into the cleaned intestines of the goat to make a kind of sausage

Ramesh Bedi's studies are not limited to the animal references in the *Charak Samhita* — there are many more plants described than animals These plants can be confusing as in different ancient texts they are described by synonyms - names derived from their qualities, appearance or use A *vaid* who has read these texts and walked himself through the plains and the Himalayas will be able to recognise them, but there are fewer and fewer of these And fewer plants, too

Bedi remembers his 14 years at the Gurukul Kangri in Hardwar before independence when he wandered in the mountains in search of herbs Then, hillsides were full of them Now buffaloes have grazed and trampled them underfoot, and unscrupulous herb collectors have rooted them out so completely they have even destroyed their seeds

To help the growing gap in practical knowledge, Ramesh Bedi is also completing his magnum opus, the *Bedi Vanaspati Kosh*, an illustrated dictionary of over 2,000 Indian plants, with details of their history, appearance and use

(To help the uninitiated, the plants will be listed under their Sanskrit, Hindi, local and Latin names) It is a project which Ramesh Bedi started over 20 years ago, when he was a research officer in the ministry of health, and now the first volume is about to be published

Bedi is a man of unfailing energy and enthusiasm, but recognises he is in a minority "I have written this in Hindi," he says, "and would be happy to have it translated I know there are not many readers for it For one thing, our Hindi readers do not have that much money to spend on books

"Then, there is little thirst for knowledge At least in England and such places, people have awakened to nature Here they think it's *faltu*, of little importance And whatever, they learn in school, they learn and tend to be satisfied with that — but that can only be a beginning "

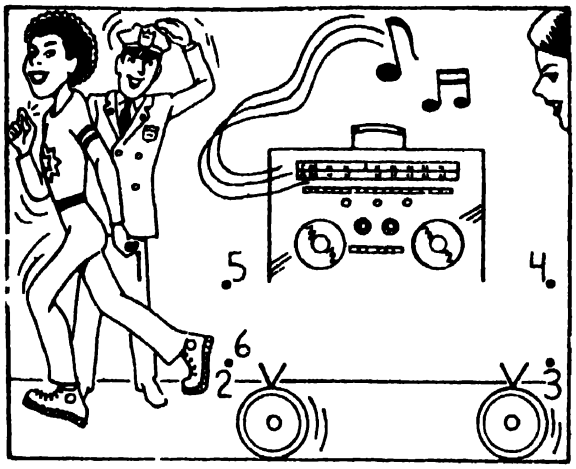
He himself is unimpressed with the teaching of natural history As a boy, he had reasons to be unimpressed While the great Sanskrit writers were familiar with all kinds of flora and fauna, the men who taught their works were decidedly ignorant On one particular occasion, his Sanskrit teacher found the word for camel in the *Panchatantra*, and translated it as "a special type of bird"

Ramesh Bedi is working for understanding, and against cultural forgetfulness He wants us to know our heritage better While tiger meat for TB is obviously never again going to be a possibility, medicinal plants should be a continuing resource For their survival, he sees two possible options — to keep men out of where they grow, and to cultivate them

Imagine the disaster if, just as modern science is beginning to confirm their worth, they disappear for ever

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL



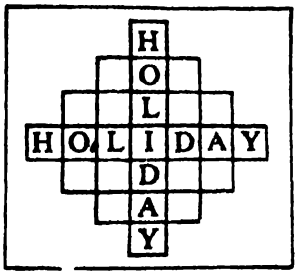
© 994 by King Features Syndicate Inc

12 18

RADIO ACTIVE! Draw five straight lines from dot to dot to complete the picture above What's missing from view?

TAKE TEN! Take ten, double it deduct ten and have eight remain How can this possibly result? P S There is a trick to it, natch What is that?

Stack two tens to form 18 subtract ten and have 8 remain



HOLIDAY TRIMS TO PONDER

LET'S SEE if you can surround the word HOLIDAY with four shorter words to form a word square of sorts That is, a group of words that reads the same both across and down

For one possible solution insert words in accord with the following definitions (top down)

1 Hectic shopper turnout
2 Grinder tooth
3 Opposite of goodly
4 Beam displayed in a light show, for instance

Remember, words are to read both across and down

Time limit two min

Answer words that comply Mob molar [illegible]

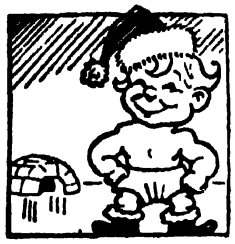
HO, HO, WHO! Santa found this picture (below) in an old family album He says he cherishes it because it portrays his father's brother's father's only grandson And who might that be? Think about it for a few seconds and then see if you can determine this person's relationship to Santa

Can it be grandson? Nephew? Cousin?

Or is it Santa himself?

How quickly can you puzzle it out? No fair peeking

[illegible] Santa himself? It is.



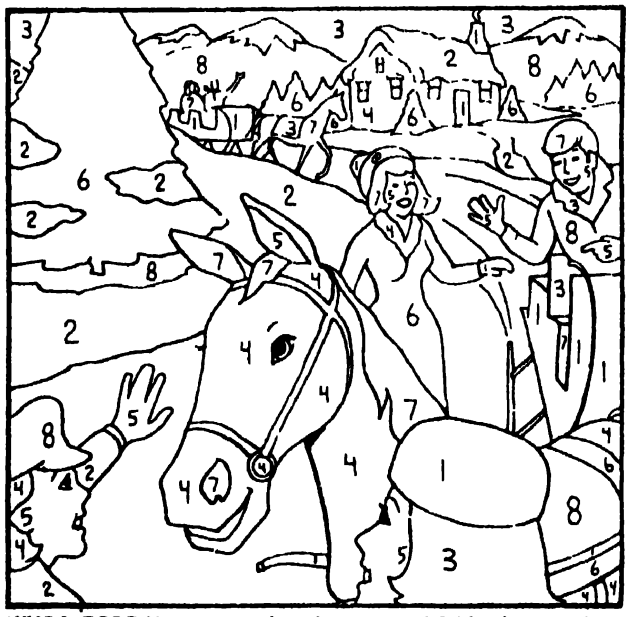
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Difference 1 Chair back is lower 2 Illustration is smaller 3 Hand is moved, 4 Exit sign is missing 5 Ribbon is missing 6 Beads are missing

FUNSPOT



WHOA, DOBBIN someone is going our way! Add colors neatly to this old-time scene· 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

SMOOTHER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

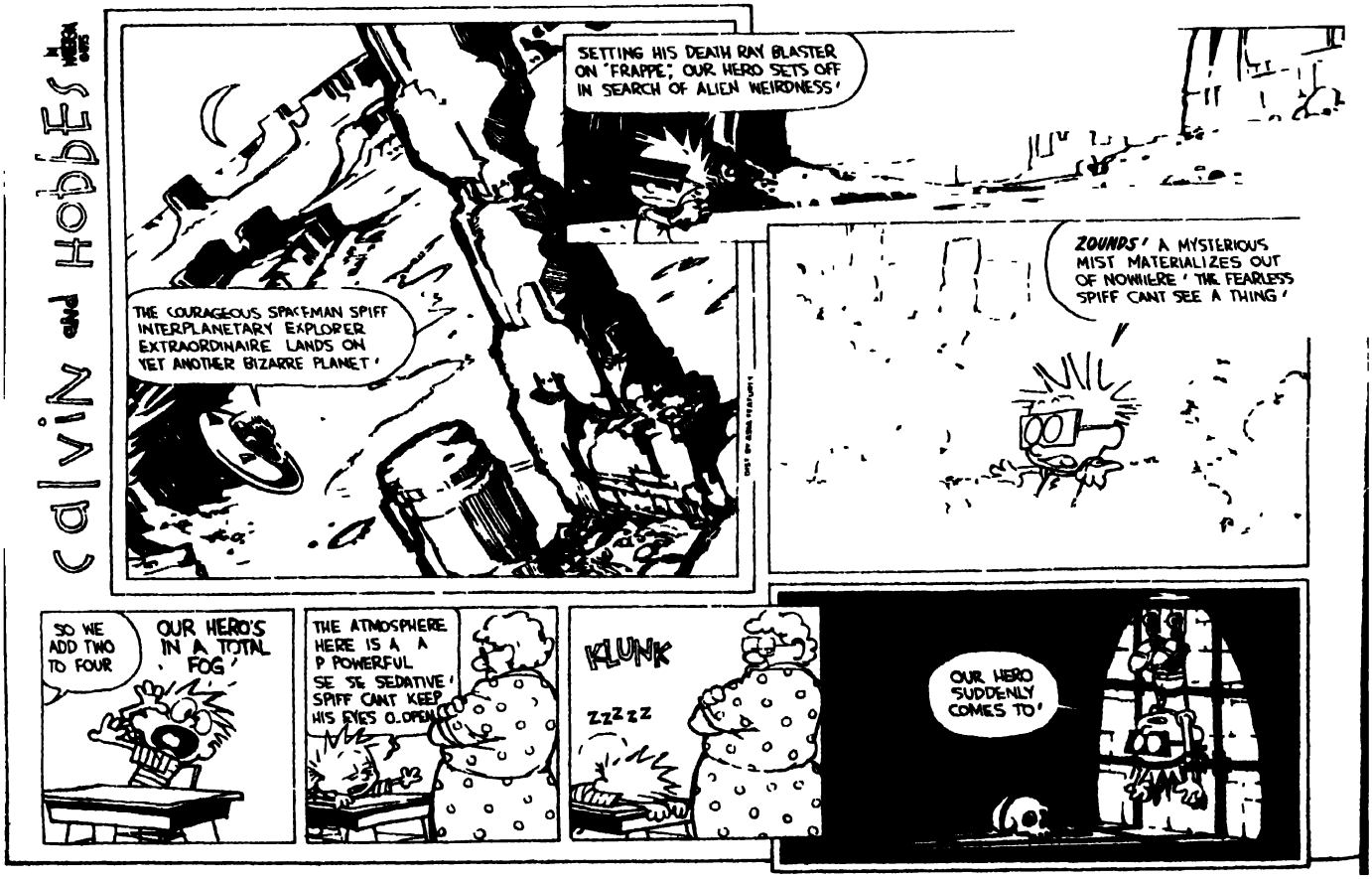
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome Home and

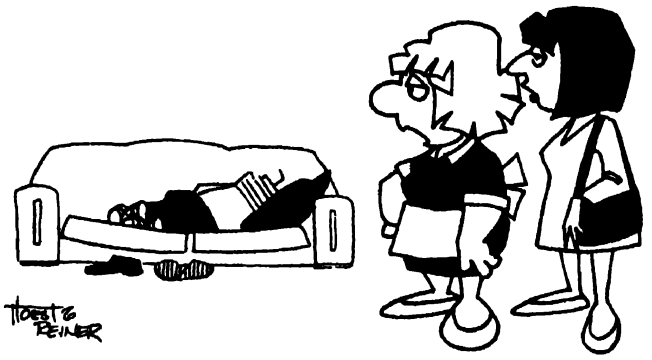
ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



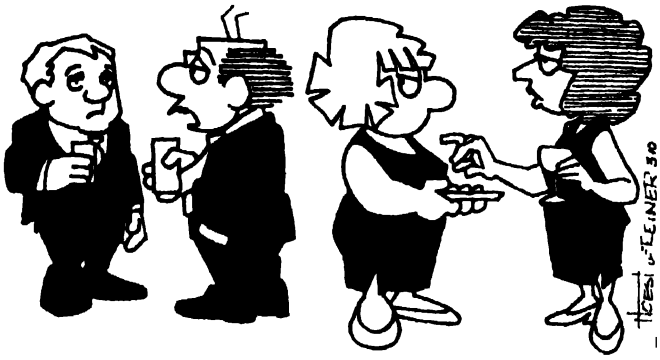
THE LOCKHORNS



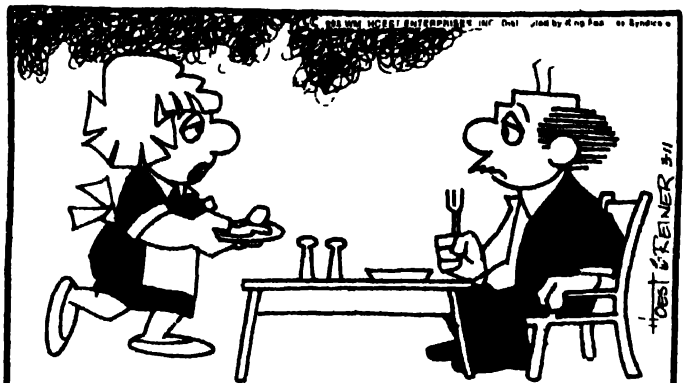
"NOT ONLY IS LEROY THE LAZIEST MAN ALIVE, HE ALSO HOPES TO RETIRE UNDEFEATED"



"WE NOT ONLY DIDN'T SAVE FOR A RAINY DAY, WE DIDN'T SAVE FOR A DAY WHEN WE'D HAVE WATER IN THE BASEMENT"

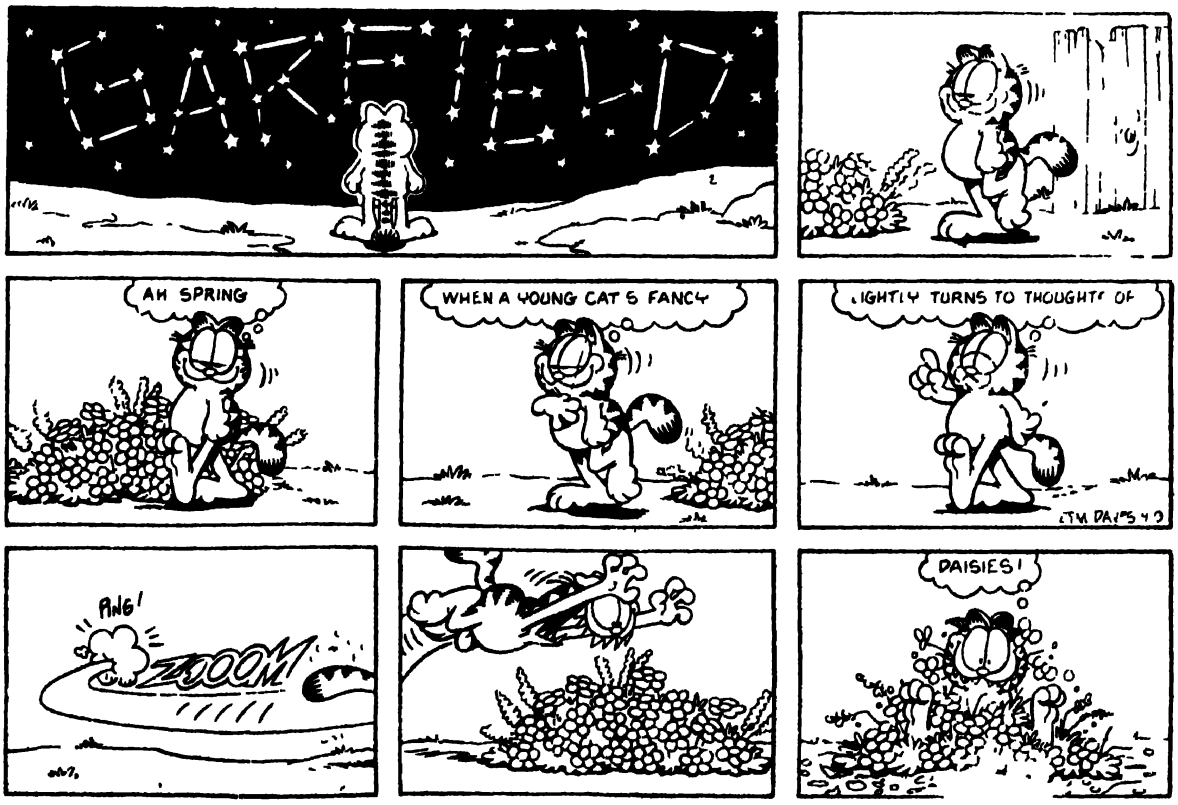


"THE SECRET OF OUR MARRIAGE? MUTUAL DISRESPECT"



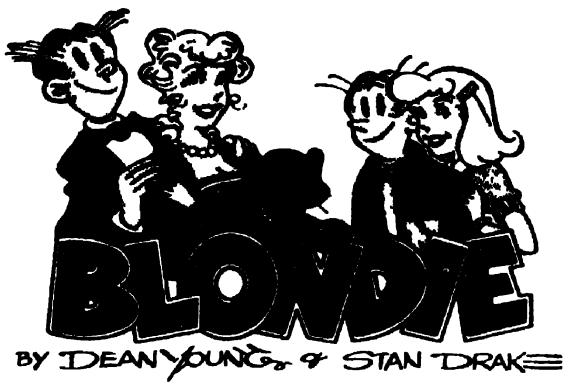
"THE SUNNY SIDE EGGS HAD A TOTAL ECLIPSE"

GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



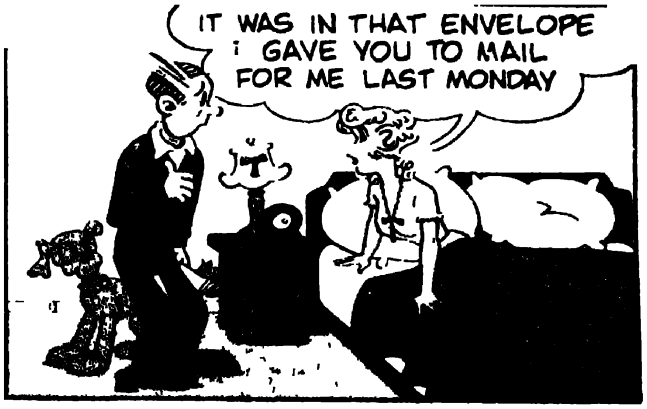

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


AREN'T YOU COMING UP TO BED ?
NOT UNTIL I FINISH THIS MURDER MYSTERY I'M READING

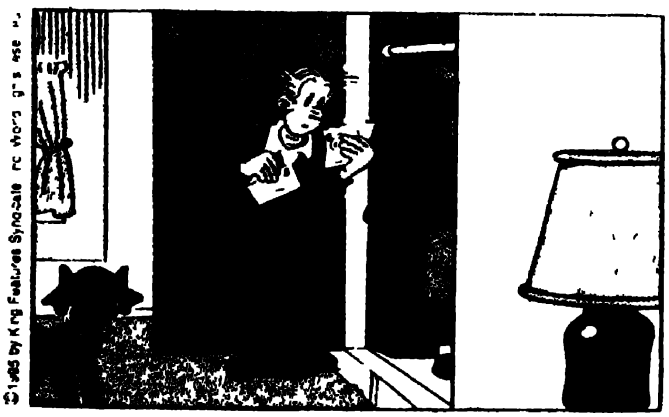

OMIGOSH ! WHAT HAPPENED TO MY MYSTERY STORY ?! THE ENDING'S GONE !!

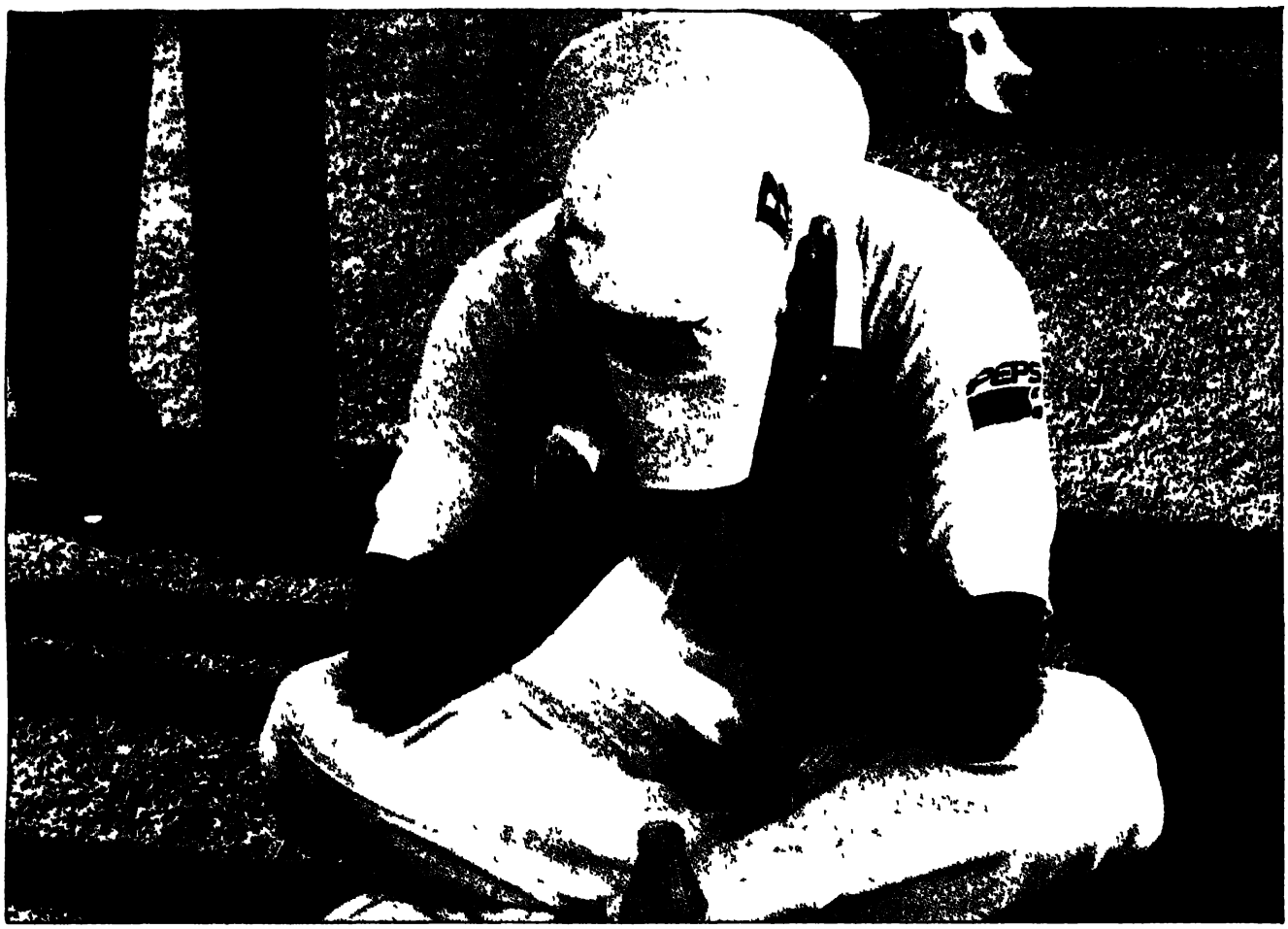

BLONDIE ! SOMEBODY CUT THE BOTTOM PART OF THIS MAGAZINE OFF !!


I'M SORRY, DEAR, I CUT IT OFF BECAUSE THERE WAS A COUPON ON THE OTHER SIDE FOR A FREE RECIPE BOOKLET


IT WAS IN THAT ENVELOPE I GAVE YOU TO MAIL FOR ME LAST MONDAY

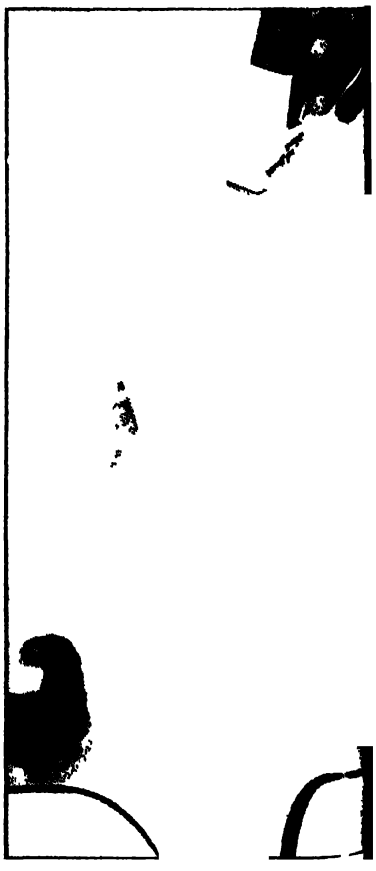

REMEMBER, I WAS AFRAID YOU'D FORGET TO MAIL IT, SO I CALLED YOU AT WORK TO REMIND YOU
YEAH, I REMEMBER





Aamir Nazir after Pakistan's shocking defeat against Sri Lanka

Vinod Kambli: Busy licking sticks



RAINBOW

AND ONE FOR THE ODDS

Though the Asia Cup tournament lacked fizz on the field, the real fun lay elsewhere Lensman ***Zafar Ali Khan*** *focuses on some highs and lows*

They came, they saw and they conquered. But the sobriquet, 'Desert Kings', would not exactly be apt, as in retaining the Asia Cup, India only beat Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

In the season's derby game against Pakistan, Mohammed Azharuddin's team again came a cropper

Even Anil Kapoor's wild cheering — the matinee idol had taken time off from promoting *Prem*, which had a rather snazzy presence at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium — was not inspiration enough.

For the final, of course, the other Kapoors were well represented: Randhir and Rajiv. Regulars Simi Garewal and Anju Mahendroo were present, too

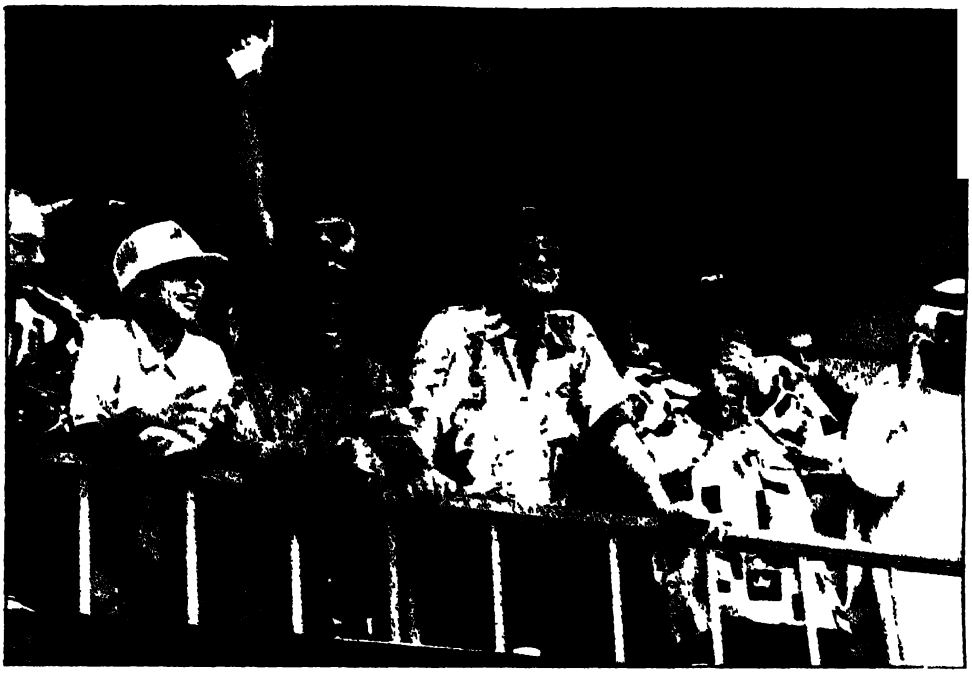
But that Friday, whipping was not just bad news for millions at home, it left

United Arab Emirates-based Indians shame-faced Like Kandarp and Meera Singh. A common, and very disgusted refrain was "We can't even beat a new-look, demoralised Pakistan team Can we *ever* defeat them?"

Pakistan's advantage in the Emirate of Sharjah, which looks prettier with each tournament, is an unbelievable 13-3

The impassioned question could well have resurfaced had the title-round pitted India against Pakistan It was thanks only to the mother of all miscalculations which forced Pakistan out And while that made India's task so much easier, it also kept the crowd away Times, indeed are changing

Not only was the cricket never truly scintillating — except when Sachin Tendulkar held centrestage or when Aaqib Javed scripted yet another lethal spell -- there was much less gla mour (and even less wows)



'Prem' caps · Anju Mahendroo, Randhir Kapoor and Rajiv Kapoor (lighting a cigarette)

in the much-photographed VIP boxes

Last year, Shah Rukh Khan and Karishma Kapoor almost triggered a stampede Then you also had Rishi and Neetu Kapoor And, of course,



Akram and match referee Clive Lloyd. Lancashire legends

Imran Khan

This time the subcontinent's No 1 draw, Imran, preferred to launch a literacy drive in Lahore while Miss World Aishwarya Rai had other commitments to honour

Only, had both made the final, the on-field contest would have been reduced to a non-event

Off the field, though, the Asia Cup actually saw much drama Wasim Akram's yes-no-yes when the Pakistan Cricket Board declined permission for him to stay with wife Huma (it prompted a rather wicked quip "Girlfriends are fine. Not wives!")

Also, the eviction of two bookies (the powers-that-be would prefer "alleged people of dubious character") from the players' enclosure during the Indo-Pak match

Then, debutant skipper Moin Khan being felled -- not by Jawagal Srinath or Chaminda Vaas -- but by chicken pox, cricket manager Ajit Wadekar's decision to make himself unavailable next season Not to forget his lecturing mediamen on what *they* should do And more

Yes, there wasn't a dull moment

Lokendra Pratap Sahi

be damned



ENVIRONMENT

SPIT AND POLISH

In the absence of proper town planning, Kathmandu has been reduced to a maze of concrete and steel enveloped in pollution ***Seema Paul*** *looks at the grime in what is considered a tourists' paradise*

Photographs by Soumitra Sinha



Kathmandu, once a tourists' paradise, has lost much of its appeal as a Himalayan holiday spot, thanks to the city's unplanned development

The level of pollution is so high that a trekker descending from the magnificent Himalayas may well feel his holiday washed out in the grime of the city

After the salubrious air of the blue mountains, what greets him in Kathmandu is pollution and noxious fumes - far worse than even Delhi's clouds of poison And in place of the heavenly beauty that he enjoyed in the mountains, there is an urban slum spreading before him

Wherever he walks, there is filth and dust Even the municipal authorities are not active Sanitary services are almost non-existent Many Indian cities suffer from unplanned development — congestion, pollution, water crisis, health problems — but none can be as bad as Kathmandu

Even in the poshest areas of the city there is no evidence of town planning A visitor is bound to be befuddled by the maze of lanes and bylanes that crisscross the city Locating a house is a difficult proposition in Kathmandu Most of the houses are large mansions, sprawling and beautiful And add colour to the city

But the surroundings are an eyesore Visitors are taken for a ride by taxi drivers They go round the city, and mulberry bush, in order to inflate the meter readings

Kathmandu is yet to solve its water problem The quality of water is something everyone has to be wary about in Kathmandu Even Indians, used as they are to drinking substandard water, dread to touch Kathmandu's water A recent study shows that as against the World Health Organisation's stipulation for quality water (one coliform bacteria cell per 100 ml of water) Kathmandu's contamination levels reach 4,800 coliform per 100 ml Groundwater cannot be relied upon as an alternative source of water, as it too has become contaminated

As a rule everyone boils and filters water in Kathmandu Not only that, they clean vegetables in iodised water

before cooking. For a shoe-string budget tourist, money spent on buying bottles of mineral water can be the highest expenditure after the hotel tariff

Not many Indian cities can boast to be better but there is still a lesson that our authorities may learn If care is not exercised, for example, in Delhi, it may soon degenerate to a Kathmandu-like situation

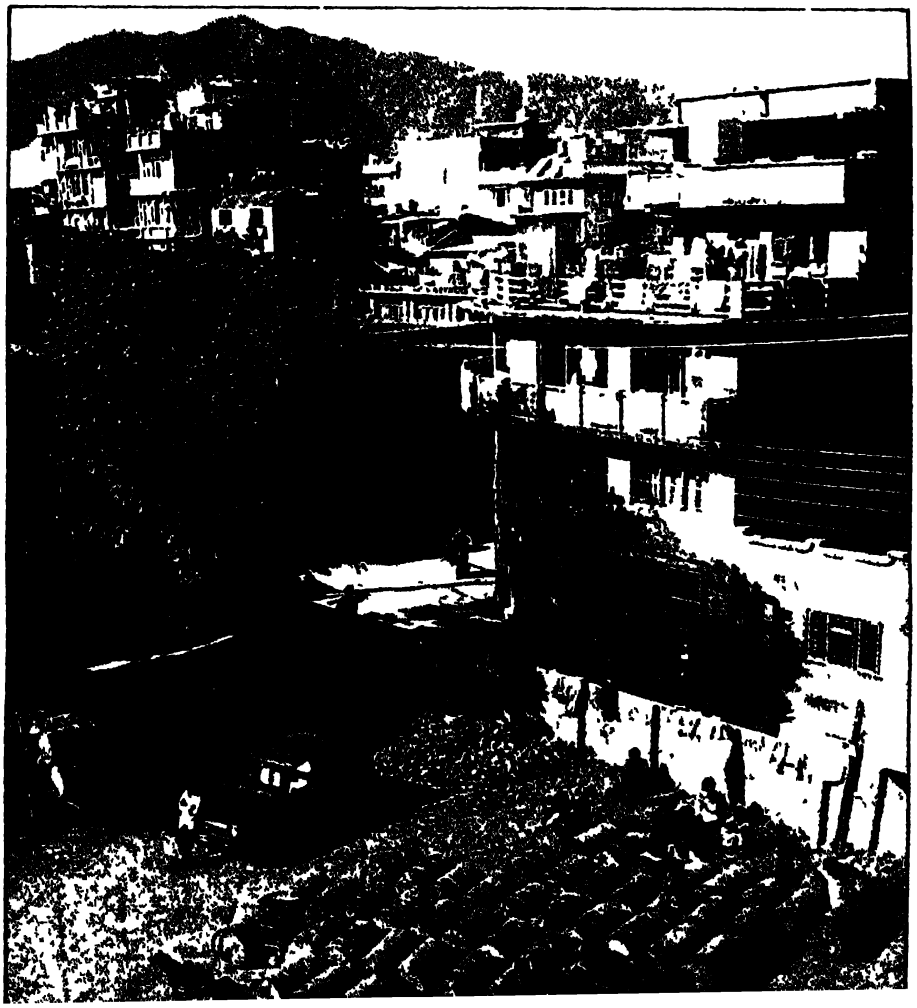
Kathmandu's tragedy is that its finest architectural displays are located in the ancient parts of the city which have degenerated beyond redemption

The municipality of Patan, for instance, located in Kathmandu valley, has lost its lustre over a span of four decades The city skyline encompassing the historic Mangal Bazaar and the Durbar Square — renowned for its exquisite architecture — has been taken over by sky-kissing buildings constructed over tiny plots of subdivided land in recent years

Patan, which was traditionally referred to as a 'city of thousand golden roofs', is today a maze of concrete and steel Ancient frescoed buildings, beautifully fired-brick fronts have all been razed to the ground in a flurry of



As a rule everyone boils and filters water in Kathmandu. Not only that, they clean vegetables in iodised water before cooking. For a shoe-string budget tourist, money spent on buying bottles of mineral water can be the highest expenditure after the hotel tariff



dust And highrise buildings have sprung up in their place

At one time it was possible to travel through the entire breadth of Patan by moving from one monastery compound (*baha*) to another, only occasionally stepping into a public lane before entering another *baha* through tunnel-like passages

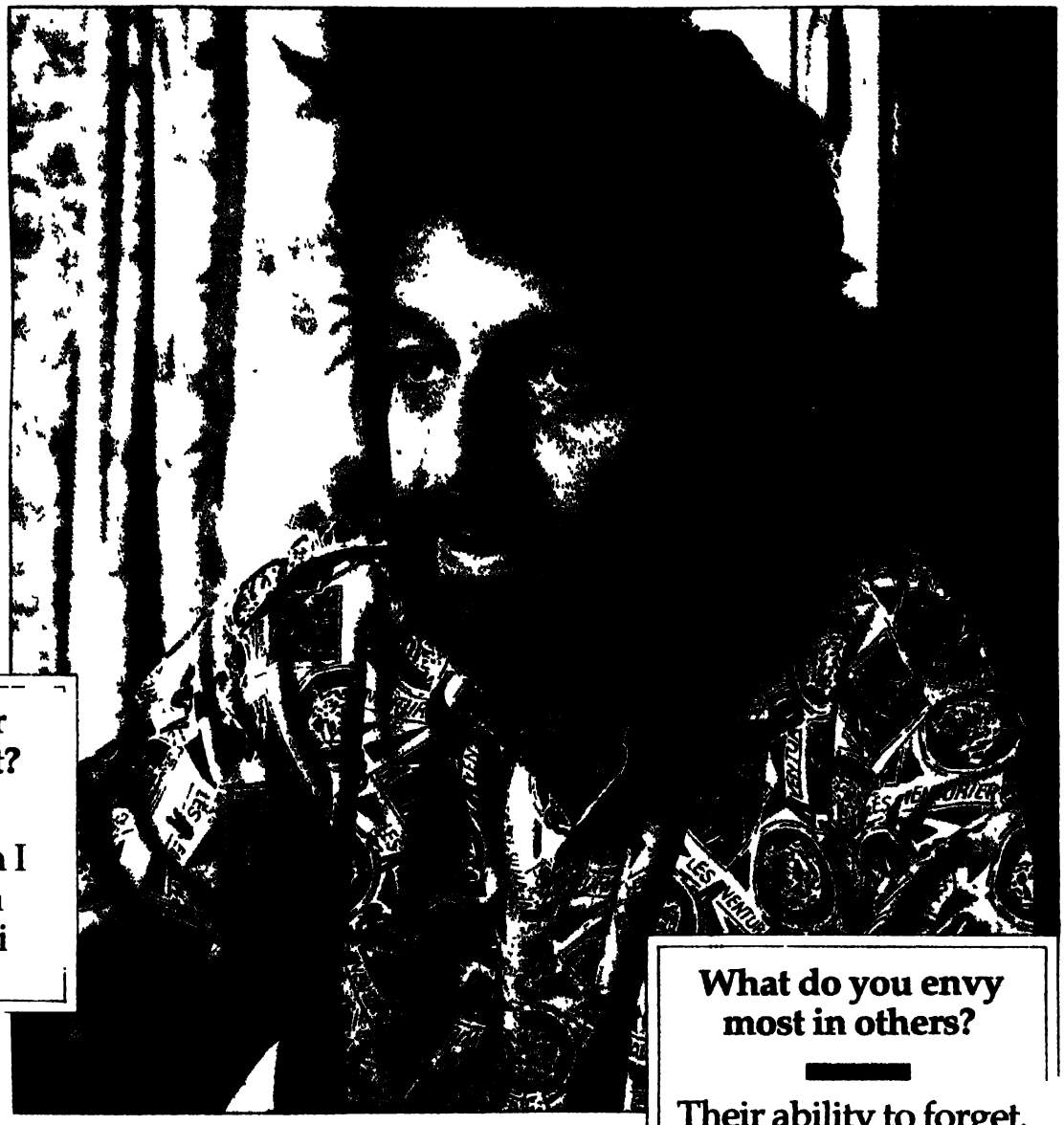
It was in these *bahas* that the extraordinary artistry of Patan's Newar artisans was born But these passages are today dominated by curio shops selling cheap souvenirs imported from neighbouring countries

The same is also true for Thamel which houses the royal palace complex and some temples The road, which was not paved till the Sixties, was the main pathway of Kathmandu before the Great Earthquake of 1934

Some of the best architectural marvels of the city are located here The open courtyards of the old palace and the squares bear similarity with medieval Europe As vendors and sellers occupy the greater part of the place, the tourists have barely any space to appreciate the architecture

Kathmandu has so much to offer to the tourist — its historic buildings, temples, monasteries, architecture Is there no way this paradise can be regained? ■

SHEKHAR KAPUR, *who began as an actor in Bollywood, graduated to directing movies with* Masoom *to his latest,* Bandit Queen, *which has sent the fur flying as no other in recent celluloid history. Kicked up by Phoolan herself, the fracas refuses to die down.*



What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Change, from moment to moment
What is your greatest fear?
Fear itself — the fear of fear
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
A total disbelief in the existing values of life
What do you dislike most in others?
The desperate need to dominate
What do you dislike most in yourself?
A certain laid-back attitude that allows this dominance

What is your greatest regret?

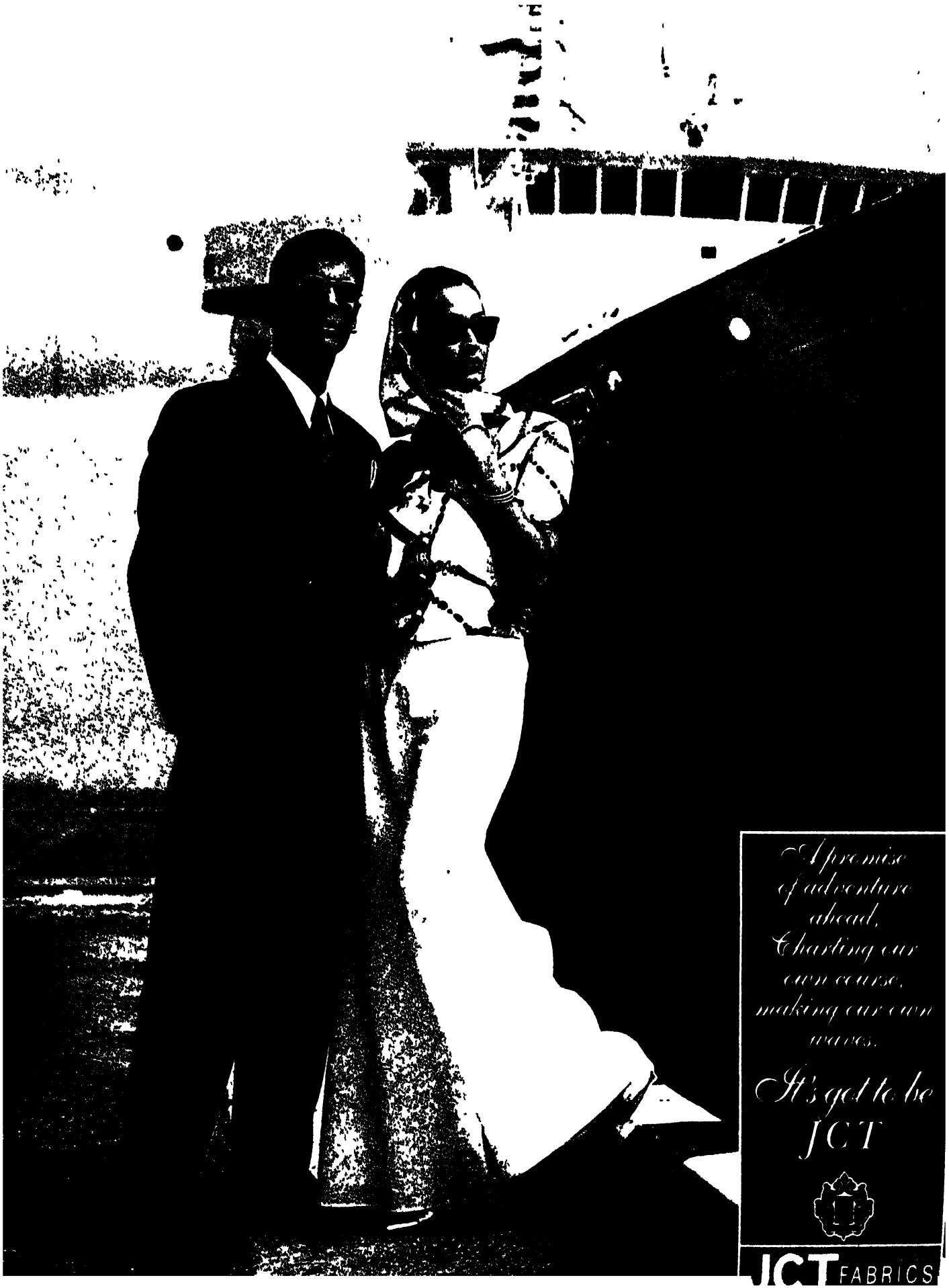
Actually, I wish I had been born Aishwarya Rai

What is your most precious possession?
My instinct — the child within me
What objects do you always carry?
These days my lap-top
What makes you most depressed?
Lies
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My beard — I can't get rid of it now
What is your favourite word?
Yes
What is your favourite journey?
Walking down the streets of reality
What is your favourite dream?
That there is reality beyond the reality I see
What is your nightmare?
That there isn't
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
I am still trying to find out
What is your source of sustenance?
The belief that I am
On what occasions do you lie?
When I need to protect my instincts
What is your greatest regret?
Actually, I wish I had been born Aishwarya Rai
What has been your happiest moment?
The moments spent with my nieces and nephews

What do you envy most in others?

Their ability to forget. I don't forget

What brings tears to your eyes?
A child in distress
How do you relax?
I don't
What do you envy most in others?
Their ability to forget I don't forget
How would you like to be remembered?
As someone who cared
How would you like to die?
Alone


A promise of adventure ahead.
Charting our own course, making our own waves.
It's got to be JCT
JCT FABRICS


A promise
of adventure
ahead,
Charting our
own course,
making our own
waves.
It's got to be
JCT
JCT FABRICS

14 MAY 1995 (

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

The Burning Chinar

■ 'A Hell on Earth' (April 9), based on the personal experiences and adventures of the author in Kashmir, brings to the fore the government's inherent inefficiency in tackling the crisis, and hails the militants as nationalists fighting to liberate the state

Terrorism in Kashmir has greatly hampered India's unity and integrity And who is paying the price for terrorism? The innocent Kashmiris who have nowhere to go Their normal lives disrupted, they live in perpetual fear and in terror of the gun

Living in Kashmir now is a trauma And leaving Kashmir means becoming a refugee in another state, in your own country

Under the circumstances, India has no option but to use brute force to crush the militants, particularly so when foreign forces are instigating them to destabilise the country and destroy its economy

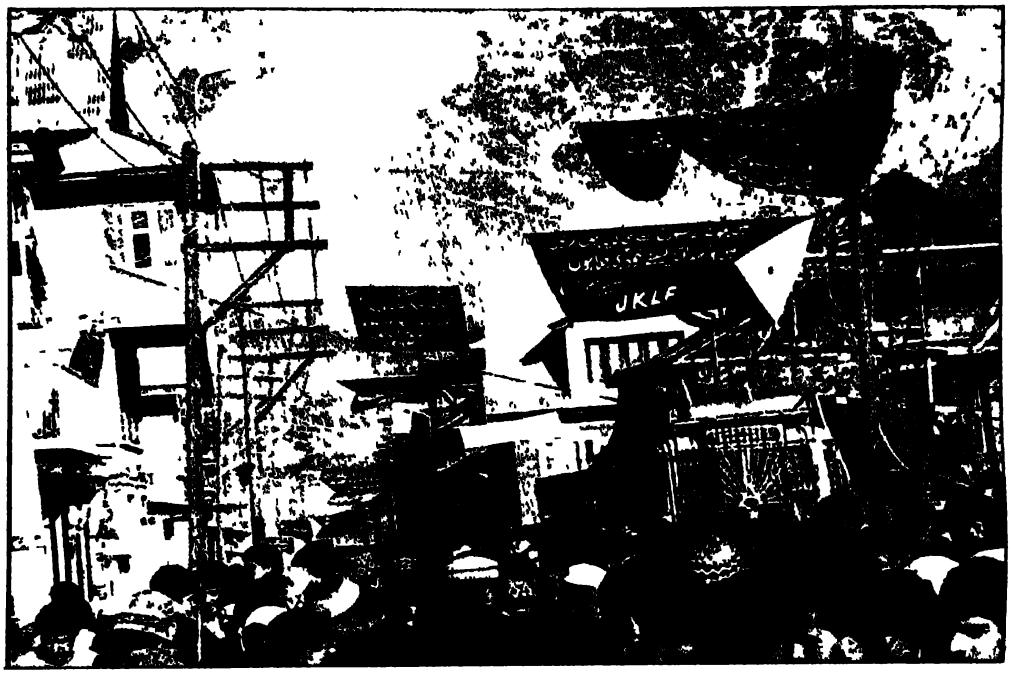
Santosh Kumar Sharma,
Kharagpur

■ I had the good fortune of visiting Srinagar in 1978 with my family Terrorism had still not reared its ugly head then I remember visiting some of the most divinely beautiful places in Kashmir — Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Chasmeshahi, Nishat and Shalimar Gardens

The Kashmiris were so very cordial and accommodating

I feel pained at the thought what the militants have done to Kashmir No tourist can ever again freely visit this pristine paradise

B N Bose,
Calcutta



Troubled valley

■ The militants are waging a war of so called independence in Kashmir with which ordinary citizens cannot identify

It is Pakistani propaganda that is killing the state Tourism, the mainstay of Kashmir, has suffered the biggest blow

It is for everyone's well-being that Kashmir returns to normal and the verdant valley once again opens up to travellers

Somnath Mukherjee,
Calcutta

Yogi Desai

■ A disciplined lifestyle and an uncompromising nature helped Morarji Desai attain his goals ('A Great Long Life', February 26)

Never one to hanker for power, fame and such other worldly achievements, he relinquished them when they came his way Like a *yogi* he was dispassionate and detached

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore (Orissa)

INSIDE



PAGE 8

IN THE late Sixties, a violent movement came into force drawing within its fold some of the finest brains But soon ideological differences weakened the Naxalite movement An extract

PAGE 4

IN THE Philippines, remembering the dead is also a celebration A report

Charu Mazumdar

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
20 GILLIAN WRIGHT
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 FOCUS
29 IN
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Krishnendu Chaki



CELEBRATING THE DEAD

The Philippines has given a whole new dimension to remembering its dead
***Chandan Sinha** takes a look at the parades*



It is therefore holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead (II Marcabees 13 46)

This biblical verse in all its profound beauty reflects the abiding faith of the people of the Philippines, the South East Asian archipelago known for its terrible typhoons and explosive volcanoes

Remembering the dead is a cause for celebration among the Filipinos

Though their customs vary from region to region, or from province to province, the enthusiasm is the same wherever you go, be it the northern or the southern realms of the country

It is a time when they not only honour the dead, but indulge in get-togethers, merriment and mirth As a national holiday, it provides Filipinos the excuse to revel in the cheerful laid-back mood which lasts for three to four days at a stretch

People working in the cities flock to their provinces for a reunion with their families by then busy preparing for the celebrations ahead

Regardless of their age, profession or economic background, they troop to the cemeteries and memorial parks, paying homage to relatives and friends laid to rest under the tuft of grasses or firmly cemented stone slabs

Long before the coming of November, relatives start to clean up the graves of their dear ones, weeding out the accumulated rubbish and whitewashing cemented bricks with fresh coats of paint

When they make their visits to the graves, they do so with everyone and with everything — right from food, soft drinks, small stoves to even big sized tents Pet dogs, too, faithfully follow them in their sojourns to the grave

Filipinos keep pouring in on the last day of October, and some prefer to go there even earlier They stay there overnight, sleep under small tents with their sound systems tuned to some popular FM channel

The graveyard casts aside its usual mournful gloom and is transformed into what seems like a cushy picnic spot It awakens to the squeals of children playing, candles glow, spreading their dimly-lit misty hues, and the sky looks nebulous and smoky Yet, no one is quite ready to fall off to sleep

They have their dinner together, meet relatives and friends gathered there, and when the night falls dark and deep -- they drift off to sleep, close to the graves of their departed kins

Festivities at a memorial park in Manila

The character of the celebration varies from one echelon of the society to another For the middle or lower class, for instance, there may neither be a big house built on the grave stone nor even a plot of land surrounding it

Sometimes, in the thick crowd of graves in the public cemeteries, there is hardly much space to walk But what really survives is the spirit, undying in its fervour

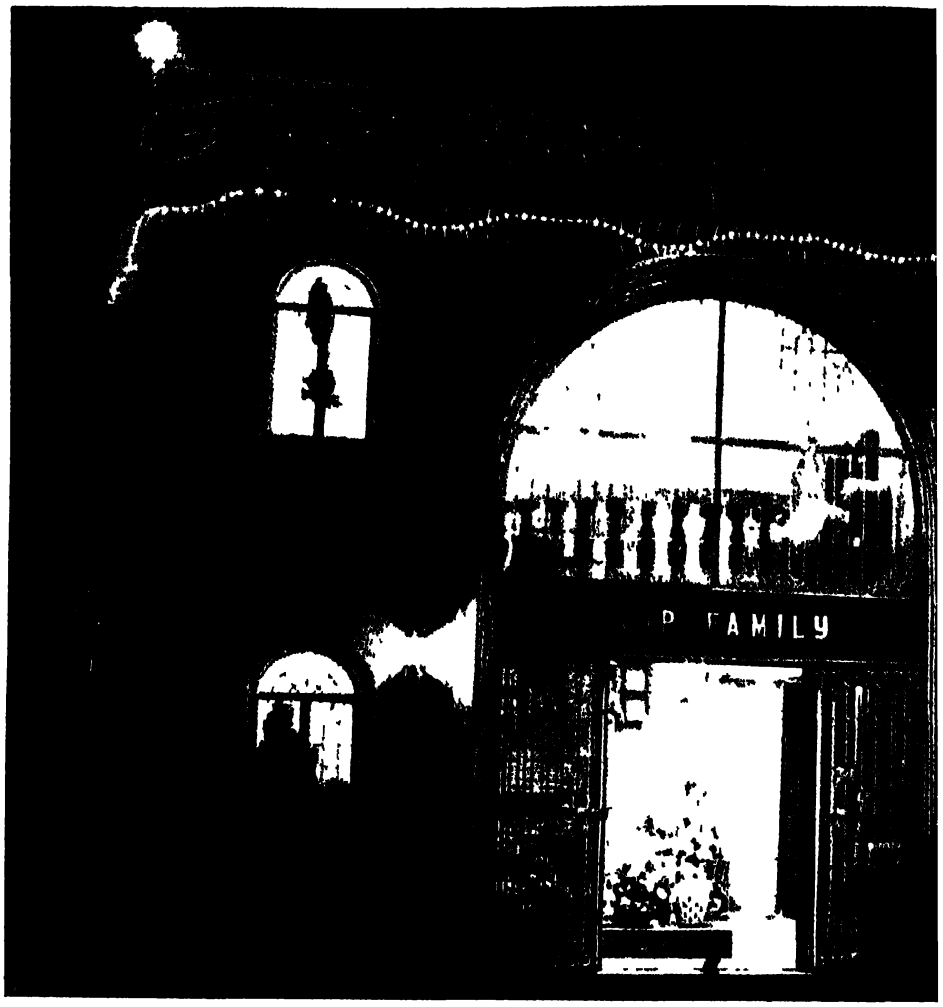
People come with candles and flowers They also bring with them a small can of food and a bedsheet for the night's stay

The rich, on the other hand, build large houses on the graves, some big enough to accommodate even living rooms, dining and bedrooms, a spacious kitchen and bathroom equipped with all household amenities

And they come here to stay not only during the November Festival, but for longer periods at other occasions of the year

Whatever differences there may be due to reasons of economy, the mood of the festival is generally upbeat This 'on-the spot' meeting with dead is an altogether curious phenomenon and there are even some rare examples of persons who are literally living with the dead

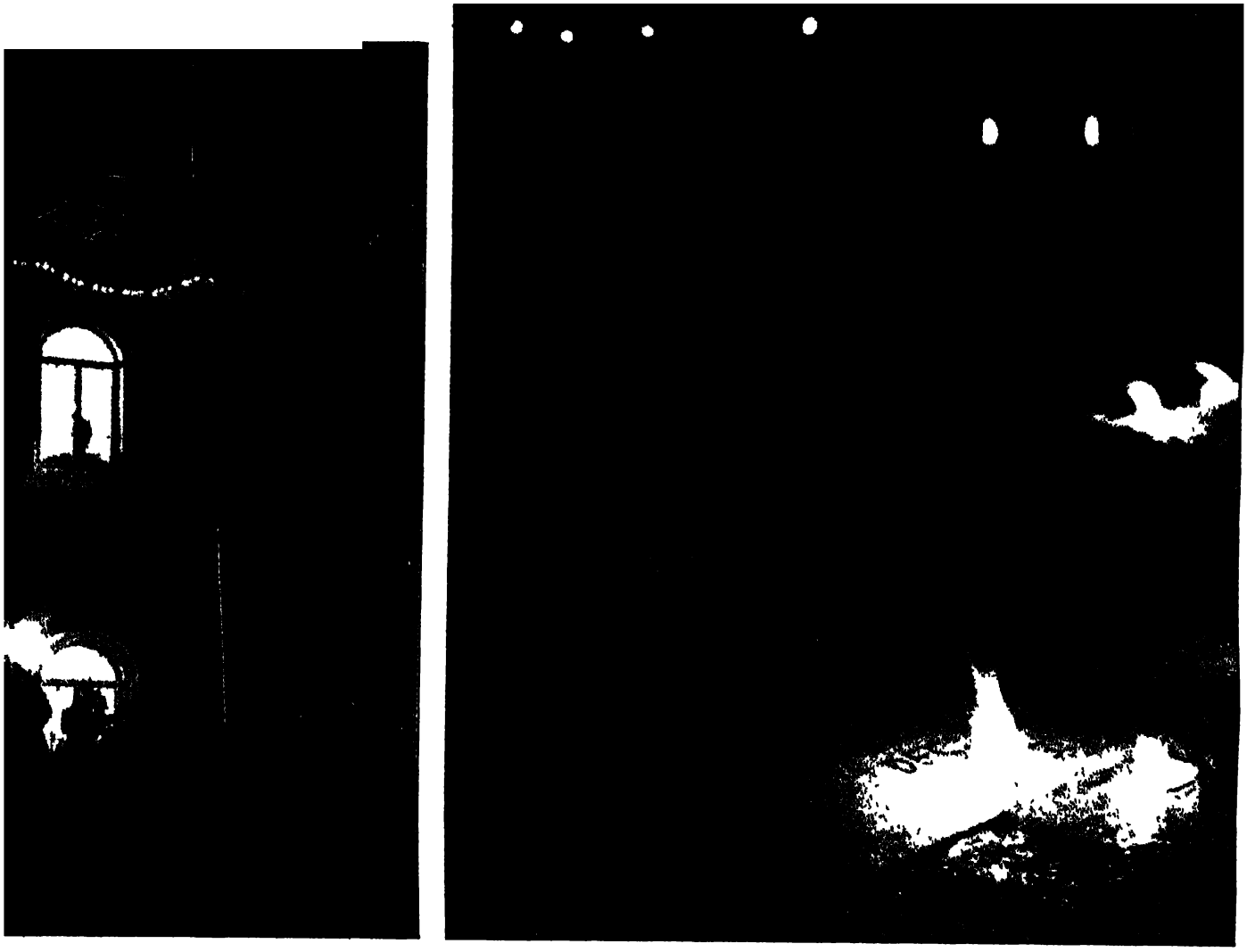
In some of the cemeteries, at any time of the year, they can be seen leading their lives in small cottages over the grave They are usually aged husbands or wives who have chosen to



A dwelling place built on the grave of a loved one

Night vigil





A candle-lit gravestone

stay with their departed ones, enveloped in a world of unearthly silence, far, far away from the city's maddening crowds

In the Roman Catholic calendar, the first day of November is referred to as 'All Saints Day' the feast of all members of the church who are believed to be in heaven The church on earth, commemorates the deceased members whose souls are believed to be in purgatory on the second day of the month

But in the Philippines, where centuries ago, the Christian calendar had compromised with the pagan liturgy, 'All Souls Day' (that is, the commemoration of the deceased in pugatory) is observed on the first day of November In the local (Tagalog) language this day is popularly known as *'Todos Los Santos'*

In the cities it is characterised by endless traffic jams and price hikes at the florist's and makeshift markets which crop up in and around the cemeteries Street children who, on other days, are found gallivanting round the highway crossings, rush to the cemetery gates with flowers, candles, soft drinks, tabloids and whatever else

In some provinces, candles are lit at the doorsteps of homes to welcome the spirits of the dead In some others, food is prepared at the family altars as an invitation to the dead to join in the sumptuous banquet Rural folk offer food at the graves as an offering to their dead And there are still many who believe the true essence of remembering the dead lies in prayer

No matter what the approach, the Filipinos try to uphold their traditional values They pray for the dead, sing to them and share the joy of togetherness Their beliefs seem to echo Wordsworth's experience as he saw through the eyes of innocent Jane *"Their graves are green, they may be seen,/The little Maid replied,/Twelve steps or more from my mother's door,/And they are side by side*

My stockings there I often knit,/My kerchief there I hem,/And there upon the ground I sit,/And sing a song to them' ■

In some of the cemeteries, at any time of the year, they can be seen leading their lives in small cottages over the grave. They are usually aged husbands or wives who have chosen to stay with their departed ones, enveloped in a world of unearthly silence, far, far away from the city's maddening crowds

Photographs by Chandan Sinha

COVER STORY

AFTER THE STORM

Whatever happened to the Naxalite movement that promised to usher in a new social order?

BY PRAKASH SINGH

The important thing is the revolution, the revolutionary cause, revolutionary ideas, revolutionary objectives, revolutionary sentiments, revolutionary virtues.

—Fidel Castro

THE NAXALITE MOVEMENT HAD A METEORIC phase for about two years from the formation of the party in May 1969 till the end of June 1971. The ripples starting from Naxalbari spread in ever-widening circles to practically all parts of the country. The only areas which remained untouched were the Northeastern states

Illustration Krishnendu Dhale

and the Union Territories of Goa, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands The dominant strand of the movement was the annihilation of class enemies It was Charu Mazumdar's distinctive contribution to the movement It was his triumph as well as his tragedy — triumph because it achieved a considerable measure of success in the initial stages when several *jotedars* fled from the countryside and there were tremors among all shades of oppressors, and tragedy because the killings, not always discriminate, alienated the general mass of people and, further, there were serious ideological differences within the party which weakened and fragmented the movement

The annihilation of class enemies was directed at not merely the physical liquidation of a few hated landlords and usurers but at the "overthrow of the feudal class in an area, economically, politically and militarily" It was explained that after the class enemies were annihilated, others of his ilk would also flee in utter panic and the area would be freed of the class enemies and their agents This would raise the armed struggle to a higher plane Annihilation of class enemies was thus a "higher form of class struggle and the beginning of guerrilla war"

The annihilation campaign had other advantages also It raised — at least that was the claim — the political consciousness of the people and created conditions for the emergence of a new type of man who feared neither hardship nor death

' The battle of annihilation liberates the people not only from the oppression of the landlord class and the state but also liberates them from the shackles of backward ideas and removes from the minds of the people poisonous weeds of self-interest, clan interest, localism, casteism, religious superstition, etc "

The class enemies included landlords and their agents, rich peasants, money-lenders and police informers The poor and landless peasants were relied upon to carry on this campaign Squads of poor and landless peasants, imbued with the politics of seizure of political power by armed force and burning with class hatred, annihilated the feudal oppressors.

What weapons were to be used for annihilations? Here, as on seven other points, the Naxalites took the cue from Mao "Weapons are an important factor in war, but not the decisive factor; it is people, not things that are decisive " The party workers were therefore advised to rely on conventional weapons like choppers, spears, javelins and sickles The tendency to acquire guns and other firearms was discouraged on the ground that even if they managed to get hold of a few guns, they would not be able to retain them and those would inevitably fall into the hands of the police The party's thinking in the matter was expressed by the Debra Organising Committee of the CPI(ML) in the following words

"The guerrillas are used to bows and arrows and not guns, and so, their initiative and inventiveness develop in using the former Our tactic, plan and choice of weapons should be such as can unleash the initiative of the masses As they realise the limitations of their primitive weapons, in course of struggle, they themselves will take initiative to procure modern weapons, which will then not be a hindrance to releasing the initiative of the masses but will, on the contrary be its complement "



What weapons were to be used for annihilations? Here, as on seven other points, the Naxalites took the cue from Mao. 'Weapons are an important factor in war, but not the decisive factor; it is people, not things that are decisive.' The party workers were therefore advised to rely on conventional weapons like choppers, spears, javelins and sickles

The act of annihilation of class enemies was considered by the Naxalites to be the "primary stage of the guerrilla struggle" It is therefore necessary to understand the CPI(ML)'s concept of guerrilla struggle It was explained by Charu Mazumdar that "guerrilla warfare is and will remain the basic form of struggle for the entire period of democratic revolution" He was at pains to distinguish the CPI(ML)'s concept of guerrilla war from that advocated by Che Guevara in which guerrilla war was waged by the petty bourgeois intelligentsia without the support of the peasant masses. He underscored that the guerrilla war, as understood by the Naxalites in India, was initiated by the class conscious elements of the poor and landless peasants and that it could be led and carried on only with their active cooperation Another point of difference from Guevara type of guerrilla warfare was that there was no reliance on firearms and the peasant masses depended exclusively on primitive weapons conveniently available to them The guerrilla war, according to Charu Mazumdar, could be started wherever there were peasants. It was a mistaken understanding that such warfare could be started only in mountainous area or in jungles Another point — and this led to divergence of opinion in the party circles — stressed by Mazumdar was that mass movements and mass organisations were not necessary preconditions for waging guerrilla warfare On the contrary, these mass movements and mass organisations exposed the revolutionary workers before the enemy and were therefore obstacles in the way of development and expansion of guerrilla warfare What was indispensable was the spreading and propagation of revolutionary politics or the Thought of Mao Tse-tung

The *Liberation* of February 1970 gives an expose of Charu Mazumdar's views on guerrilla actions It was stressed that complete secrecy must be observed in forming a guerrilla unit "The method of forming a guerrilla unit has to be wholly conspiratorial No inkling of such a conspiracy should be given out even in the meet-

Extracted from** The Naxalite Movement in India by **Prakash Singh; Rupa & Co.; Rs 95

ings of the political units of the party This conspiracy should be between individuals and on a person to person basis The petty bourgeois intellectual comrade must take the initiative in this respect as far as possible He should approach the poor peasant who, in his opinion, has the most revolutionary potential and whisper in his ears 'Don't you think it is a good thing to finish off such and such a *jotedar*?' This is how the guerrillas had to be selected and recruited singly and in secret and organised into a unit"

The guerrilla unit must be small, well-knit and mobile It should generally not have more than seven members and the unit should be led by a commander Before undertaking any action, a thorough investigation of the target should be done by keeping watch over his movements so that the best possible time and place for attack is chosen Shelters should be arranged with the utmost care and caution These should be spread and located in different villages far from the place where the guerrilla action is to take place A detailed plan of operation should be worked out in consultation with the petty bourgeois intellectual comrade At the time of attack, the guerrilla should come from different directions, pretending to be innocent persons and gather at a previously appointed place where they should wait for the class enemy After the annihilation is carried out, the guerillas should disperse to their respective shelters This should be followed by propaganda activity The political cadres, pretending to be neutral, would start a whisper campaign like this "So, that devil of a man has got killed after all, good riddance, eh! Can't find enough words to praise those who have done it They have done a heroic thing, haven't they? Wish they would carry on with this business until the whole pack of those bloodsuckers is finished off Oh, how fine will be everything then, just think, when they are gone all this area will belong to us, all this land, all these crops, all the riches will be ours, because, once these scoundrels are gone how can the police know who is tilling whose land? After the masses begin to respond to such propaganda, the political cadre would gradually beome bolder and hold group meetings At this stage, the petty bourgeois intellectual would also come out of hiding and hold meetings to rouse the masses The guerrilla units thereafter find out new targets and work out new plans of action The process



thus goes on until Red Terror is firmly established

While expounding the above principles of guerrilla action, however, Charu Mazumdar's enthusiasm overran his discretion and he made the fantastic statement that "he who has not dipped his hand in the blood of class enemies can hardly be called a Communist" The statement caused a furore among the party leaders and was subsequently disapproved even by the Chinese leadership

The guerrilla warfare was, in turn, to lead the establishment of base areas A base area was one where the feudal regime of the landlord had been destroyed and the revolutionary authority of the peasants established

These ideas fired the imagination of party workers and sympathisers — and the Naxalite movement surged stridently The idelogical formulations, however, had inherent flaws which, in due course, led not only to the movement losing its momentum but the party also getting splintered The annihilation campaign, it has been rightly said, had four basic objectives

i) Smash the feudal authority in the villages and replace it by the authority of the peasants

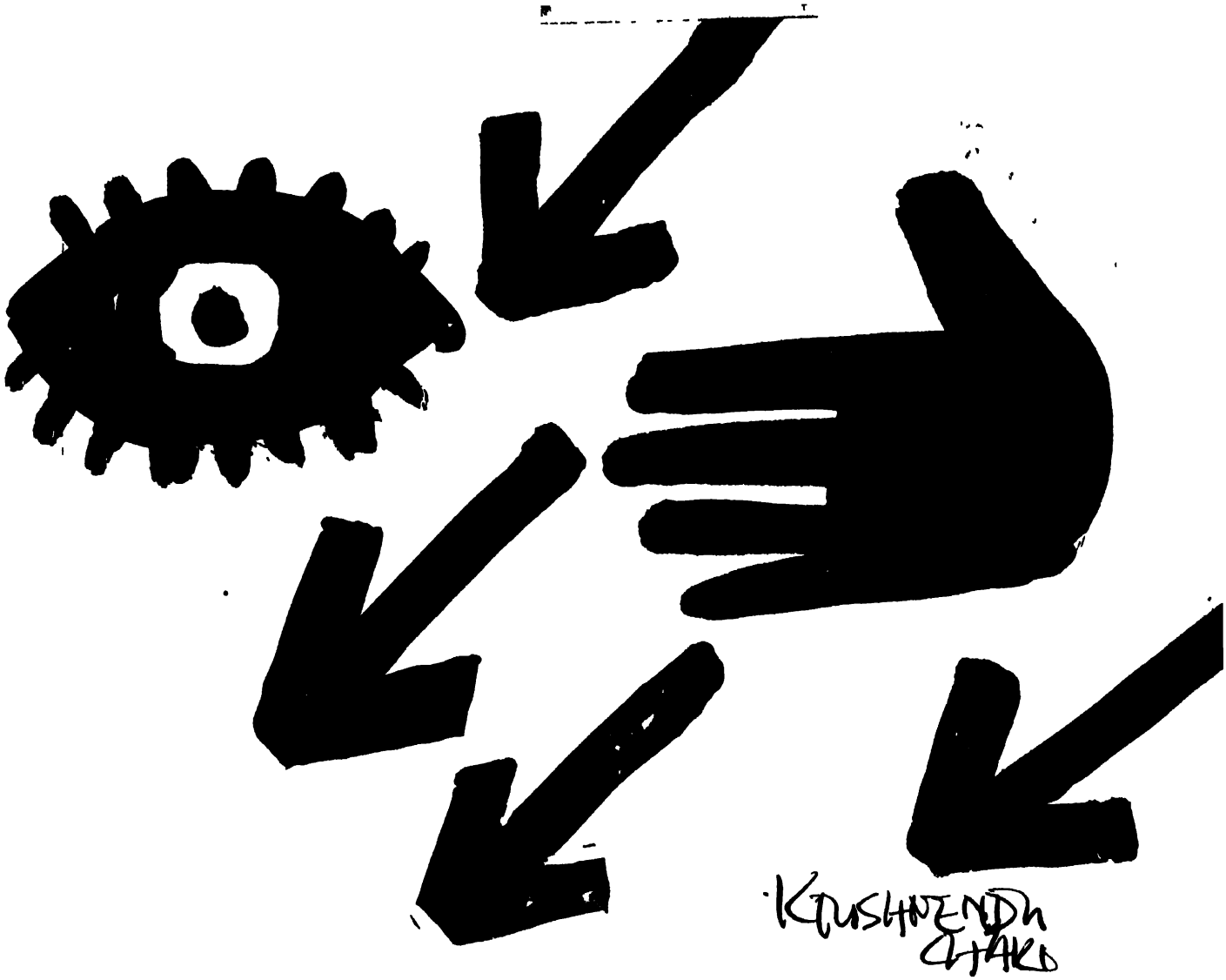
ii) Establish 'red terror' as opposed to the 'white terror' of feudal elements

iii) Arouse the poor sections of the rural masses to take over the leadership of the movement

iv) Encourage the common people to shake off their fear and inertia to join the Naxalites

Not that these objectives were not achieved to a certain extent, but Mazumdar failed to visualise the devastating implications of his flawed approach of the very cause he was trying to champion Mass movements were neglected, economic struggles did not get due attention and 'white terror' was provoked to launch fierce counter-attacks which nearly decimated the Naxalites The movement did not have the vital ingredients to sustain itself No wonder, after attaining a certain trajectory, it showed a sharp downward trend

At the end of 1969, Charu Mazumdar summed up the lessons of the year



in the following words

"Rely on the poor and landless peasants, educate them in Mao Tse-tung Thought, adhere firmly to the path of armed struggle, build guerrilla force and march forward along the path of liquidating the class enemies, only thus can the high tide of struggle advance irresistibly"

He also expressed his optimism that the year 1970 held the promise of still bigger victories A month later, Charu Mazumdar gave the call for making the 1970s 'the decade of liberation' and exhorted the party workers to "spread the sparks of this revolutionary armed struggle throughout India, here and now"

The holding of the first Party Congress by the CPI(ML) in the middle of May 1970 was an important landmark in the evolution of Naxalite movement in the country The Party Congress was held in underground conditions in Calcutta and was attended by delegates from the various states of India It clearly acknowledged its links with the Chinese Communist Party in a resolution conveying "revolutionary greetings to Chairman Mao Tse-tung to whose all conquering Thought and to whom personally our Party owes its birth and phenomenal growth" The Congress did not mince its words in recording that "our Party and revolution have received and are receiving the personal care and guidance of Chairman Mao" Through another resolution, the Party gave a call to avenge the death of "great martyrs" by intensifying the armed class struggle and the war of annihilation of class enemies The party workers were advised to turn their grief into burning class hatred



It was explained by Charu Mazumdar that 'guerrilla warfare is and will remain the basic form of struggle for the entire period of democratic revolution'. He was at pains to distinguish the CPI(ML)'s concept of guerrilla war from that advocated by Che Guevara in which guerrilla war was waged by the petty bourgeois intelligentsia without the support of the peasant masses

The Congress adopted the Party Programme, the Political Organisational Report, the Party Constitution and elected the Central Committee The salient features of the party programme were

1 India achieved a 'sham independence' in 1947, when Congress leadership representing the comprador-bourgeoisie and big landlords was installed to power

2 The Indian people are now weighed down under "four huge mountains" namely US imperialism, Soviet social imperialism, feudalism and comprador-bureaucrat capital

3 The contradiction between feudalism and the broad masses of the Indian people is the principal contradiction of the present phase

4 The present Indian society is semi-feudal and semi-colonial in character

5 The government has been suppressing the genuine rights of all nationalities and national and religious minorities like Kashmiris, Nagas and Mizos who are being denied the right of self-determination

6 The foreign policy of the country serves the interests of imperialism, social-imperialism and reaction

7 The country is in the stage of democratic revolution, the essence of which is agrarian revolution

8 The revolution will establish the dictatorship of the working class, the peasantry, the petty bourgeoisie and even a section of the small and middle bourgeoisie under the leadership of the working class which is the most organised, advanced detachment of the people

9 A Democratic Front would be built up under the leadership of the working class and it would include the landless and poor peasants, the middle peasants and also a section of the rich peasants with the urban petty bourgeoisie and the revolutionary intellectuals as reliable allies



Charu Mazumdar

10 India's liberation would be achieved by people's war, which would involve creating small bases of armed struggle all over the country by waging guerrilla warfare

The party also outlined the major tasks which the People's Democratic State would carry out These deserve to be quoted in *extenso*

a) Confiscation of all the banks and enterprises of foreign capital and liquidation of all imperialist debt

b) Confiscation of all the enterprises of the comprador-bureaucrat capitalists

c) Confiscation of all land belonging to the landlords and their redistribution among the landless and poor peasants on the principle of land to the tillers, cancellation of all debts of the peasantry and other toiling people All facilities necessary for development of agriculture to be guaranteed

d) Enforce eight hours a day, increase wages, institute unemployment relief and social insurance, remove all inequalities on the basis of equal pay for equal work

e) Improve the living conditions of soldiers and give land and job to the ex-servicemen

f) Enforce better living conditions of the people and remove unemployment

g) Develop new democratic culture in place of colonial and feudal culture

h) Abolish the present educational system and educational institutions and build up a new educational system and new educational institutions consistent with the needs of People's Democratic India

i) Abolish the caste system, remove all social inequalities and discrimination on religious grounds and guarantee equality of status to women

j) Unify India and recognise the right of self-determination

k) Give equal status to all national languages

l) Abolish all exorbitant taxes and miscellaneous assessments and adopt a consolidated, progressive tax system

m) People's political power to be exercised through Revolutionary People's Council at all levels

n) Alliance to be formed with the international proletariat and the oppressed nations of the world under the leadership of the CPC

The political-organisational report adopted at the Party Congress claimed that peasants' armed struggle under the leadership of the CPI(ML) had spread far wide and engulfed 12 states of the country It gave a call for strengthening the party, which was declared the "most important, most immediate and most sacred task of the revolutionary people of India" The Party expressed its resolve to continue the annihilation campaign in a more determined and concerted way and "develop the struggles in mighty waves"

Charu Mazumdar's speech on the political-organisational report at the Party Congress for the first time indicated that differences were brewing inside the party over the issues of (a) annihilation, (b) use of firearms and c) dependence on the petty bourgeois intellectual Charu Mazumdar made a virulent attack on the dissidence whom he dubbed as 'centrists' and made a vigorous defence of the party line He said that without class struggle — the battle of annihilation — the initiative of the poor peasant masters cannot be released, the political consciousness of the fighters cannot be raised, the new man cannot emerge and the people's army cannot be created On the question of firearms, he argued



A base area was one where the feudal regime of the landlord had been destroyed and the revolutionary authority of the peasants established. These ideas fired the imagination of party workers and sympathisers, and the Naxalite movement surged stridently

that their use at this stage, instead of releasing the initiative of the peasant masses would stifle it

"If guerrilla fighters start the battle of annihilation with their conventional weapons, the common landless and poor peasants would come forward with bare hands and join the battle of annihilation A common landless peasant, ground down by age-old repression, will see the light and avenge himself on the class enemy His initiative will be released in this way, the peasant masses will join the guerrilla fighters, their revolutionary enthusiasm will know no bounds and a mighty wave of people's upsurge will sweep the country After the initiative of the peasant masses to annihilate the class enemy with bare hands or home-made weapons has been released and the peasants' revolutionary power has been established, they should take up the guns and face the world "

Charu Mazumdar felt that "there is the possibility of a tremendous upsurge in India", and he therefore called upon the cadres to start as many points of arms struggle as possible instead of confining it "Expand anywhere and everywhere" was his message Such expansions were particularly noticeable in Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh, Debra-Gopiballavpur in West Bengal, Mushahari in Bihar and Palia in Lakhimpur district of UP

SPLINTERED DREAMS

So, it was not merely a tale of messiahs and deliverance of the oppressed. ***Pothik Ghosh****, himself part of the procession once, readjusts his frame of perception of the Naxalite movement*

Ye sharmnak hadsa hamare hi sath hona tha
Ki duniya ke sabse pavitra shabdon ko
Ban jana tha singhasan ke paaye —
Marx ka sher jaisa sir Dilli ki bhulbhulaiyon mein
Mimiata hue hume hi dekhna tha
Mere doston, ye kufr hamare hi samay mein hona tha
(This shameful occurrence had to happen to us
That the most sacred words in the Universe
Were to be transformed into the support of a throne —
That we had to see the tiger-like head of Marx
Miaowing through the corridor maze of Delhi
Dear friend, this blasphemy had to happen in our times)

— Avtar Singh Pash

The 'blasphemy,' to put it succinctly, is the conversion of Naxalbari, a small sleepy hamlet in the remote corner of north Bengal, where a violent peasant upsurge almost 25 years ago made history, into a culture of lethargy and para-academic semantic jugglery

But Naxalbari is not all about the late Seventies' Calcutta ambience. Nor is it about Presidency College and the verbal crossfires at the College Street Coffee House It acquired another dimension after the movement was broken in the mid-Seventies and the party splintered into numerous small factions

What Bengalis, and moreso Calcuttans, have missed and still miss, in their haste to own anything intellectual and agit-prop, is that the spores of the movement have germinated in places which are scoffed at by these metropolitan inhabitants as 'backwaters'

Leaving the theoretical weight aside, let us be part of a tale A tale neither about Calcutta nor about the 'decade of anger' But about north India and in particular about a once-glorious, now decaying campus, Allahabad University

You must be wondering what is north India or for that matter Allahabad University doing in a story on the Naxals Read on

The year was 1989, I had just passed my school-leaving examinations and had joined the science faculty of Allahabad University as an undergraduate student As a fresher I nursed a lot of starry-eyed notions about college life and I was not an exception Students of my ilk, that is coming from sheltered families and ivory-tower, convent institutions had almost the same ideas

But fissures appeared quite early as we had to identify our caste before our seniors

Very soon we realised the extremely oppressive and feudal nature of the campus, which had touched almost every member of the institution — students, teachers and other employees alike Quite naturally students like me who were unprepared for this, struck an indignant posture and this stance of ours found a channel in the politics of the Progressive Students Organisation (PSO), an affliate of the CPI(ML)-Liberation, better known as the Vinod Mishra faction

This is one of the most powerful factions into which the CPI(ML) of the 1969 Naxalbari-fame had broken, and its main areas of operation are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and some areas of West Bengal The party chief, Vinod Mishra, played an active role in the Naxal movement during the Seventies as a student of the Durgapur Regional Engineering College

All of us were very happy that our indignation and anger had been given a 'right' direction I, particularly, was very enthused because being a domiciled Bengali and having heard about the movement from friends and relatives in West Bengal, I was romantically inclined towards it

However, in the ultimate analysis most of us turned out to be nothing more than active sympathisers

Yes, there was Govind Was that his name? Anyway, names of activists and subjects, and citizens and soldiers have always been inconsequential After all history is made by leaders and kings, ministers and generals

As time passed Govind became a serious supporter of the Naxal cause and fully supported the party's idea of a democratic revolution preceding a socialist revolution, the 'Bhojpur model' of peasant struggle and guerrilla warfare, and democratic movements waged by open fora like our student organisation

Since I was nothing more than a sympathiser I became aware of a lot of things regarding the inner world of radical left politics through Govind who had became a sort of *de facto* convener of the organisation in the science faculty

The problems and thus the political strategies of the party were entirely dif-

ferent from those of Bengal of the early Seventies Caste politics was a dominant factor to reckon with

Humiliating students from 'lower' castes and harassment of girls by the 'upper' caste lumpen elements was the order of the day And Govind with his small band of newfound dedicated comrades put up a stiff resistance against all this, perhaps for the first time

I clearly remember the bright sunny day in March, 1990 We were at the fag end of our first year Govind, I and a couple of other people were standing near the botany laboratory Suddenly we heard shrieks of panic-stricken girls from the lane which connected our zoology and botany departments With much thinking Govind ran towards the lane, but by that time the anti-social elements had finished their dirty job of molesting a classmate of ours and took to their heels

Immediately Govind decided to organise a protest demonstration before the proctors His appeal hit the gut of the students resulting in a massive demonstration before the university authorities The leaders of PSO also came to give their 'blessings' to the protest As usual the authorities gave a very bureaucratic reassurance and the students dispersed

That evening, at around 8 30, when Govind was returning from a friend's place on his moped he was stopped by 'motorbike people', in a lonely corner of the city, slapped and threatened with guns The next day Govind and his comrades went to the party office for some sort of backup support But senior members told them to build their own organisational setup After all the PSO had to contest the coming student elections, how could they afford to annoy the university students, so what if some of them were virulently casteist

Govind was a little shocked, but was able to collect his wits soon, and took it to be command from the 'democratically centralised' organisation Although it isolated him a little from the rest of us

But the incident was gradually forgotten and Govind, along with us, participated in various activities like political meetings and study circles, organised by the party The study fora discussed a lot of things — from Marx's *Economic and Political Manuscripts* to the US invasion of Iraq and Panama Street plays were also regularly staged by the members of the organisation and the party

In the summer of 1990 All India Students Association (AISA) was founded in Allahabad and Govind was part of it, interacting actively with leaders and activists from other parts of the country

But the real problem was yet to show its face The then Prime Minister, V P Singh, made moves to implement the Mandal Commission report and the caste polarisation became very sharp The CPI(ML) took a very ambiguous position by saying that they were neither for nor against reservation, rather, they advocated the elimination of unemployment and inflation But such rhetoric could not and did not work on the campuses of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which were mired in identities of caste and clan

He [Govind] had once told me, 'You know the problem perhaps lies in our romantic inclination towards this stream of politics. We perceived Naxalism as a world of dreams and myths. It isn't so. It's a grey world of real human beings, not a black-and-white kingdom of messiahs and demi-gods'

Invectives and filthy abuses were regularly heaped upon Govind and his comrades wherever they went to campaign for the party's and the oragnisation's cause All of a sudden they found themselves swimming against the current with one-time loyalists deserting them to join the anti-Mandal movement Such was the hold of caste

And to compound his frustrations Govind woke up one morning to find his name in the daily papers, declaring that he had been suspended on charges of eveteasing and molestation

We instantly knew that the casteist and criminal student-teacher nexus of the faculty was at work But what could we do, except boycott classes and protest before the authorities? An inquiry was conducted and as expected no evidence was found to prove Govind guilty The suspension was revoked However, the damage had already been inflicted by publishing the order in the dailies

We gradually saw that the party and the organisation was becoming increasingly reluctant to provide a backup to Govind's activities The reason simply was that he had defied the party whip a couple of times and had done what he and his fellow-students thought best

Then during the general elections to the Lok Sabha, the Indian People's Front (IPF), a frontal organisation of the CPI(ML), contested polls from some places in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam They even sent Rameshwar Prasad from the Arrah constituency to the Parliament Kumudini Pati, a senior leader, contested from Pratapgarh in UP and Govind was one among the active campaigners

On one ocassion I remember Govind tearing up a Lenin portrait which hung in his room, in anger and frustration as the organisation had not come to his help after he was beaten up and thrown into a chemistry research laboratory in a semi-conscious state

He had once told me, "You know the problem perhaps lies in our romantic inclination towards this stream of politics We perceived Naxalism as a world of dreams and myths It isn't so

"It's a grey world of real human beings, not a black-and-white kingdom of messiahs and demi-gods "

After the massacre of pro-democracy activists in Tiananmen Square, China, the party for once was very honest and condemned the Chinese Communist Party But then there was that gloomy other side, too When Govind wrote an article condemning the coup against Gorbachev by Gennady Yanayev and criticised Stalinism he drew flak from his senior comrades

He was very dejected on his return from JNU, where the organisation is very active According to him perversions and upper middle class distortions had found a basis in the revolutionary tenets

His ultimate disillusionment came when he visited villages on the Uttar Pradesh-Madhya Pradesh border once and realised that his "involvement in the movement was nothing more than philanthropy, because after everything I at least have a comfortable house and books to return to" "It is the war of the oppressed sections and they will have to fight it their way " ■

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



More space and comfort on the homefront is assured New partnerships, plenty of entertainment, amusement and a round of hard work are foretold for you this week Guard against ill health You will be going places, both metaphorically and literally

Taurus

April 21 —May 20



This will be the right time to make changes you want and do the things you aspire to High-flying success and the heights of power can be yours, thanks to the positive effect of the planets Journeys, publicity, ceremonies, progress and contracts are likely

Gemini

May 21—June 20



It is necessary for you to be discreet should you want your work to be effective You must also not complain over minor matters Contacts and communication will be unusually important Expect news from far and wide Though expenses will mount, work will be done

Cancer

June 21 —July 20



You will break free from the shackles of hardwork and that should help you to relax and socialise You will now feel free to do your own things This will enable you to make plans that will have great rewards in future Creative pursuits and hobbies will take up a large part of your time

Leo

July 21—August 21



You will have the confidence to surge ahead, so get started on fulfilling your plans Loans, funds, investments, taxes, legacies and research will take up a large chunk of your time The week is altogether quite eventful in its way Trips and ties are on the cards

Virgo

August 22—September 22



The planets in your sun sign make for added activity in all that you do, be it negotiation, romance or business You will not go wrong in whatever you take up Your charming ways will make others respond to you in a way you never quite thought possible Health safeguards are essential

Libra

September 23—October 22



This is the phase when you will pull yourself together and the results of that will be deeply satisfying Romance seems possible or an official engagement or public gathering which will see you in the thick of events This will be the right week to stand up to your claims

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



You will be a lot less irritable though there are chances that you will be provoked Expect rewards, progress and gains to come your way, specially in the area of work This is the time to start a new venture or collaboration, for your efficiency is guaranteed

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Contacts, communication, alliances, romance and money-making ventures are all definitely on the cards for you this week, making it a busy and hectic one Go all out to get what you want Both the office and the homefront are highlighted for you Travel is likely

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



This is not the right time to be reticent and shy, for there are excellent job prospects in store for you You are likely to achieve a new high in your career Happy times are ahead of you and you should be ready for them Expenses will be high, so learn to curb your expenditures

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Journeys and ties will be important for you Transactions, buying and selling will figure prominently this week and the next You will entertain in style and probably witness a pleasing event Friends will reach out to you and be of immense help News from a distant place is also a distinct possibility

Pisces

February 19—March 20



The superb line-up of the planets will help you in personnal and professional life Yet you will have to be careful while communicating with others to get the most out of this week Do not be too proud to accept help from others for it will enable you to realise future plans

B I R T H D A Y S

May 14: The planets in fine placing mean sales, riches, expenses, travel and comforts. You will be witnessing happier days ahead.

May 15: You will be getting new opportunities to forge ahead. Loved ones will take up a lot of your attention. Expenses will be heavy.

May 16: Luck is certainly on your side, which means money, wealth and a touch of romance. A new high in your profession is foretold.

May 17: You will go through good and bad times in equal measure However, you will achieve fame and recognition and will be in a mood to take chances

May 18: Success will be yours after tremendous struggle. You will be able to communicate effectively with people Time to travel and go places in yor job.

May 19: An extra effort is required if you want to achieve your heart's desire. Learn to accept certain situations if they cannot be changed.

May 20: There are dramatic changes foretold. The focus will be on relationships, business collaborations and travel You will communicate effectively

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY



FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 6
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1, 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5 7
[illegible]					
PF-705	0730	2, 4 6, 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
[illegible]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1 3 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 3 6 7
[illegible]					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
[illegible]					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
[illegible]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-306	1840	5
9W-212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI-309	2035	6	IC-274	1830	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
[illegible]					
IC-263	0700	daily	S2-025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2-026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI-682	0950	1
IC-812	1700	1 3, 5	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	4S-806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1730	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2-005	1855	1 2 3 4, 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2-006	1930	1, 2 3, 4 5 7	M9-301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC-264	2210	daily
[illegible]					
PF-737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1620	1, 5 7
D2-181	1135	1 5, 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2-183	1135	2 4, 6	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S-816	1205	2, 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 3 5
IC-701	1240	1 4 6, 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
[illegible]					
IC-257	1230	2, 4	IC-257	1605	2 4
[illegible]					
PF 735	0730	1			
PF-737	0730	3, 5	IC-704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF-705	0730	2, 4 6 7			
IC 703	0610	1 3 4, 5 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
			D2-181	1620	1, 5 7
			D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	IC-230	1620	daily
D2-183	1135	2 4, 6	4S-811	1635	2 4 6
4S 812	1205	1, 3 5	PF-736	1730	1
[illegible]					
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	1045	1, 3 5	S2 024	1525	1 3 5
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5, 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1230	2 4	IC 257	1605	2 4
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	4 7	IC 213	1315	4 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC-811	2005	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3, 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	daily
D2-172	1740	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2, 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF-705	0730	2, 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC-255	0800	3 5 7	IC-256	1250	3, 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC-254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC-213	0910	4 7	IC 213	1315	4, 7
TEZU					
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3, 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3, 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1



FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

[illegible]					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
[illegible]					
KL 876	0420	7	KL 875	0235	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-731	0855	2, 4 5, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-108	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2 6	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 4, 5, 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6
[redacted]					
RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5, 7
[redacted]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[redacted]					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3 6 7	BG-091	1110	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1 2 3 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2 3, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG-095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-747	1115	1 3, 5	IC-748	1455	1, 3, 5
RA-214	1815	1, 4	RA-213	1715	4, 4
[redacted]					
BA 142	2050	3, 7	BA-143	1525	3 7
[redacted]					
SU-538	1855	4	SU-537	1655	4
[redacted]					
KB 106	1200	3	KB-105	1040	2, 6
KB-106	1300	5			
[redacted]					
SQ-415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
[redacted]					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
[redacted]					
AI-306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure				Time	Dn
Up	Time	**Howrah**			
2311	19-15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**		7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**		7 55	3006
3003	20-35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad		13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat		16 15	2382
2303	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun		16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun		10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat		12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat		11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri		4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord		7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line		18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**		15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line		5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**		11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**		5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**		6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**		21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**		10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**		8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**		5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday		11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**		5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**		15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed		6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun		6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**		4 50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only		6 50	1182
		Sealdah			
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun		6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**		8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line		7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga Express**		20 35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gaur Express**		5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**		4 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu Tawi Express**		15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop		12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**		10 25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat		4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19-20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8-25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	-
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	14-05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

TITS AND THE TAP-WATER POOL

In spite of several written requests to the municipality, no one came to repair the leaking water pipe Gradually, the water began seeping through the hillside, collecting in a rocky basin below the cottage At first I was perturbed, then when I found the birds coming to the pool to bathe and drink, I stopped sending reminders to the municipality

Before the leak, bird-watching usually meant a long trudge to the stream at the bottom of the hill Now that the birds were coming to me, I could simply sit at my first-floor window and look down at them sporting at the tap-water pool

The most frequent visitor was the Himalayan whistling thrush On summer afternoons I awoke from my siesta to hear the splashing of water and flapping of wings and, looking down, was usually in time to watch this splendid blue-black bird at his ablutions

Returning to the trees to dry himself, he would burst into song, a song indescribably sweet and melodic, one of the loveliest sounds in the forest

Later in the afternoon, numbers of small birds visited the tap-water pool Visiting parties of tits — grey tits, red-headed tits and green-backed tits — and a pair of tiny willow warblers their chirping just a fairy tinkle While the tits were bathing, the warblers would wait in the cherry tree, passing the time by attacking the fruit of the sour wild cherry

The various kinds of tits did not fraternise much with each other. Nor did they squabble. While the green-backs took their plunge, the red-heads waited patiently on the moss covered rocks. I thought they showed more discipline than a crowd of people at a city water tap



The various kinds of tits did not fraternise much with each other Nor did they squabble While the green-backs took their plunge, the red-heads waited patiently on the moss covered rocks I thought they showed more discipline than a crowd of people at a city water tap Then the *mynas* who are the dacoits of the bird-world would turn up and drive the smaller birds away

Since the pre-monsoon showers began, the tap-water pool has attracted other visitors It began with one frog croaking dismally in the darker reaches of the night Next day, his loneliness was alleviated by the arrival of a friend or relative They sang a duet I thought it was Puccini's *Your tiny hand is frozen* On the following night, there were several singers, both Indian and Western, and some of them seemed to have brought their *tablas* along too Now, a week later, there is an all-night Pop Festival in progress beneath my window

I could, I suppose, collect the frogs in a bucket and deposit them near the stream, but others would probably take their place I could even start a frog farm and make a fortune exporting frog's legs to France!

But what's a fortune compared to one's peace of mind As much as I like having birds by day, having frogs at night is too heavy a price to pay So once again I sit down to pen a missive to the municipality, urging them to send someone to mend the leaking water pipe Bird-song is wonderful but frog-song is strictly for the birds

(Sanctuary Features)

POETRY

MAY DEY

Our fond tribute to Manna Dey who turned 75 on May 1

Ab kahan jaayen hum...

(Film: Ujala; music: Shankar Jaikishan; lyric: Shailendra)

Where do we go from here, tell us,
O, earth
Here, no one belongs
People fear even their own
shadow now,
Now none has faith in anyone else

I go door to door, and show them
this heart,
But the worldy creatures reject me,
All paths have been obliterated, all
destinations lost,
Now none has faith in anyone else

There is hatred in the eyes, nay
bestiality,
The wind sprays poison all
around,
The colonies of love have
crumbled to dust,
Now none has faith in anyone else

Every breath is earned, every life
is a pearl,
But in this mart there is none to
take count,
Life here no longer has any value,
Now none has faith in anyone else.



Har taraf ab yehi afsane hain

(Film: Hindustan Ki Kasam; music: Madan Mohan; lyric: Kaifi Azmi)

All around, there is this one tale,
All around, there is this one tale,
That I am besotted by thine eyes,
All around, there is this one tale

O, so much truth in thine eyes,
That nothing remains counterfeit
anymore,
A loving look somewhere there,
And dry forests become verdant
again,
Gardens spring up where there
were droughts,
~~All~~around, there is this one tale,
~~That I~~am besotted by thine eyes

O, so much magic in thine lowered
eyes,
In a moment, so many dreams
turn youthful again,
You raise thine eyes, and lower
them which
Leads us, God knows, God alone
knows where,
The paths of love are untracked,
All around, there is this one tale,
That I am besotted by thine eyes

Translated by Anil Grover

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

AN UPHILL TASK

Although the co-author of a photoguide to Indian birds, it's been ages since I've had a chance to dust off my binoculars and tick off new species in my copy of Salim Ali's *Pictorial Guide*

I was thrilled, therefore, to join birdman Bikram Grewal, perpetual activist Bittu Seghal and Mark Tully on a trip to the Great Himalayan National Park, 620 sq kms of mountains east of Kulu

Stuffing a bulky sleeping bag into an old suitcase and digging out a pair of boots from the back of a cupboard, I set off on the flight to Bhuntur, only a couple of kilometres from the park headquarters at Shamsi

As the little plane was buffeted by turbulence betweeen the mountains, I imagined the four days ahead A drive to a pleasant forest bungalow, gentle strolls in the forest — a sort of *jungli* Kasauli

The walk from Kasauli's Lower to the Upper Mall is generally the hardest exercise I take — and that, too, just once a year It didn't occur to me that the reason the GHNP is one of the least visited national parks, and contains some of the least disturbed forests in India is, because, the area is inaccessible

As the plane descended low over the Beas, I hurriedly removed my boots in case we didn't quite make it to the runway The air hostess eyed me doubtfully, but not as doubtfully as the park's director and his deputy when they welcomed us at the airport They had never before seen a trekker with a suitcase instead of a backpack

We chalked out the programme We would walk from Gushaini, where the road ended, up the valley of the Tirthan river, a tributary of the Beas The walk was said to be only 18 kms, through the buffer zone to the park proper and inspection huts at Rola The walk was to be 'gentle' and 'easy' A porter was hired for the suitcase

However, after the first easy climb out of Gushaini, all four visitors had chest pains and feared immediate heart attacks A few minutes of downhill raised spirits, which were soon dampened by the next three hours of continuous uphill

We didn't stop to observe the thousands of wayside violets, or the birds sipping nectar from the red rhododendron blooms, or to stare at the snow peaks before and behind us Even so, by the time we should have reached Rola, it was dark

We sat down by a couple of huts for tea and I suggested we should continue the next morning The accompanying park officials were tactfully quiet until we were refreshed, when they quietly reminded us that there was no bedding or food here and promised that our destination was entirely downhill and only a very short way away

For them, perhaps, it was There was a *Chait* moon but a few days old above us, offering little light We shared torches and stumbled off into the darkness, sheer drops beneath us

My right boot had rubbed the skin off one ankle Mark was struggling slightly as he had fallen over a cliff in 1971 and smashed both his ankles which have never looked or behaved like ankles ever since Bikram and Bittu were tightlipped

At about 8 15 pm, we turned a corner and saw a light in the valley ahead Our destination It didn't look too far away Dozens of feet below us the clear river crashed through pale boulders

In the moonlight the contrast between the fast-moving white-water, and the still rocks was stunning Fir, alder, horse-chestnut, walnut and spruce trees were outlined against the starry sky above I began to enjoy the scenery as I limped along Then I stopped horrified

A chasm had opened up where the path had been The slippery mud of the hillside dropped almost vertically to the river below In ordinary circumstances, I would have packed up and gone home, but there was no turning back, and all four visitors put on a brave face

Bittu, a veteran trekker, was the bravest — partly, because he could see his friends were on the verge of mutiny The forest guard with us took pity on me and offered to carry me piggy-back over the chasm — an offer I declined, imagining us both tumbling to our deaths Eventually, a human chain stationed on both sides and just beneath where the path had once been, succeeded in shepherding us across

A final sprint up the hill and there we were at the Rola The light we had seen was the fire where dinner was being cooked Boots were pulled off and a porter massaged tired feet viciously with mustard oil A bottle of amber liquid flavoured with the peat of Ireland was uncorked

Much to the consternation of the park staff, we laughed and congratulated ourselves as if we had succeeded in climbing Mount Everest They began to realise that three of their visitors at least were not going to get beyond base camp level Not for us, then, the land of the musk deer, goral and monal pheasant

Fortified by food, Iodex and Combiflan, we fell asleep on the bare boards of the hut, happy that the next day's journey up the valley to Chalocha was just an 'easy' walk

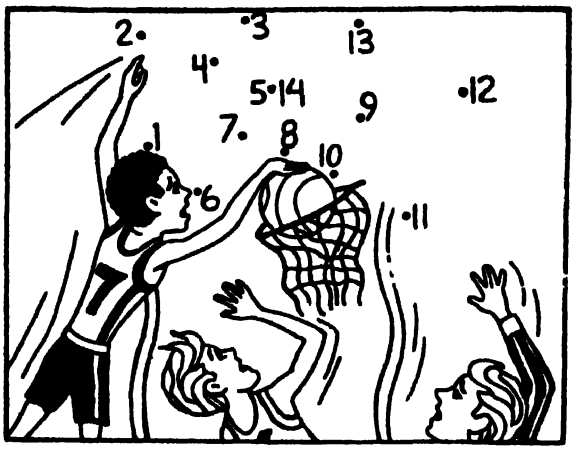
Once bitten, twice shy, they say But not us Still, the second day was not as shattering as the first and by the time it came for us to walk back wefelt completely at ease — providing, of course, that there was no uphill

The last stage, which any self-respecting hill-person would have covered in two and a half hours, we completed in a comfortable six And were there new ticks in my *Pictorial Guide*? Certainly, but space is limited and here I'll mention just a few — the golden eagle, the little forktail, fire-capped tit and fire-breasted flowerpecker. Long live the GHNP!

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

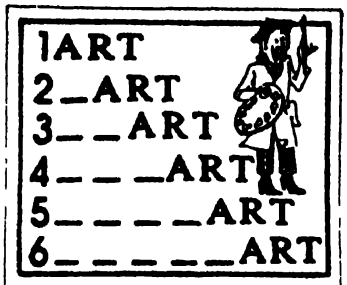
HAL KAUFMAN



©1995 by King Features Syndicate Inc. 1-15

FAST BREAK! What can you draw to complete the action on the basketball court above? To find out, draw dot to dot.

PICK A CARD! Of what playing cards are these terms a reminder? 1 A hole-in-one 2 A kind of Alaskan crab 3 An ice-skating figure 4 A flat tire? Jack 4 Eight 3 King 2 Ace 1



ART OF MATTER WORD TEST

ART, in a sense, lends expression to six words in the diagram above. Each of these words ends in ART and is one letter longer than its predecessor. Definitions in order follow:

1 "— for art's sake"
2 Before-the-horse item
3 Familiar valentine symbol
4 Leave town
5 Johnny-come-lately, of sorts
6 Strong supporter of a party, for instance

Afterwards, see if you can find another set of words to comply similarly.

Time limit: 2 mins.

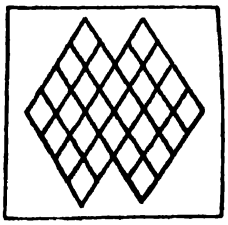
1 Art 2 Cart 3 Heart 4 Depart 5 Upstart 6 Stalwart

GEM DANDY! Question how many diamond shapes are there in the geometric figure shown at right? Obviously, there are two overlapping large ones, numerous small ones plus, a number of in-between sizes that figure in the overall count.

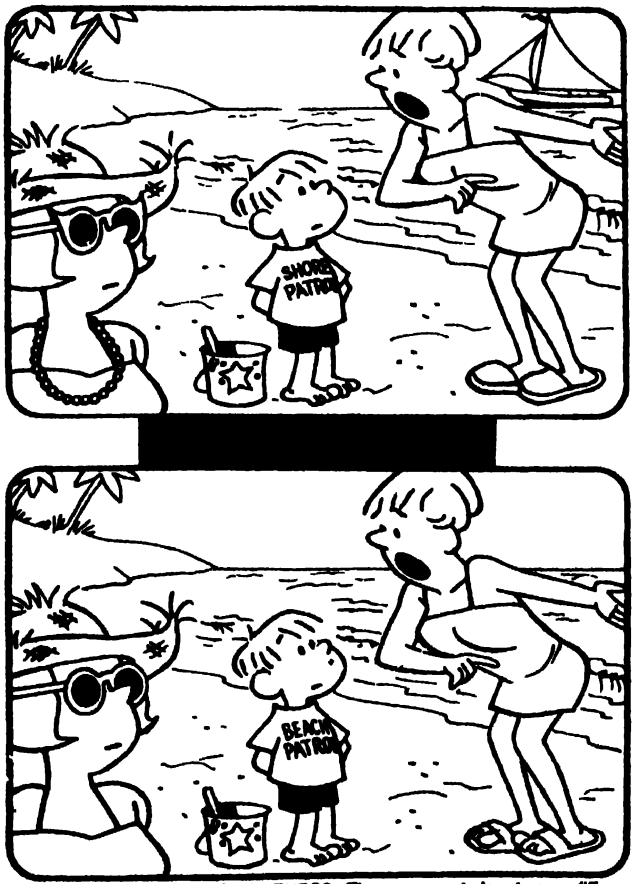
Indeed, more than 50 diamonds are apparent, if you hunt with care.

When you have completed your own tally, let someone else try. No fair peeking at answer!

There are 55 diamonds in the figure



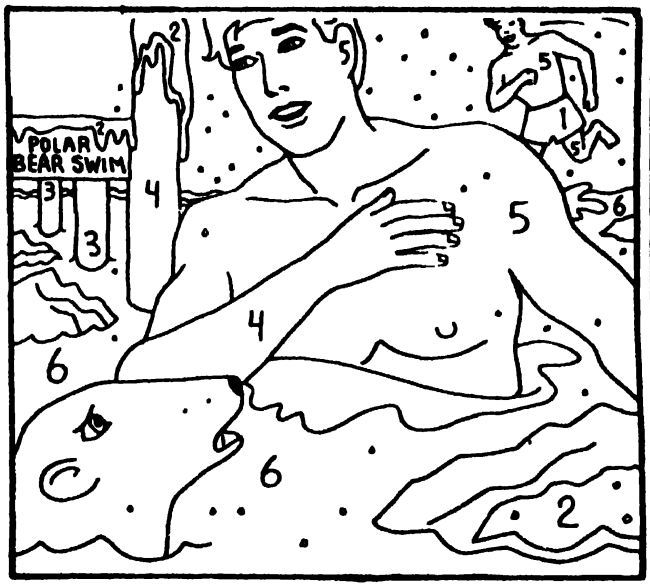
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences 1 Glasses are different 2 Beads are missing 3 T shirt is different 4 Arm is moved 5 Boat is missing 6 Sandals are different

FUNSPOT



HARDY, HA! Well, shiver me timbers, and then some. Apply the following colors neatly by number: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Dk. brown. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Dk. blue. 7—Yellow.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

STRADDLE

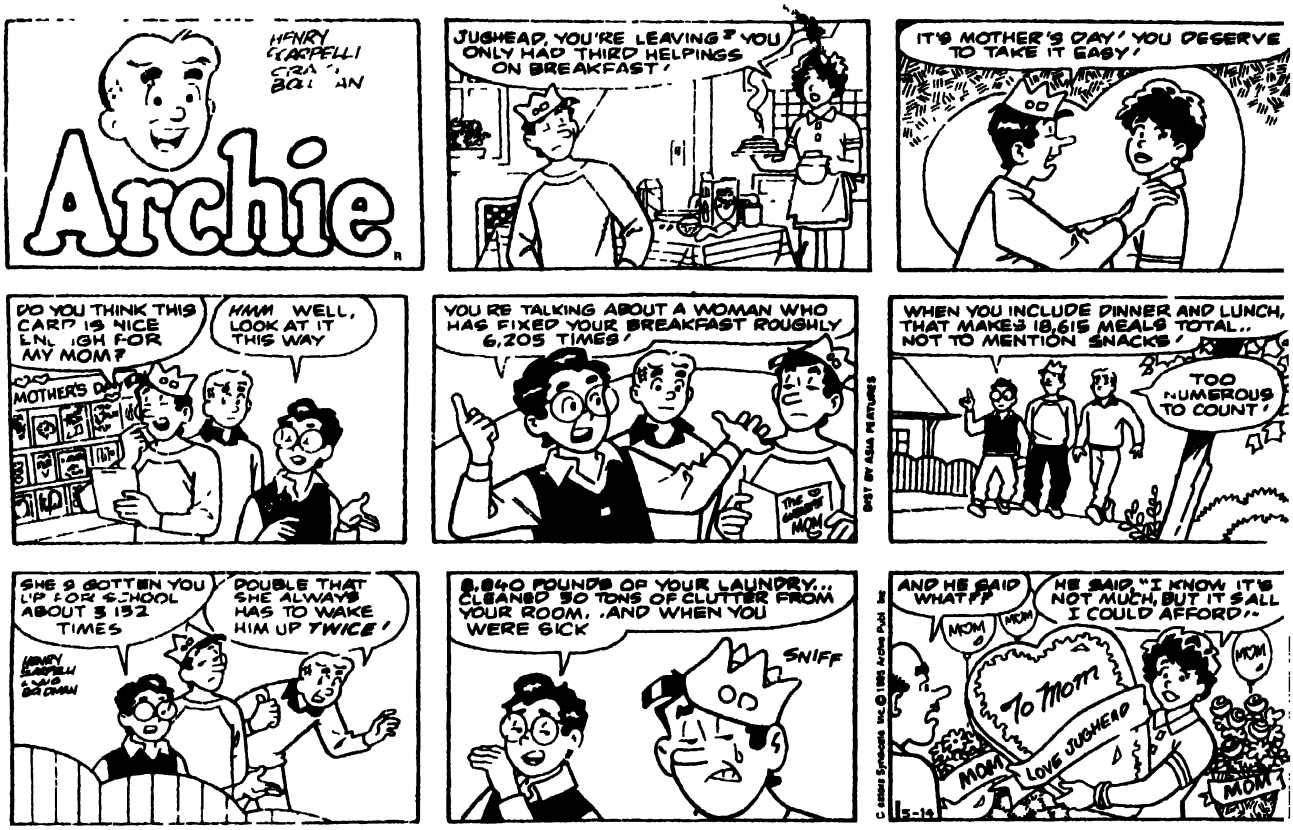
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 30 points

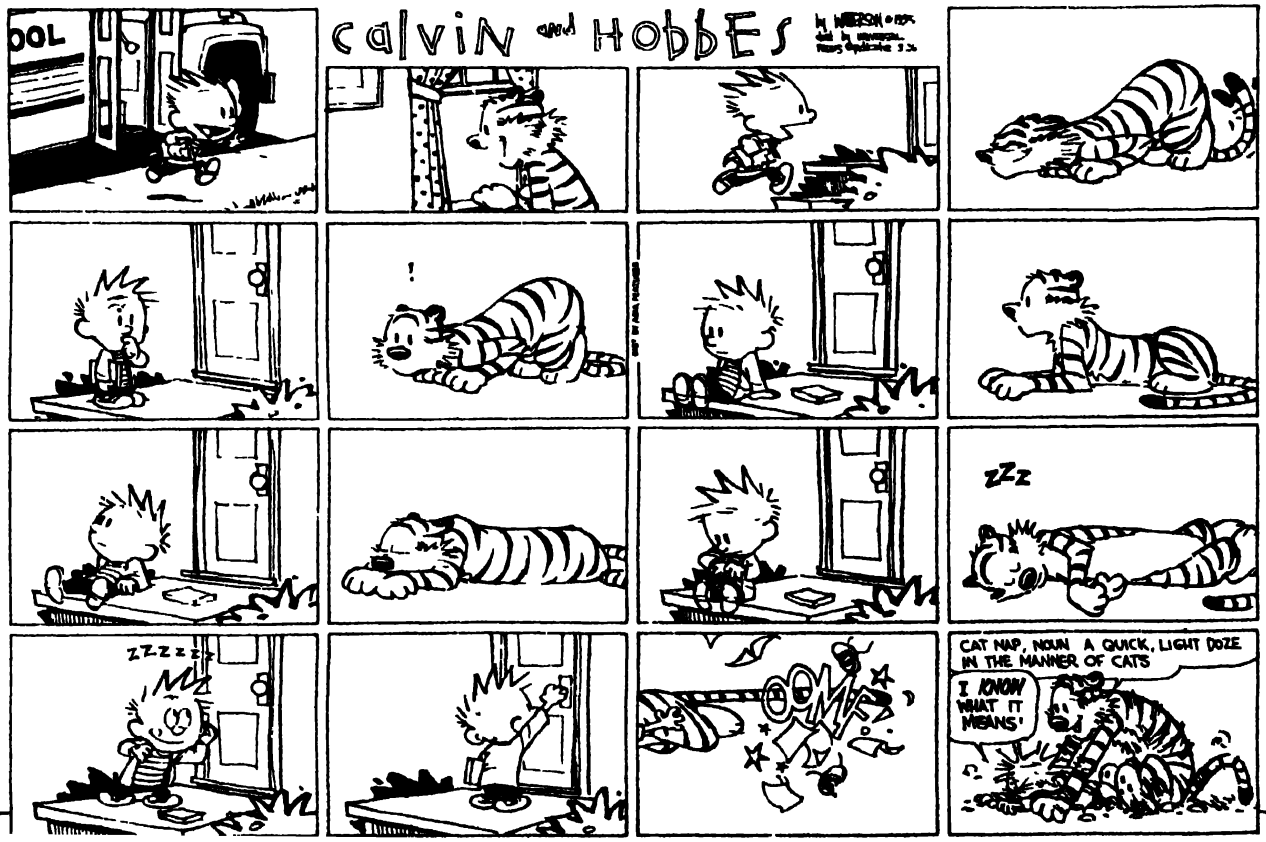
Possible twosome: Dan, Red

COMICS

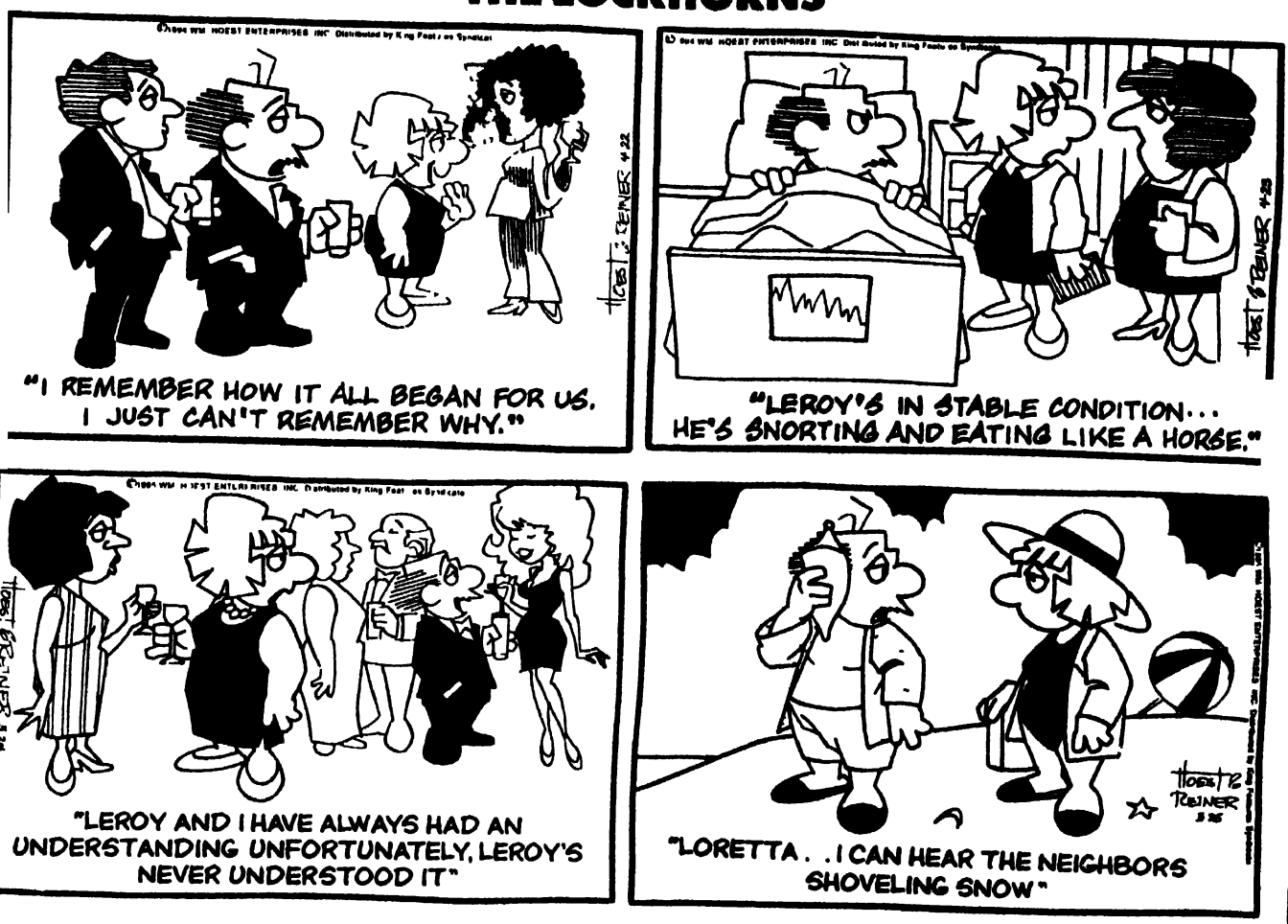
ARCHIE



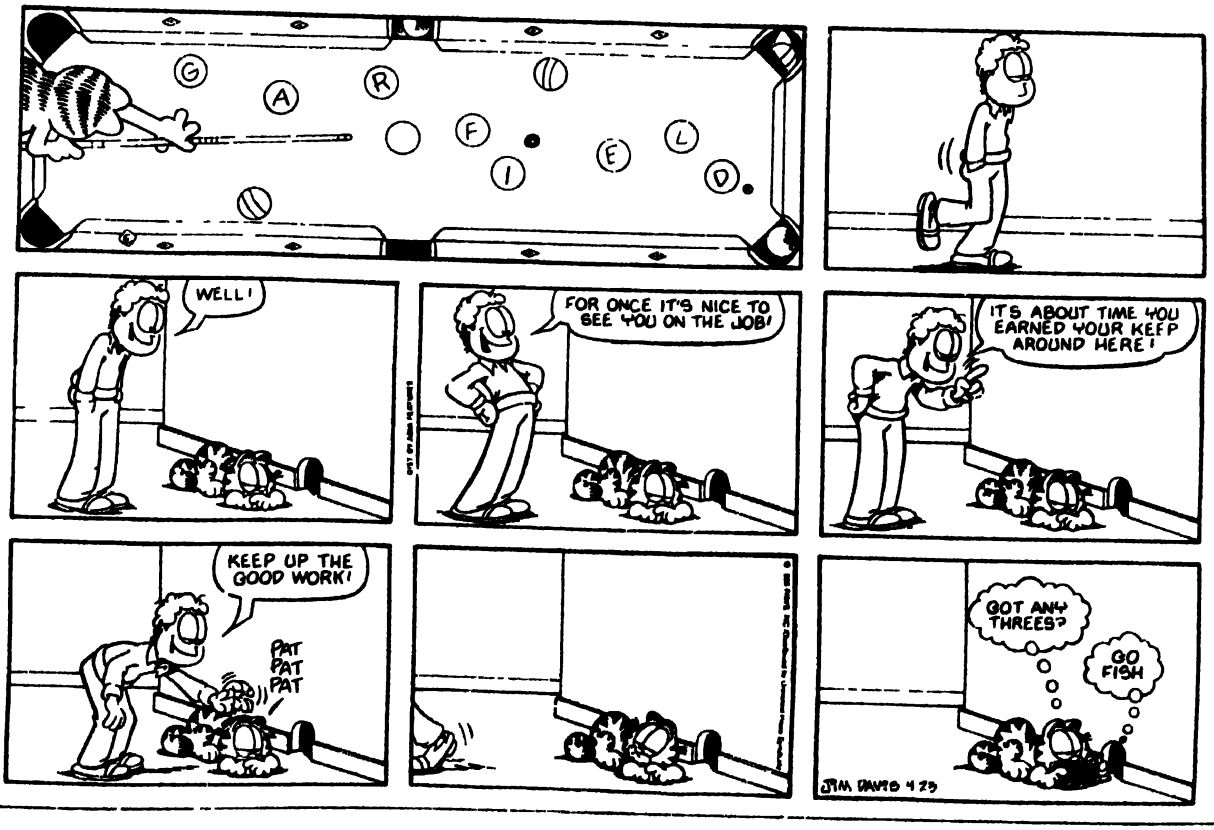
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

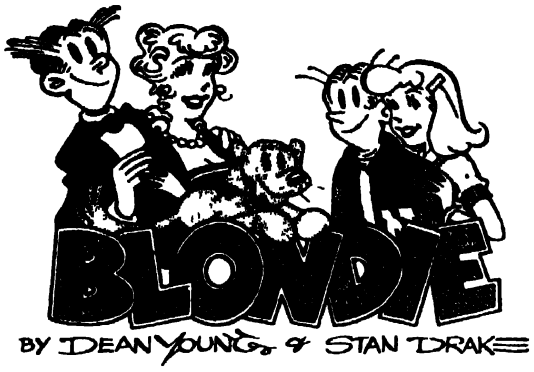


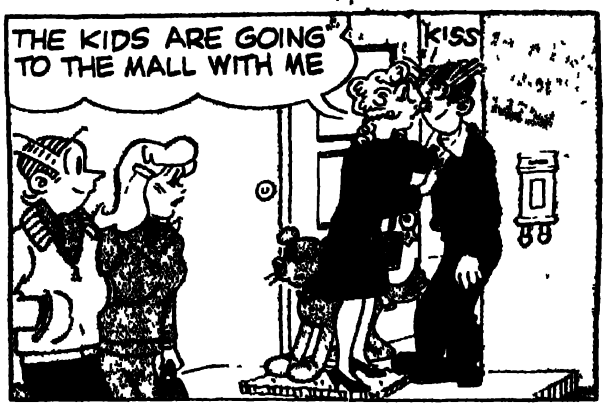
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



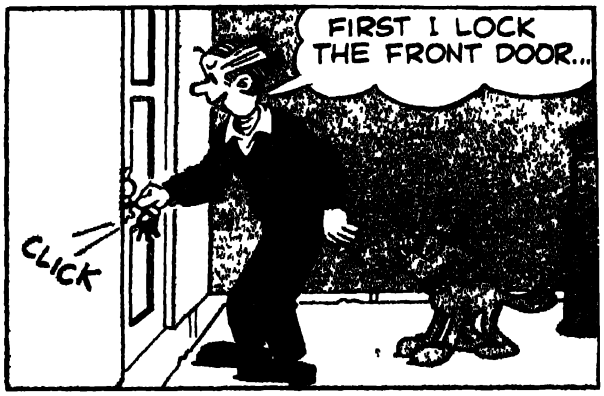
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

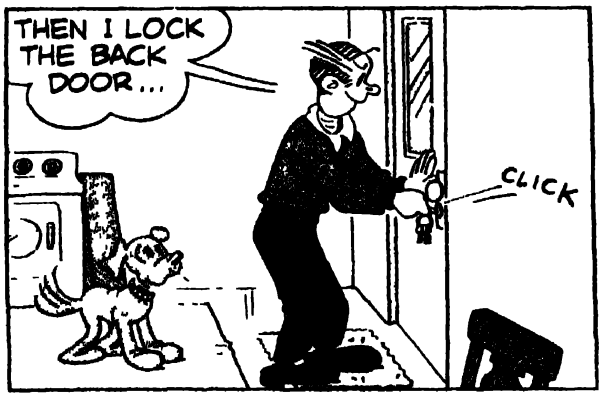



BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


THE KIDS ARE GOING TO THE MALL WITH ME
KISS

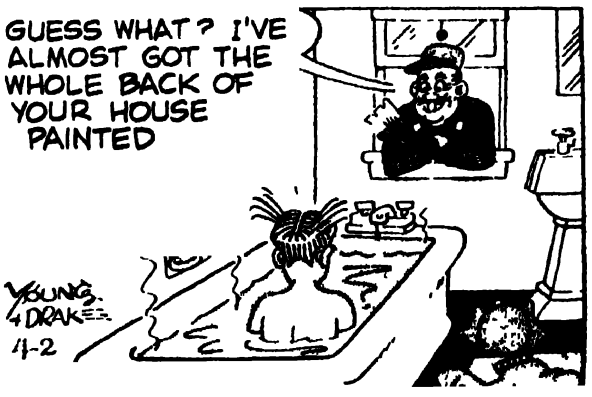

WE'LL SEE YOU IN A COUPLE OF HOURS, HONEY
BYE, HAVE FUN


FIRST I LOCK THE FRONT DOOR...
CLICK


THEN I LOCK THE BACK DOOR...
CLICK


THEN I TAKE THE PHONE OFF THE HOOK


AND NOW I'M ALL READY FOR A NICE, PEACEFUL, HOT BATH WITHOUT ANY INTERRUPTIONS


GUESS WHAT? I'VE ALMOST GOT THE WHOLE BACK OF YOUR HOUSE PAINTED
YOUNG & DRAKE
4-2

FOCUS

SUNBURN

Tara Cynara Newley is the first born of Joan Collins and Tony Newley. Now 31, she feels she chose her famous parents, but not the attendant misfortune

Tara Cynara Newley Voice like Kate Bush



Asia Features

There is a telling moment in Joan Collins' autobiography when she and her second husband, singer-actor Tony Newley, study their combined reflections in a mirror. "If our children have my looks and your brains, there'll be no stopping them. It will be an unbeatable combination!" she tells him.

About a year later, she gave birth to her first child. Tara Cynara Newley.

The omens were good. School reports came home covered in As and Bs, and an early talent for song writing may have owed a little to paternal genes.

From her mother, Tara inherited a perfect mouth, widely-spaced eyes and that distinctive triangular face. Even her voice soon developed the same Minnie-Mouse-goes-to-Roedean diction.

She was, in short, the unbeatable combination made flesh.

There was just one small problem. Tara's nose. It was a perfectly nice nose, strong, short and slightly curved. But her parents decided there was scope for improvement. So when Tara reached her 14th birthday, they offered her a nose job.

Tara Newley is 31 now, but she is still stung by the memory. "It was very upsetting," she says. "And it still hurts."

The nose job was flatly declined. "I do credit myself with a certain amount of sense. I don't like my nose. It's too big and not the nose I would have given myself. But it's my nose, and I knew that if I had it done, I wouldn't recognise myself anymore. Anyway, my nose keeps me humble."

Even with nose proudly intact (and occasionally sporting a nose-ring), Tara looks enough like her mother for complete strangers to stop her in the street ('Has anyone ever told you how much you look like...').

She is, however, not at all keen on being known as La Collins, Mark II. The cross she must bear is a face that remains a continuing source of betrayal and dismay.

As a child, she would hide behind her mother or deliberately assume a surly expression when photographers pounced at airports. "Oh God, I hated them," she says with feeling. By her teens, she was a fullfledged punk, alternately dying her hair black, blonde and pink. By her twenties, she was doing drugs. "I've tried pretty much everything except heroin," she states half-defiantly.

One can only flinch in anticipation

of her mother's likely reaction It was Joan, after all, who once wrote that she had "instilled in my children from an early age the horror that drugs can bring to people's lives"

But Tara says her parents already know about her "social dabbling in drugs", as she puts it "What parent wants you to take drugs? They would all like to think we never make love or try drugs The reality of the situation is that you're young and you're curious But my parents have always been okay about it, so long as I'm not a junkie sitting on some street corner"

At an age when most trendies are toning down their lifestyles, Tara revels in street language and youthful rebellion It's not hard to understand why "What makes me angry is that where I come from is still held against

Joan Collins: Mother in absentia



me I'm a hypocrite if I go on a show and sing a song with dad I'm a hypocrite if I don't

"I can't come from the street, because I'm not from the street and I don't have the street cred people need these days in the business," she says bitterly

Tara's main business is pop music, which she sings in a high, pure voice reminiscent of early Kate Bush She is best known for a trio of singles (one of them made number 30 in the dance charts) and an *outre* ITV show called *Juice*, which she co-presented for the past couple of years in Manchester

This is a north-western re-working of Channel 4's *The Word*, in which Tara has chirpily presented items on dildos, gay clubs and the relative merits of different condoms (Her parents have seen the tapes and liked them, she claims)

It is almost as though she has deliberately set out to travel the furthest distance possible from *Dynasty*, Beverly Hills and the beauty-and-celebrity industry that will forever be Joan Collins

And this carries through into almost every aspect of Tara's life While her parents can notch up seven divorces between them, Tara remains resolutely single While Joan favours Manolo Blahnik shoes and Valentino evening dresses, her daughter prefers second-hand street market fashions (for our photograph, she wears her own £5 Kensington Market dress and £35 Biba boots from the Portobello Road) While Joan takes pride in her Hollywood sense of interior design,



Tara lives with bare white walls and a good sound system

Each stair leading up to her tiny, one-bedroomed rented London flat sports a pair of down-at-heel shoes The loo flushes only with extreme reluctance and the wine glasses are made of plastic "The weird thing is that people assume you're rich if you come from rich parents," she says "But I need to make my own living, even if I'm not making much of one"

It would be grossly unfair to categorise her as just another poor little rich girl She has spirit, and she is very chary of blaming her parents for any of her problems In adulthood, she has grown close to her mother ("Bless her, we discuss everything and she is always there for me") and she has always adored her father "I love my family," she wails, "but please just let me be *me*"

Three years ago, she ended a seven-year relationship with a boyfriend, lost a lot of weight and fled to Joan for succour (Joan promptly sent her to a health farm, where she lost even more weight) "I just woke up one morning crying My relationship hadn't worked out and I was beginning to wonder Is it me?

"It was not so much that men treated me badly, if anything I *allowed* myself to be treated badly I just wasn't getting it together I had reached a point in my life where I needed to stop and look back before I could go forward"

Encouraged by her father Tara settled into Joan's back bedroom and went into psycho-analysis for two years "For the first six months, I wanted to run in the other direction but I wanted to know why my relationships weren't working out and why I was so scared of going into show business And the analysis helped me work out my fears"

She had, she says, found it "so easy to coast through life out of loneliness I would fall in love with the first person who came along, almost to verify that I was all right I had a problem with low self-esteem I was walking out on men before they could walk out on me

"It was repeating the pattern of my childhood Father leaves so (a) I'm not worthy and (b) I'll get out of this before I'm dumped"

A recurring problem with stage fright was, she discovered, linked to childhood fears when watching her father (best known as the musical star of *Stop The World—I Want To Get Off*) perform on stage himself "I used to get really upset when people weren't clapping, or I'd have sudden fears that someone in the audience was about to shoot him"

Her own attraction to show business, she feels, is inexorably linked with a childhood longing for love and approval The Newleys divorced when Tara was just six-and-a half She remembers her parents sitting her down with her brother Sacha and telling her "We're separating"

"How does a six-year-old child take that? she asks bleakly "You just deal with it as you go along" Within a short time, she 'lost' a father, gained a stepfather (Ron Kass, Joan's third husband) and moved from California to London

"Ron was a lovely, gentle man, but

the fact was that Sacha and I weren't his kids We were from another marriage It was difficult because my Dad wasn't there but I don't think the step-parent situation is ever easy I think at first I withdrew, and then when I got older I rebelled"

The birth of Joan's third child, Katy, added to Tara's insecurities "All I remember is I lost my room and my bed to the cat because Mum was worried that it might smother Katy, so that it was a bit of a blow And the room because they'd had another one built and they didn't want to put the baby into a newly-painted room"

By the age of 12, Tara had moved back with her mother to Beverly Hills The culture shock, she says, was extreme "I'd been at an all-girls Catholic school in London and was still at the stage of playing with dolls And I moved straight into a co-ed school which was all drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll

"The girls were already waxing their legs, but what really shocked me was all the necking that went on For the whole of that first year, I used to eat my lunch on my own in the library and hide away I was a stranger in a strange land The American kids would say 'Say something — your accent's so cute' and I'd say 'Get stuffed' I was picked on for being English and the boys used to push me into the bushes"

Through much of her childhood, she was left with nannies while Joan was away filming One nanny in particular, says Tara, was wonderful "She managed to instil much-needed discipline in us She turned us from spoilt little brats into quite efficient little monsters"

But nannies were no replacement for Mum "I missed her," she says "At the time what I wanted was my Mum to be at home But that's not my mother She was there for me when I was younger, but after two husbands and three children, she wanted to get back to her profession I resented that"

Her resentment came to a head when she was 14 and her mother came to England to make *The Stud* (It's disconcerting to see your mother naked, a bit like trying to imagine your parents bonking," says Tara) On her return from California some months later, Joan was devastated to be informed by her two children that they no longer wished to live with her They would make their home with Dad instead

"I know my mother was hurt," says Tara, who was already beginning her



Tara: Like mother; but not quite

'punk' rebellion "We fell out, and it was a kind of testing ground for all of us I think there was an element of revenge on my part really I was saying 'I'm trying to give myself a home here' I just saw all these other kids with normal family lives and I thought that was what I should have as well"

"My Dad has remarried and looked quite settled, so I thought I want that, too And indeed, it was good for a while But then there was step-parent problem again By then I was 17, and I came back to London to live with Mum"

Not long afterwards, her sister Katy was badly injured in a car accident Tara comforted her hysterical mother when she heard the news, and was quite supportive as Joan visited her unconscious daughter in hospital every day "I'm still convinced my mother brought my sister back through positive thinking," says Tara "When Katy came home after six weeks, she couldn't remember anything I taught her the alphabet again and got her to say the first word"

Katy is now fully recovered and launching a career as a clothes designer, while Sacha is a talented painter All the family stay in constant touch and enjoy gatherings of the Collins/Newley clan But Joan has made it painfully clear in the past that Katy ("being a Gemini too") is the person who understands her "better than anyone in the world"

Tara knows this, and it is clear that Joan's favouritism has caused pain "I think there's favourite with parents, and I understand that Katy reminds my Mom of her own mother, whom she still misses And Katy's the youngest and we really lost her

"But going into analysis has made me come to terms with these things I feel very level-headed about it all now There were things in my life when I was bitter and angry I'd like to think I've grown up a bit now and put that behind me"

Her adult life began at 17 when she moved to Paris to study for an arts degree (occasionally basking in the Metro when the cheques from Joan arrived late) "Paris was my adventure, it was freeing If you don't have that stability you need to get on as a child, you just want to get on with your life"

Many jobs followed serving in a boutique, making tea at a pop video company, manning a till at Tower Records, working as a tape operator in recording studios, packaging mini programmes for radio, gigging with bands "I learned the ropes basically, and it was a great security to be doing things like making tea, you were everybody's friend and you weren't under any pressure"

For now, she is working on a TV sitcom, continuing to write songs and painting vast oils with mythological themes (Madonna with Spaceships is a typical example) Her latest relationship, with the photographer Joshua Millais, is only two months old, but she is optimistic about their future

"Obviously, coming from divorced parents, I will be careful about whom I marry That's why it's taken this long But I think in life you have to remain like an open wound If you let yourself scar over, you just become bitter and twisted What you have to do is take responsibility for yourself, and that's when your life starts changing

"I believe in reincarnation, and I believe I chose my parents for a reason But I'm still trying to find out why What lesson am I supposed to learn from all this? I just hope I don't die before I figure it out"
(Asia Features)

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

Farinelli: **He is the star of the 18th century opera stage, coming down from the heavens above in a floating cloud with feathers sticking out straight from his helmet.**

As a castrato and a virtuo-



so performer, Farinelli has the lung power of a man and the vocal range of a woman. The sound of his voice is so heartrending, it causes people of both sexes to tremble and swoon.

The movie, which Corbiau co-wrote with his wife, Andre, is mostly devoted to Farinelli's tormented relationship with his older brother, Ricardo Broschi (Enrico Lo Versa), a minor composer who latches on to his genius for sustenance.

The brothers have a silent understanding going: Carlo gets the women, and Ricardo gets the *jouissance*.

Farinelli's irony is that he is the prince of art who arouses others to peaks of ecstasy, but can never find satisfaction himself.

Though the film transports one to a world of complex pleasures, it turns out to be a little more than just a historical curiosity.

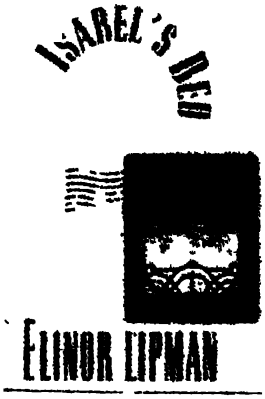
BOOKS

Isabel's Bed This is the story of Harriet Mahoney and Isabel Krug Spurned by her 12 years' live-in boyfriend, Harriet turns to the personal columns of the *New York Review of Books* and finds an ad offering room and board on Cape Cod in exchange for 'services'

The ad has been placed by Isabel, a blonde woman of dangerous reputation She is the former girlfriend of a rich and influential married man killed two years back by his wife when she discovered he had been unfaithful to her

Isabel now wants to churn out a bestseller on this sex scandal She hires Harriet for the job

Does the collaboration between the two work out? Does Harriet find her love? And whatever happens to the bestseller? You can't wait to know? So, grab a copy (Pocket Books, $26)



FASHION

Bride in flaming gold: **The romance of the bridal gown in all its flaming splendour hit an all-time high when Zandra Rhodes, known for her work-of-art fashions, conjured up a dream creation in London last**



The sequinned wedding dress has all the chintz, shimmer and sparkle to set hearts on fire. Its broadly pleated skirt accentuates the intricately embroidered threadwork in gold, quite akin to some of our own zarikwork.

All accessories are clearly fenced out with just a pair of delicate earrings peeping from behind the bride's veil, quite surprisingly, offering a brilliant contrast in chrome as against the sombre hue of the well-cut gown.

The effect with thos[illegible]g-stemmed woodr[illegible]-like flowers is angelic, and lives up to Zandra's desire of creating "dresses that are classics, like a Fortuny or Chanel suit".

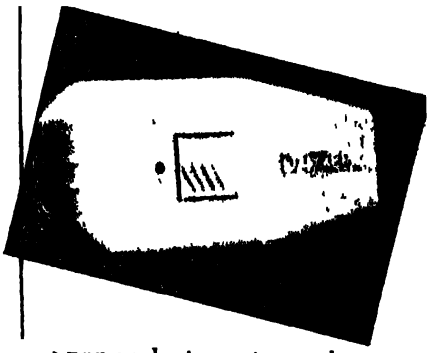
LIFESTYLE

Not just nuts There are six ways of going nuts, according to Godrej If you have a thing for almonds, you can have them to suit various tastes and moods

Chilli with lemon for you and your spouse, Onion Garlic for your boss, Barbecue to impress your friends, Roasted Salted when you're alone and Smokehouse or Honey Roasted for your sweetheart, of course!

Godrej has introduced Blue Diamond flavoured almonds which come all the way from California to please your palate So don't worry, be happy and just go nuts!

The Dazer Even the greatest dog lover can sometime come across an unfriendly type of the canine family Dazer provides

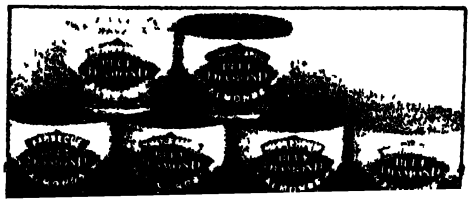


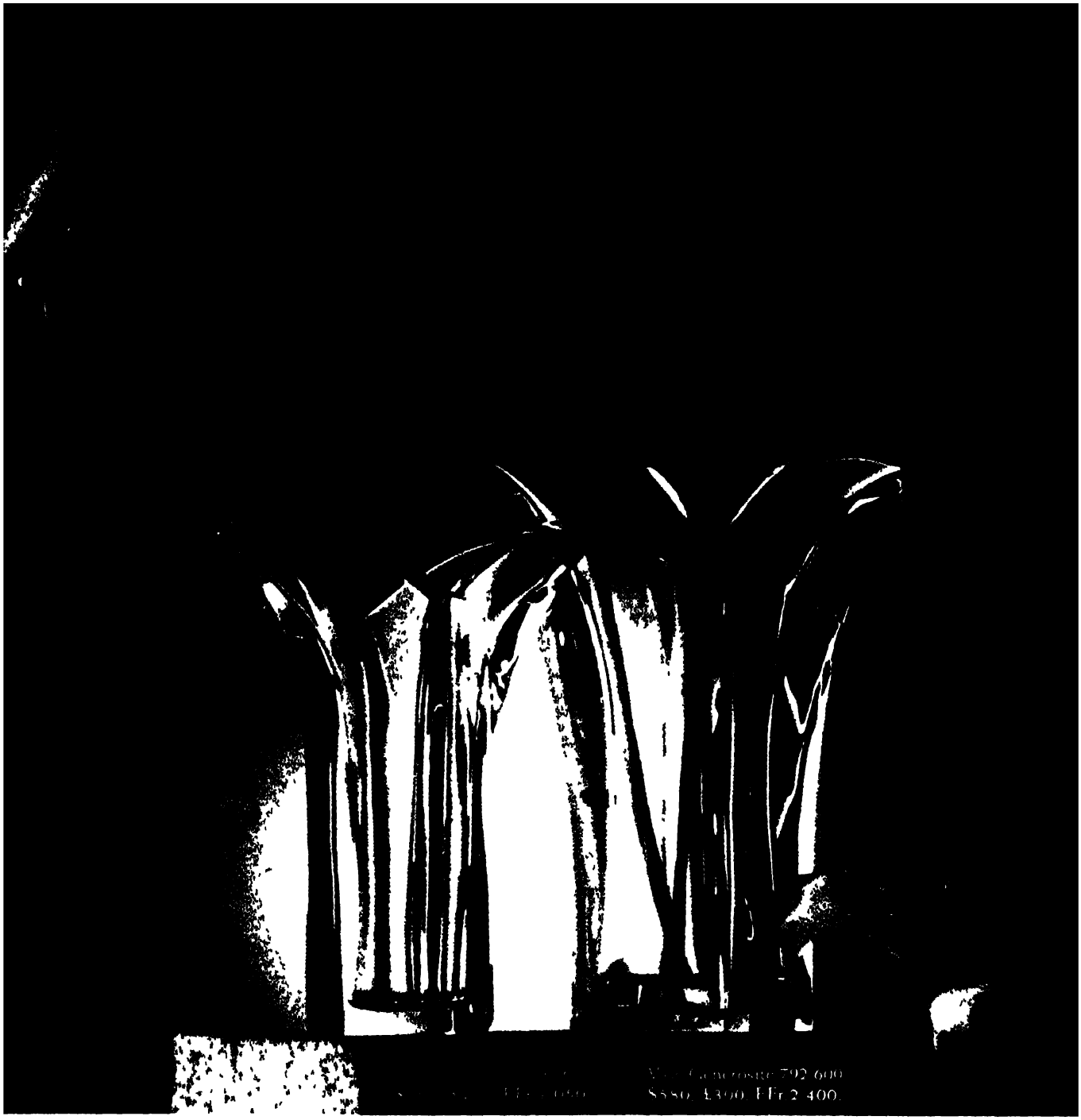
a non-violent way to repel their advances

It emits ultrasonic sound waves inaudible to humans and is also totally harmless to dogs

In pocket size (4 3/4"), plastic case clips on belt, it includes one-9 volt battery

Ideal for early morning joggers, children, cyclists and the unwanted postman Priced at $29 98, you might come across this very handy gadget at one of the markets stocking 'phoren' stuff





At these prices it's a wonder if you'll have any money left over for the flowers.

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Ambience/BC72

The Telegraph

21 MAY 1995

POST MORTEM

Tragic Heroes

■ To give the devil his due, it is unlikely that Mike Tyson was actually guilty ('What the Jail can do to a Man', April 23) It could be part of a larger conspiracy to ruin him

The new Tyson is not the obnoxious character he used to be He is a much chastened, humbled and mellowed man who might some day make a grand comeback

Filmstar Sunjay Dutt's case is most unfortunate It is difficult to believe he was involved in the Bombay blasts He is being made a scapegoat by some people nursing a vicious hatred against him and his family

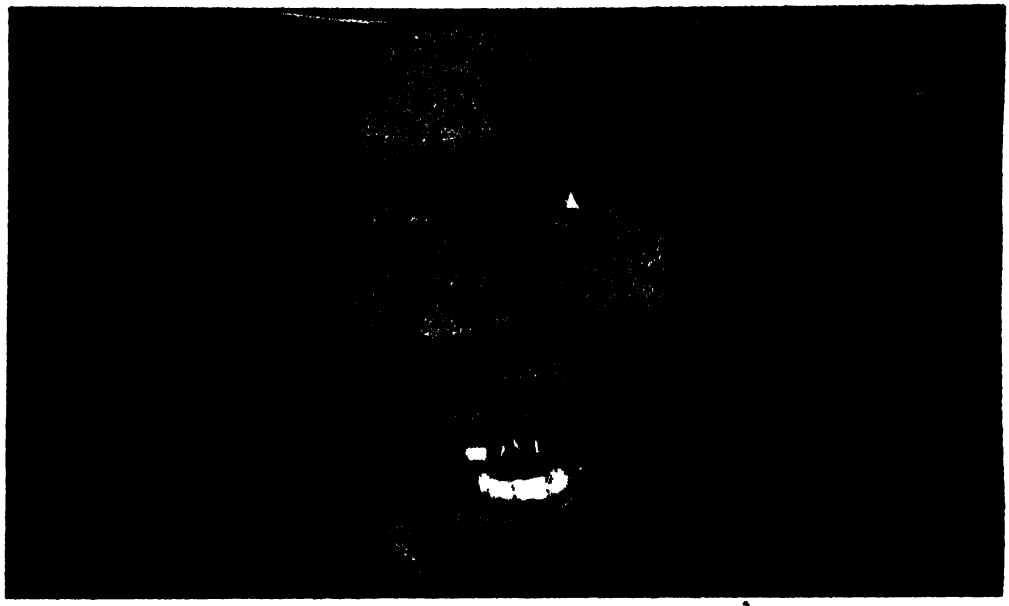
Dawood Ibrahim and Tiger Memon are still at large, even after two years of the blasts Why are they not being tried?

Denaz Roy
Calcutta

■ Tyson will never again win back the people's confidence for the episode with Desiree Washington has ruined his name forever

Bollywood's talented macho actor Sunjay Dutt has been languishing in jail for quite some time His case proves that having celebrity parents is no guarantee for social security

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur



Mike Tyson: Crime and punishment

■ Tyson and Sunjay come from opposite strata of society One from the ghettos, the other from the glittering world of glamour and riches Both ended up in jail for their misdeeds

Tyson was not short of dates Yet he chose to dishonour Desiree Washington And Sunjay should have known the perils of possessing an AK-56

Putul and ***Paresh Das,***
Jamshedpur

Man Among Us

■ The cover story on poet-lyricist Sahir Ludhianvi ('Timeless', March 12) was superb Richly endowed with creative powers Sahir penned some of the most poignant lines on human sentiments, love, dejection and hope His lyrics are very popular with the Hindi film-going masses even now

But he is a vastly misunderstood man Many have felt his lyrics were being overrated But Sahir was one lyricist who could carry an entire film (like *Pyaasa*) on his shoulders because of his soul-stirring lyrics

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore (Orissa)

■ Remembering Sahir is remembering a grand era in Hindi films He was one of the greatest humanist poets of this century

It is unfortunate he did not live long. If we were present at his bedside at the time of his death we would have most probably said (quoting Sahir, of course), *"Abhi na jao chhod kar, ke dil abhi bhara nahin "*

Syed Shoib Moin,
Calcutta

INSIDE



Jagdish Yadav

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VIKRAM CHANDRA and Mukul Kesavan have stormed the literary world with their first novels What they are all about

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A SINGLE night in New York city can record as many as 20 muggings, 100 robberies, two rapes and three murders But are only Blacks to blame?

Vikram Chandra and Mukul Kesavan

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Cover Jagdish Yadav

COVER STORY

NOVEL TWINS

Mukul Kesavan and Vikram Chandra are the two new authors who have what it takes ***Bhavdeep Kang*** *met them to give their respective muse the once-over together*

Photographs by Jagdish Yadav



PIPING HOT PROPERTIES, EACH WITH A MAJOR FIRST NOVEL SETTING THE CRITICS A SIZZLE, Mukul Kesavan and Vikram Chandra are the new *wunderkind.*

Chandra's *Red Earth and Pouring Rain* and Kesavan's *Looking Through Glass* are "moving well", say the bookstores Hot off the press and swoosh! Sold off the shelves, lickety split. *Tadatadi.*

Kesavan's book is a forceful, allegorical narrative set in the Forties' India, with a secular undercurrent that gives it contemporary relevance Chandra's is a dazzling, rich epic set in 19thcentury India and Nineties' America, overflowing with a superabundance of tales.

The two met for the first time [for *The Telegraph* Magazine photo-session] in the narrow frontage of Mukul's wife's South Delhi home, Kesavan, 38, coming across as an egghead in the best Stephanian tradition And Chandra, 34, wafting the faintest unpretentious hint of Yankee Doodle. No sparks, no sizing up, each knew where the other came from

Born in upper-upper middle-class families, they were moulded in the best Indian schools and colleges, with finishing touches from Oxford/Cambridge/Ivy League Now they have both arrived (at celebrity junction), having started from approximately the same point. Along the way, in their respective literary journeys, they have been in many different places.



Kesavan did not aim at being a writer, or anything in particular Directionless, like most Seventies' collegiates, he drifted through St Stephen's, free of ideological moorings, causes and commitments Emergency authoritarianism bred rebels within the faculty and student body,

he admired, but chose not to emulate them

He sat for the civil services, as all good Stephanians must, but did not make the IAS "I got something pretty insignificant, like the central secretariat services," he recalls Thus preserved from becoming a "Bonapartist head" in some hapless rural district, he clinched an Inlaks scholarship and went to Cambridge

He cared little for research He had signed up for an undergrad course in English literature, but the load of critical reading put him off and he wound up doing history and research for his thesis on communal politics in northern India at Cambridge

He never got around to publishing it, because he found it 'unoriginal' and thinly researched

At 25, he returned to join the faculty at Jamia Milia Islamia for three years, then taught an undergrad class at his *alma mater* for a year A three-year fellowship with the Nehru Memorial Centre and he was back in Jamia

Teaching university is more fun than wrestling with fresh-out-of-school skulls "Undergrad colleges are always a bit unreal They are so self-absorbed, take themselves so seriously," says Kesavan

He finds today's kids purposeful and pragmatic to the limit, sometimes disconcertingly so

The impetus to write a book came with Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* He first heard about it while holidaying with Amitav Ghosh in Egypt, where he had fled to escape the cold, dark, oppressive English winter They had laughed, called it an "abortion" brown man writing in white man's tongue Ironical, because Amitav Ghosh went on to huge critical acclaim with *Circle of Reason*, long after Rushdie became a literary star

Critics find 'Rushdien' resonances in Kesavan's work And when Kesavan met Rushdie while promoting his book in the UK, the latter said he liked it and had not missed the reference to him on page 248, where Aziz is magically transmuted to Salman on every page of Forster's book

The novel did not come easily He found no great epics dammed within, no spontaneous outpouring of creative expression Some ideas did glimmer There would be a time displacement of sorts There would be a railway station because he liked the ambience of crowded platforms, red-clad coolies, vendors and old steam engines It would be centred around the Partition, because that period in Indian history interested him

After a while, the novel developed a momentum as its own Images formed His uncle's home in Shimla, Holcombe found a place in the book A friend's pre-Mutiny mansion in Lucknow's Lalbagh was modified to provide a home for Ammi and Co His grandmother's home in Old Delhi became Nani's haunt A brief visit to Karnataka as a tourist lingered in memory and Mysore was woven into the story

It took five years just to work out the subject of the novel In the meantime, he got married, had kids He quit typing the book because "I could read it and it was awful" So he filled page after page in an illegible scrawl until he was through, then sat down to revise it

"The first draft was pretty bad," he says But he salvaged a few chapters from the wreckage of self-criticism and re-wrote the book It was an uneconomical way of writing, but he plugged away for a decade Iris Murdoch, he points out wistfully, had every last detail worked out in her mind before she began to write





'The first draft was pretty bad,' says Mukul Kesavan. But he salvaged a few chapters from the wreckage of self-criticism and re-wrote the book. It was an uneconomical way of writing, but he plugged away for a decade. Iris Murdoch, he points out wistfully, had every last detail worked out in her mind before she began to write

Kesavan is not "hugely interested in characterisation, the life of the mind and internal states" Psychological realism may have its place, but he prefers Tolstoy to Dostoevsky any day of the week He admires novelists who write large, eventful narratives, where "what people are is demonstrated by what they do rather than what they think So there is not too much of 'he thought and she thought' in the book," he adds

At the centre of the book is the fact that in Forties, a large section of Muslims were disillusioned with the Congress



Despite the party's secular credentials, they felt marginalised When the Quit India Movement was announced without their consent, they felt ignored, invisible, insubstantial

So Masroor, Yusuf, Rizwan *et al* vanish in puffs of metaphor "The more committed they were, the less they left behind " When majoritarian parties peddle secular rhetoric, two things can happen, says Kesavan Either they subscribe to it absolutely and so ignore the ground reality, that at some level people do see themselves as Hindu, Muslim or Sikh "This was Nehru's problem," feels the author

Or they use the rhetoric of Indianess to camouflage a sectarian identity P V Narasimha Rao and Bal Thackeray could use the same argument in favour of a Uniform Civil Code, the one to integrate, the other to obliterate The prospect of the BJP assuming power at the centre "terrifies" him The vanished Muslims return, when the Quit India gambit fails and the Congress is at the receiving end, "smashed, outlawed and imprisoned "

Perhaps, to dramatise the events of Partition, the long-lost characters find each other at the Red Fort in Hardyesque coincidences The narrator never returns to his own time At the end, he is still a "turning blur", trying to find his place in the scene

Vikram Chandra knew he had to be a writer because he could not *not* be one If he does not write, he gets cranky, feels driven "I have a vampire on my shoulder If I'm good, it tells me stories "

At Mayo College, he would tell stories to the other guys after lights-out It gave him an identity in a school where the jocks had glamour Like the US-returned cocaine-snorting Abhay, he was a "super arto nerd"

Mayo provided a solid education, but by the 10th standard, he was feeling trapped and getting into all kinds of trouble As editor of the college rag, *Mayur*, he wrote provocative anti-establishment editorials

Then, he was caught sneaking out to see a Manmohan Desai blockbuster and was expelled The incident figures in *Red Earth* , Abhay gets caught, but is let off with a whack on the rear from a senior

He enrolled at St Xavier's College in Bombay and hung out a lot at the USIS, mainly because it was air-conditioned The *Kenyan Review* convinced Chandra that Gambia, Ohio was where he wanted to be A little old town that was 90 per cent college and 10 per cent town Soon, craving urban stimuli, he wound up in Pomona, "a pretty town when not covered in smog", where he did an 'AB' in English with creative writing

It was not a time when you could tell people baldly, "I am going to be a writer " He was whip-smart and had always scored well in science and maths, so the family assumed he would study medicine

Braving universal battlement, he had chosen the arts and his parents had forked out funds enough to support him for a year But what next?

For a year, he took a series of odd jobs He painted fences, moved furniture and baked croissants He worked as a security guard and for a while, as a waiter he made a terrible waiter, always mixing up or forgetting orders

At the end of the year he decided to make a career in films Young Chandra is a film buff, like Abhay, he loves "trash" Commercial hits, *Super hit Muqabla*, Amitabh Bachchan strutting his stuff

He went to film school in Columbia and liked it, specially the library, which had a non-fiction Indian section That is where *Red Earth* began to take shape, in a corner of the top floor of the vast library building He

came across the two-volume autobiography of Col James Skinner, set in the mid-19th century It was yellowed, papad-brittle, crumbling in his hands as he r d

C ira was fascinated with Skinner e man caught between two cult , struggling to justify the ideolo- of colonialism Skinner would not o away and somehow, became ntangled withC handra's typing monkey "I get these images in my head I don't know what they are doing there They start to solidify and accumulate other images," explains Chandra

Abuzz with accreting images, he took a year off from Columbia and went to Johns Hopkins for a 'writing programme' A uniquely American creation, the institutional structure of the programme provided godsend infrastructure, a stipend, access to a library and cheap medical insurance

He also met John Barth, head of the creative writing programme, whom he describes as "an encyclopaedic intelligence, expansive, overflowing with knowledge of the world" The story took shape quickly It had a beginning and an end, only the middle was fuzzy



Chandra is not a disciplined writer; no bounding out of bed at 6 am and flogging the muse for a measured number of hours. He quit reading *How to write* books because they said he was doing everything wrong.... 'I think you have to read if you want to be a writer; it's all feeding the mill,' says Chandra



For Chandra, the process of writing is filling in the missing spaces At the end of the year, he still had not purged himself of images, so he went to Houston He lived and worked there for five years, Sikander and Sanjay were born, tales within tales were spun, the novel began to vibrate with many voices

Superagents Janklow and Neskit agreed to represent him and all at once, he was a *bona fide* writer "It suddenly seemed real " Then, an article by Chandra appeared in *Span* He had mentioned he was working on a book Penguin India's David Davidar read the piece and expressed an interest in the book Chandra was in business

Red Earth is almost botanically lush, each character clamouring to add his or her bit of colour to the canvas "I was willing to let the characters do the talking and tell their stories," says Chandra Bred on the epics and popular cinema, he enjoys their burgeoning richness and complexity, the fecundity of stories and characters

"Ideas are not linear objects that need chopping down and paring away," he says He's matter of fact about things Indian, dealing with elephants and fakirs as casually as Kesavan deals with ordure

Chandra is not a disciplined writer, no bounding out of bed at 6 am and flogging the muse for a measured number of hours He quit reading *How to write* books because they said he was doing everything wrong He spurned concentration devices, pottered around the house, watched TV and then sat down to write "I think you

TALENT SCOUTING

Rajesh Kumar



Ravi Dayal



David Davidar

Since Salman Rushdie opened the floodgates, Indian fiction in English has burgeoned into a thriving new genre. Despite the small size of the market — it takes just 15,000 buyers to make a paperback bestseller — scores of new writers have emerged.

Amitav Ghosh, Vikram Seth, Upamanyu Chatterjee, Shashi Tharoor, Anita Desai, Rukun Advani, Rohinton Mistry, Farrukh Dhondy and Githa Hariharan are now an integral part of the modern Indian library, not to mention dozens of not-so-well-known authors

The market suddenly had room for more Mulk Raj Anands, Nirad C. Chaudhuris and V.S. Naipauls.

There is a shake-out coming, says Penguin India's David Davidar. As readers become more discriminatory, only truly meritorious books will be be published and the also-rans will drop out of the race.

The 50:50 ratio between fiction and non-fiction has already dropped to 30:70. "There was a time when just about anything got published. We would rather publish less than have second-rate literary efforts which sell a few hundred copies," says Davidar.

Apart from Salman Rushdie and Vikram Seth, few writers in this genre have attained international celebrity status. The rest fall within "a narrowish spectrum", explains Davidar, editor of Penguin India. Vikram Chandra might get up there with Rushdie. After having read the manuscript of *Red Earth*... he had a feeling that "this guy is going to be major".

Chandra was a lucky find. Talent-hunting has never been easy. To begin with, there are no agents or noteworthy literary magazines in India. Publishers have to rely on word-of-mouth, other writers, and very, very occasionally, an unsolicited manuscript.

Of 30 to 40 submissions, perhaps, one or two get published. With the market becoming more segmented, new areas are opening up. Penguin will soon bring out Do-It-Yourself books aimed at a vast middle-class [illegible] things with their hands". Finally, even those who have succumbed to TV and not developed the reading habit will take to the DIY books.

Publisher Ravi Dayal feels that with India's large intellectual infrastructure, the market can only improve. As more and more people learn English, more new writers and readers will emerge. "It is also connected with economic conditions. As buying capacity increases, more books will be purchased," he says.

While Indian fiction in English naturally has far more acceptability at home, Dayal feels it is of an international standard. For instance, he believes that Mukul Kesavan is "Booker Prize material". So are Amitav Ghosh and a handful of others.

How much larger can the market get? Not more than one lakh copies for a commercial book by the turn of the century, feels Davidar. Today, hardcover which sells 5,000 copies qualifies as a bestseller. "Pathetic, isn't it?" asks Davidar. At 40,000 copies per book, Shobha [illegible] commercial success.

ıave to read ıf you want to be a vriter it's all feeding the mill," says Chandra He enjoys thrillers and insists he has learnt a lot from them

The way he sees it, writing is not all God-given divine fire It involves a lot of labour and practice Sometimes you are in the groove and that is inspiration But mainly, it is perspiration

Chandra unabashedly aims to entertain For him, that is the first purpose of art His audience is his parents and his sisters and friends

Coming up next is a collection of short stories, all of which have something to do with Bombay, a city he loves, is terrified by and enjoys. He thought they were tales of "love and longing" but his editors found them "everything great and monstrous"

He is also working on a serial with Mahesh Bhatt and scripting a couple of feature films (he was a consultant on *1942 A Love Story*) His mother is a writer, too She has scripted *Chandni* and *1942*

After a brief stint in Bombay, he embarks on a 10-city tour of the US to promote his book, to be published by Faber The story-telling metaphor in



Some ideas did glimmer. There would be a time displacement of sorts. There would be a railway station because he [Mukul Kesavan] liked the ambience of platforms, red-clad coolies, vendors and old steam engines. It would be centred around the Partition, because that period interested him

'NOT-INDIA'

An extract from ***Mukul Kesavan's*** *book,*
Looking Through Glass

Masroor and I normally made our way to the back of the shop and unpacked our sandwiches in the cool, green glow of the Eden window That's what Cyrus called it Mowbray's was a very deep shop — as long as a tunnel it straddled the Mall ridge its front opened on to the Mall while its rear overlooked the dipping slopes of the foothills that built up to Shimla The scene in the window was always filled with the unploughed green of the hillsides, nobody lived in it and nothing ever happened. For an hour every afternoon, we ate our sandwiches and let our eyes drink Paradise in

Cyrus said that it looked like a postcard view of England Never having been there I couldn't say, but it didn't look like any part of India that I knew I thought of the view from my attic-room window in Banaras, where the only tree in sight grew unasked out of a roof, where in the lane below, the endless stream of living paused, only for the litters of the dead Sitting by the Eden window, it was hard to believe that this scene was made in India

The shop had the same feeling about it A fortnight into the Mowbrays routine, I realised that amongst all the thousands of books in the shop I hadn't come upon a single one published in India or written by an Indian In fact, except for a 47 volume series called *Sacred Books of the East* there was nothing about India at all unless *Thus Spake Zarathustra* counted as a book on the Parsees Cyrus, who had noticed the same thing, asked Mr Jacob about it one day, over lunch His host looked a little affronted

Mowbrays is a traditional antiquarian bookshop, Cyrus, he said crisply Exactly like those in Berlin or Vienna or Prague W do not trade in provincial exotica

Shimla being what it was, Mr Jacob's explanation was appropriate, it seemed reasonable to me at the time, and not at all absurd Shimla was an elaborately invented world — not in the sense of being freely imagined like the settings of good novels, but in the mechanical manner of fantasy, where the make-believe world was a simple inversion of everyday life Like all hill stations Shimla had one central function, it existed as not-India The India to which the *sahib* gave his life in heroic service, was flat, hot, dusty, brown, diseased and overcrowded Shimla was not-this

It was undulating and cool, its landscapes were green and the faces in sight were white, it was India's summer capital because it didn't have India's summer, it was sedate, pretty and English in the basic way of gabled roofs, half-timbered shops, Gothic churches and dateless castle spires — all built at once Time was kept in its proper place, in regimental records



Extracted from *Looking Through Glass* ***by Mukul Kesavan; Ravi Dayal; distributed by Orient Longman Ltd; Rs 190***



Red Earth... is almost botanically lush, each character clamouring to add his or her bit of colour to the canvas. 'I was willing to let the characters do the talking and tell their stories,' says Vikram Chandra.

Red Earth shows up another side to Chandra He is a computer freak His story-telling monkey speaks directly to each one of dozens, then hundreds, then thousands of people gathered round the Misra household and spilling out of the maidan beyond No matter how far away, each member of the audience hears him clearly

On the Internet, you can speak to a million people and get responses Chandra has put his E-mail address on the book and is waiting to see if some readers get through to him "Internet will short-circuit hierarchies," he believes Theoretically, a hobo can download the Library of Congress (Doonesbury) or reach the White House

He reads a lot of science fiction, particularly cyberpunk, the genre pioneered by William Gibson He picked up the computerbug while, like Mother in *Red Earth* , working in a medical insurance firm in the US

Kesavan and Chandra do not swap E-mail addresses "I don't have a computer," explains Kesavan Telephone numbers are scribbled, hands shaken and promises to meet exchanged. They are comfortable together, having shared the embarrassment and discomfiture of a photo-session in a smelly corner of the Asiad Village and cracked up together at being turfed out of the Siri Fort auditorium lawns by over-officious securitymen

Kesavan goes home to the strenuous business of caring for the kids while Chandra heads for Jim Corbett Park in search of tigers, camera-bag in hand, vampire on shoulder

and honour rolls Newspapers with their changing dates came to Shimla from the plains decorously late, bleached of their vulgar urgency No local newspaper existed to mirror its own existence Nostalgia was the ruling passion, not because anything had changed, but to make sure nothing ever did Things had never been the same in Shimla from the second day of its existence It was the tree-house of a tropical empire which was proceeding directly from adolescence to senility It was lovely

This little white world spent its evenings browsing up and down the shops on the Mall, and Mowbrays was a regular stopping place The regulars headed straight for the cabin where Mr Jacob sat, hair slicked back from a high-domed forehead, jowls so closely shaved that they glistened With grave courtesy he offered them tea or coffee and suggested things that might interest them If it was a book they wanted, he showed them to the relevant shelf or summoned Masroor for a consultation He generally knew what they were on the look-out for Tristram Greyly was mad about heraldry and genealogy and books with titles like *Tartans of the Western Highlands*, but he rarely bought anything Captain Byatt, on the other hand, had a private income and bought nearly everything Mowbrays stocked on Freemasonry and Satanism The Reverend Carrick, predictably enough, collected Bibles and his colleague on the committee Lady Elinor Armitage, was always on the lookout for cunningly wrought swordsticks which she regularly presented to her husband Even Delia Mulholland was a collector first editions of Somerset Maugham Lust in the tropics was Cyrus' explanation for this curious hobby



The shop swirled with gossip about Carrick's Christmas Lady Armitage explained to Mr Jacob that there would be a costume ball followed by a Nativity tableau Everyone at the ball will have to be dressed out of the Bible, she said, and paused

Mr Jacob waited in his well-bred way

Either Testament of course, she clarified graciously

Mr Jacob raised his eyebrows in profound something or the other — agreement? Admiration? Doubt? — while Masroor helped Gama clear the tea things away

Carrick, who came in afterwards, explained the whole thing all over again to a glazed-looking Mr Jacob, and then, in his ecumenical zeal, invited him to participate in the Nativity tableau as Joseph A shrug of the shoulders, an inaudible murmur, a graceful and meaningless gesture at his receding hairline and Carrick was persuaded to drop the subject

Not everyone wished Carrick's Christmas well One afternoon in November, the day dissolved into an unseasonal thunderstorm and Delia Mulholland rushed in to shelter from the rain Mr Jacob sent her off with Masroor to inspect a slightly damaged first edition of *The Painted Veil*, Masroor couldn't find it at once, he had been distracted all day because Parwana was due any moment now, he hadn't seen her in the garden for days Besides, Delia made him nervous, she stood too close and breathed too hard

As Delia was making her way back to Mr Jacob's cabin, Elinor Armitage walked in, furling an umbrella

Won't it be amusing, drawled Delia apropos of nothing, addressing herself to Mr Jacob, if that Indian woman whom the Reverend has cast as Mary, should produce a girl?

There was one beat of silence

Most amusing, said Lady Armitage crisply But not likely The Reverend Carrick and I went to Holcombe at noon to congratulate the Judge His ward has had two sons Twins, by Caesarean section

LEARNING AND DESOLATION

An extract from ***Vikram Chandra's*** *book,* Red Earth and Pouring Rain

Hercules strode into the tent, found the chamber where the girls were sleeping next to their mother, kicked aside two maids, lifted the children up by their arms with one hand, and when his wife pulled at the girls he hit her back-handed and knocked her over the bed By the time Sanjay, Ram Mohan, Sikander and Chotta woke up he was already outside, handing the girls to two red-coated English cavalrymen who, escorted by English infantry, made their way to the river and across it. Hercules came back into the tent, brushing past his sons without a glance

"Have I not treated you well?" he said to Sikander's mother in his accented Urdu "Have I not given you everything you needed? Have I not given you a house, servants, money? Have I not let you have your sons, as you wanted?"

She looked at him very directly, a small red mark on her right cheek, and said nothing

"The girls I wanted to look to, and I have been a good father to them I wanted them to be educated, and to grow up as Englishwomen That is the best thing for them, and that is what I have wanted for them. Do you understand that? I will go now to Calcutta with them, and leave them in the care of friends If you want you can come and be with them until we come back "

She said nothing, and he turned smartly on his heels and walked out, she sat without moving, on the floor beside the bed, and the evening came with its slow loss of shape and outline, its smell of flowers and water, and then the night Sanjay and others sat beside Sikander's mother through the dark, and Sanjay found that he did not need sleep, or even daydreams, to watch her face, her eyes, as the shadows moved slowly, was enough In the morning, when the birds began to call, she said in a very clear voice, suddenly

"Bring sandalwood "

Extracted from *Red Earth and Pouring Rain* ***by Vikram Chandra, Viking (Penguin India); Rs 299***



Ram Mohan pushed himself up from a half-reclining position, next to Sanjay "What?"

But Sanjay knew already, somehow, what she wanted, some muscle or nerve, some single clear stream of emotion that stretched from his groin to the base of his neck tightened and convulsed

"To make a pyre," she said

The word spread through the camp like a quick wind, within minutes the tent was crowded with maid-servants who crouched on their haunches, staring at the slim figure in the middle

"Bring wood," she said again When nobody moved she got to her feet quickly and energetically, and walked between them, calling them by name, pleading, and no one moved She then kicked them, raging, reminding them of the years they had eaten her salt, but they only wrapped their arms around their legs and lowered their heads to their knee, and finally she turned to Ram Mohan

"No," he said

"I have been insulted," she said

"No "

"You know everything," she said "I do only what I should have done long ago "

"Not this This is a crime "

"I am a Rajput Padmini did it, with all her princesses The scriptures advise it "

"What scriptures?" he said, his face red "Which ones? The ones that do are lies and inventions " Ram Mohan went on for some ten minutes, quoting commentators and citing precedents, demolishing the authority of every text which could possibly support what she planned, ending with, "For a Hindu, all scriptures are without meaning anyway, and tradition itself is against it "

"Very good," she said "Then I choose it, I alone Bring wood "

"Think of your sons," he said

Sanjay looked at her sons, and saw that Sikander was weeping Chotta was staring at his mother, a stunned look on his face, but Sikander was gazing blindly up at the roof, at the place on the cloth where the sun appeared as a clouded glow, and was crying His mother said quickly

"My sons are Rajputs They will understand Bring wood "

"No," Ram Mohan said

Slowly she stepped forward, four or five strides, hesitated, then reached to him and put a hand on his shoulder, feeling Ram Mohan shudder, Sanjay looked at him for a moment, and then back at her She suddenly seemed younger, and a blush spread from her shoulders, she took her hand from Ram Mohan and stood with her arms folded across her chest, like some girl in a painting Abruptly, Ram Mohan struggled to his feet and left the tent ■

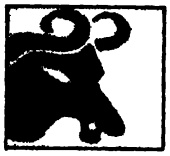
INNER EYE — Bejan Daruwalla

Aries
March 21—April 20



You will be up to your ears and eyes in work Romance, childbirth and a round of socialising and entertainment are foretold Marriage, too, is on the cards Business links will be forged This is the right time to come to a decision about your personal and professional interests

Taurus
April 21—May 20



Be competitive, and give everything you do your best shot But a word of warning do not get impatient with people who are not as quick-witted as you are Conditions at home will give you mixed feelings Finances, loans and investments take priority

Gemini
May 21 —June 20



There is money to be expected and good times in full abundance A social engagement will take up much of your time, but on the flipside you could run into problems with your spouse So this will be a week of emotional upheavals Expect trips, ties and contacts

Cancer
June 21—July 20



You will overcome all barriers this week and come up trumps The trick to this lies in an elaborate round of socialising Management of finances and public relations will gain in unusual importance Collaborations are on the anvil and these will work out well

Leo
July 21- August 2



Your outstanding abilities will get you instant popularity Those in teaching, architecture sales, public relations, organising and communicative skills will do extremely well The legal profession might attract you A home away from home cannot be ruled out

Virgo
August 22—September 22



Concentrate on your work this week, be it brokerage, property, management, trading, astrology, films, theatre or travel Loans and funds will be available You will truly handle the signing of a contract or a business deal However, your health might cause a few problems

Libra
September 23 -October



Renovations, decorations, buying and selling for either your home or office are on the cards Expenses will be high A journey is fated, which will be of much advantage when it comes to making contacts and later contracts A round of socialising foretold Make the most of it

Scorpio
October 23 -November 22



This is the phase for expansion, buying, selling, a journey or possibly an emigration Your loved ones will prove their loyalty Those who are creative will flourish and all doubts about your abilities will clearly be dispelled In short, a good week Health of elders may cause concern

Sagittarius
November 23- December 20



This is the ideal time to go on a binge, get married or engaged, have children, be romantic, go in for research, do something unique and display your talents to the fullest Those in trade, entertainment, management will do extremely well Assignments and contracts materialise

Capricorn
December 21—January 19



The planets activate the homefront Also, you will be working hard and putting in very long hours The rewards too will be equally great In fact, success will be yours You will meet interesting people making this an eventful week A new venture likely

Aquarius
January 20, - February 18



The planets signify money and consolidation of position The week will therefore be superb for you financially Wedding bells for the unattached is not altogether unlikely You might be involved in religious ceremonies A celebration is foretold

Pisces
February 19 -March 20



The week favours renovation, decoration, buying and selling Trading and transactions prompt you into hectic activity Rely on your gut strength A major shift is likely Focus on contacts and communications You will do well professionally

BIRTHDAYS

May 21: You will visit friends easily. Progress seems definite. Marriage for the unattached and collaborations are likely.

May 22: You will be at your best this year. Romance, children, hobbies, and creativity are the major trends. Trips are on the cards.

May 23: You will be imaginative and dynamic. The [illegible] will take up much of your time. You will excel by [illegible]

[illegible] This is a year when there will be added fortunes. Be patient even if things go wrong Your friends will be greatly helpful.

May 25: You will do extremely well financially and professionally. A promotion is definitely on the cards. The year's end will favour you.

May 26: Those who are teachers, musicians, writers and businessman will go places this year. You will also be greatly involved in matters related to the homefront.

May 27: This is the time for a lot of hectic activity. Go in for strong action, whatever be your field of activity.

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

GUCCHIS, MORELLS AND DIPPERS

To many people living in metropolises, if that's the plural, Gucchi means shoes To the villagers living on the fringes of the Great Himalayan National Park, some 60 kms from Kulu, Gucchi means Morell mushrooms And mushrooms mean money

I discovered this while birdwatching in the valley of the Tirthan among some of the most beautiful original forests left in India The cachement area of this river, as yet undamaged, and its waters are an icy clear green The paths through the forest, where they exist, are too narrow for even hill ponies or mules Only humans, and that too local ones, generally use them

Even so, for two days we had seen no one, but members of our own trekking party The clean air, quiet forest and river were our companions Our city-bred pollution coughs faded away, and our sight sharpened in the clear mountain light

I have always been fasci ated by what Salim Ali refers to as birds "of Himalayan torrents" and, placing myself on a rock by the bank, I scanned the river for them First to come in sight were redstarts, insect-eating birds with hyperactive tails A single white-capped redstart, its cap contrasting with the rich blue and orange of its other plumage, flew from one rock to the other, its tail apparently semaphore-signalling the letters A, C, A C

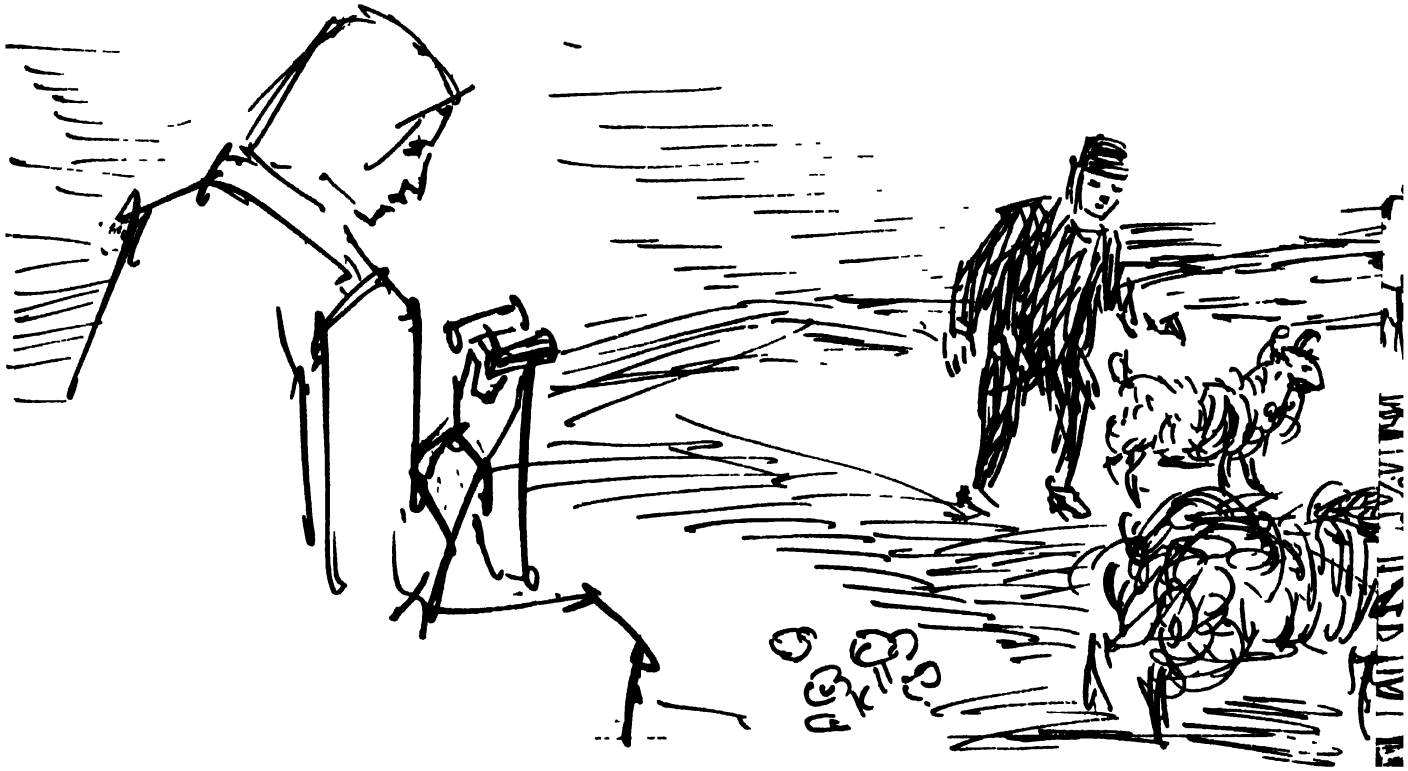
A pair of plumbeous redstarts was also nearby These two were busy with the breeding season and their song rose over the river's roar The blue-grey-and-orange male and the sober grey female faced each other on a rock, tapping their tails softly against its surface

These were birds I had often seen, but I nearly dropped my binoculars when I first spotted the small forktail This tiny bird, in its dramatic black and white plumage, stood knee-deep in the torrent searching for insects Then suddenly it flew off, landing on a perpendicular wet rock which seemed to offer no foothold

Clinging to the rock it pecked at the surface, fluttering dry a wing which dipped by accident into the water The forktail is known to live even behind waterfalls

Though the forktail paddles, the brown dipper actually swims underwater even against the current I watched one carefully through my binoculars No doubt about it It was winking at me The bird bobbed up

Clinging to the rock it pecked at the surface, fluttering dry a wing which dipped by accident into the water. The forktail is known to live even behind waterfalls



and down and stretched out a wet wing, before diving into the pool and getting carried half-way down the white water

Voices behind me disturbed my concentration A flock of long-haired white goats and shorn sheep were being driven into the park for grazing Behind came a couple of small boys in patched trousers and holey jumpers with bags made of plastic sacking on their backs

They greeted me This was Chaman Lal and Elu Ram from a village in the buffer zone, spending their school holidays collecting gucchis — they had found three so far

The local villagers have been collecting medicinal herbs and mushrooms for centuries, but the market entered their lives only five or six years ago. Before they would collect gucchis to eat themselves; now the 'rate' is so good they hesitate to consume them

The local villagers have been collecting medicinal herbs and mushrooms for centuries, but the market entered their lives only five or six years ago Before they would collect gucchis to eat themselves, now the 'rate' is so good they hesitate to consume them

Instead they string them up, dry them for a couple of days and sell them to their local *lalas* for Rs 130 for 50 gms They don't ask the *lala* how much he gets when he passes them on to other middlemen who supply to five-star hotels and exporters

Late in the afternoon, small groups of villagers began to appear out of the forest carrying home bags of Morells Kalu, Draupadi and Badmi were women in traditional Himachali dress, their pockets full of violets which they use to cure colds

None of the women were literate, but they all knew the word 'rate' They told me that they had to look after the house and work in the fields, and so they didn't come every day during the three-month gucchi season, and only stayed at the lower altitudes — the men went higher

Men like Ratan Chand stayed in the park for days on end, searching for gucchis and herbs He'd had encounters with bears and leopards while looking for plants like *gugal* and *dhup* which are used in making incense Other herbs he finds are made into purgatives and laxatives, and medicine for sore throats, wounds and mental ailments

All of them he sells to the *lala*, who gives the supplies the villagers need on credit Morells have made the villagers more prosperous Ratan Chand told me that now people generally clear debts within a year

There is a very delicate balance to be maintained if the forest, the villagers and river birds rely on, is to survive Park officials don't see much threat from traditional right holders — providing the villagers don't set fire to the forest On occasions they do, for example, to clear an area of undergrowth to reveal mushrooms

But outsiders sent in by middlemen do present a threat, and there is now a proposal to regulate entry into the park Villagers themselves are in favour of an identity card system, rather like Mr Seshan's

However, to preserve the forest and at the same time win the support of the local people and give them some level of development is a very difficult task. The park authorities are trying to pick out a path which will succeed, but the situation is so complex that they cannot be entirely sure of the way

I suspect that to survive in the long run, the forests of the Tirthan valley, will need a touch of the divine as well as human help Perhaps, from the forest deities, whose masks are embedded in the bark of silver fir trees, hung round with offerings of iron arrows, locks and old hurricane lamps

(Sanctuary Features)



TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1, 3
			IC-742	1050	4 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1, 3, 5, 7	PF 702	1610	1, 3 5, 7
AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF-738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1010	1 2 3 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 2 3 6 7
BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI-306	1840	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	2035	6	IC 274	1830	daily
AI 681	2350	1			
DELHI					
IC 263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1, 2, 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI-682	0950	1
IC-812	1700	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S 805	1730	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1, 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2-006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	MS 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF-737	0730	3 5	D2-181	1620	1 5 7
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2 4, 6	IC-702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S-815	1635	1 3 5
IC 701	1240	1, 4, 6, 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 257	1230	2 4	IC 257	1605	2 4
GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1 3 4, 5, 7	IC-704	0920	1 3 4, 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4, 6 7	D2-181	1620	1 5 7
PF 735	0730	1	D2-183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	IC-230	1620	daily
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	4S-811	1635	2 4 6
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF-736	1730	1
IC-229	1310	daily	PF-738	1740	3 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	1045	1 3 5	S2 024	1525	1, 3 5
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5, 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5, 7
IC 257	1230	2 4	IC 257	1605	2 4
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	4 7	IC 213	1315	4 7
LILABARI					
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2005	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	1 2 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1740	1 2 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC-285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2, 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC-255	0800	3 5 7	IC-256	1250	3 5 7
IC-253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC-213	0910	4 7	IC 213	1315	4 7
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF-738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3, 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0720	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0420	7	KL 875	0235	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 5, 7	KB-106	1115	3
			KB-108	1215	5
KB-105	1125	2, 6	TG-313	1240	1 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1 3 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4 5 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6
[redacted]					
RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
[redacted]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-696	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
[redacted]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2, 3, 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2, 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1, 3 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5 6 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG-095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-747	1115	1 3 5	IC-748	1455	1 3 5
RA 214	1815	1, 4	RA-213	1715	1 4
LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA 143	1525	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1855	4	SU 537	1655	4
PARO					
KB 106	1200	3	KB 105	1040	2 6
KB 106	1300	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ-416	2230	2, 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure				
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20-35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun		2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21-00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13 40	**Teesta-Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11-45	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Tir	Howrah	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	—
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
—	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	-
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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USKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

CALYPSO CHRISTMAS

My first Christmas in London had been a lonely one. My small bed-sitting room near Swiss Cottage had been cold and austere and my landlady had disapproved of any sort of revelry.

Moreover, I hadn't the money for the theatre or a good restaurant. That first English Christmas was spent sitting in front of a lukewarm gas-fire, eating beans on toast and drinking cheap sherry. My one consolation was the row of Christmas card on the mantelpiece — most of them from friends in India.

But in the following year, I was making more money and living in a bigger, brighter, homelier room. The new landlady approved of my bringing friends — even girls — to the home and had even made me a plum pudding so that I could entertain my guests.

My friends in London included a number of Indian and Commonwealth students and through them I met George, a friendly sensitive person from Trinidad.

George was not a student. He was over 30. Like thousands of other West Indians, he had come to England because he had been told that jobs were plentiful and that there was a free health scheme and national insurance and that he could earn anything from £10 to £20 a week — far more than he could make in Trinidad or Jamaica.

But while it was true that jobs were to be had in England, it was also true that sections of local labour resented outsiders filling these posts. There were also those belonging to the middle classes, who were prone to various prejudices and though these people were in a minority, they were still capable of making themselve felt and heard.

In any case, London is a lonely place, specially for a stranger. And for the happy-go-lucky West Indian, accustomed to sunshine, colour and music, London must be quite baffling.

As though to match the grey-green fog of winter, Londoners wore sombre colours, greys and browns. The West Indians couldn't understand this. Surely they reasoned, during the grey season colours worn should be vivid reds and greens — colours that would defy the curling fog and uncomfortable rain?

But Londoners frowned on these gay splashes of colour. To them, it all seemed an expression of some sort of barbarism. And then again, Londoners had a horror of any sort of loud noise and a blaring radio could (quite justifiably) bring in scores of protest from neighbouring houses.

The West Indians, on the other hand, liked letting off steam, they liked holding parties in their room, at which there was much singing and shouting.

They had always believed that England was their mother country, and so, despite rain and fog, sleet and snow, they were determined to live as they had lived in Trinidad. And it is to be said to their credit, and even to the credit of indigenous Londoners, that this is what they succeeded in doing.

George worked for British Railways. He was a ticket collector at one of the underground stations. He liked his work and received about £ 10 a week for collecting tickets. A large, stout man, with huge hands and feet, he always had a gentle, kindly expression on his mobile face.

Among other accomplishments, he could play the piano and, as there was an old rather dilapidated piano in my room, he would often come over in the evening to run his fat, heavy fingers over the keys, playing tunes that ranged from hymn to jazz pieces. I thought he would be a nice person to spend Christmas with so I asked him to come and share the pudding my landlady had made and a bottle of sherry I had procured.

Little did I realise that an invitation to George would be interpreted as an invitation to all George's friends and relations — in fact, anyone who had known him in Trinidad — but this was



the way he looked at it and, at eight o'clock on Christmas Eve, while a chilly wind blew dead leaves down from Hampstead Heath, I saw a veritable army of West Indians marching down Belize Avenue with George in the lead

Bewildered, I opened my door to them and in streamed George, George's cousin, George's nephews and George's friends They were all smiling and shaking hands with me, making complimentary remarks about my room ("Man, that's some piano!" "Hey, look at that crazy picture!" "This rocking chair gives me fever!") and taking no time at all to feel and make themselves at home

Everyone had brought something along for the party George had brought several bottles of beer Eric, a flashy coffee-coloured youth, had brought cigarettes and more beer Marian, a buxom woman of 35, who called me "darling" as soon as we met, and kissed me on the cheeks saying she adored pink cheeks, had brought bacon and eggs

Her daughter, Lucy, who was sixteen and in the full bloom of youth, had brought a gramophone, while the little nephews carried the records Other friends and families had also brought beer and one enterprising fellow produced a bottle of Jamaican rum

Then everything began to happen all at once

Lucy put a record on the gramophone and the strains of *Basin Street Blues* filled the room At the same time, George sat down at the piano to hammer out an accompaniment to the record — his huge hands crashed down on the keys as though he was chopping up hunks of meat Marian had lit the gas-fire and was busy frying bacon and eggs Eric was opening beer bottles In the midst of the noise and confusion, I heard a knock on the door — a very timid, hesitant kind of knock — and opening it, found my landlady standing on the threshold



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"Oh, Mr Bond, the neighbours " she began, and, glancing into the room, was rendered speechless

"It's only tonight," I said "They'll all go home after an hour Remember, it's Christmas!"

She nodded mutely and hurried away down the corridor, pursued by something called *Be bop a-lula* I closed the door and drew all the curtains in an effort to stifle the noise , but everyone was stamping about on the floorboards and I hoped fervently that the people downstairs had gone to the theatre

George had started playing calypso music and Eric and Lucy were strutting and stomping in the middle of the room, while the two nephews were improvising on their own Before I knew what was happening, Marian had me in her strong arms and was teaching me to do the calypso The air, I think, was *Banana Boat Song*

Instead of the party lasting an hour, it lasted three hours We ate innumerable fried eggs and finished off all the beer I took turns dancing with Marian, Lucy and the nephews There was a particular expression they used when they were excited "Fire!" they shouted I never knew what was supposed to be on fire or what the exclamation implied, but I too shouted, "Fire!" and it seemed a very sensible thing to shout

Perhaps, their hearts were on fire, I don't know, but for all their excitability and flashiness and brashness, they were lovable and sincere friends and today, when I look back on my two years in London, that Christmas party is the brightest, most vivid memory of all, and the faces of George and Marian and Lucy and Eric are the faces I remember best

At midnight, someone turned out the light I was dancing with Lucy at the time and in the dark, she threw her arms around me and kissed me full on the lips It was the first time I had been kissed by a girl, and when I think about it, I was glad that it was Lucy who kissed me

When they left they went in a bunch, just as they had come I stood at the gate and watched them saunter down the dark, empty street The buses and tubes had stopped running at midnight and George and his friends would have to walk all the way down to their rooms at Highgate and Golden Green

After they had gone, the street was suddenly empty and silent, and my own footsteps were the only sounds I could hear The cold came clutching at me and I turned up my collar I looked up at the windows of my house and at the windows of all the other houses in the street They were all in darkness It seemed to me we were the only ones who had really celebrated Christmas

(Sanctuary Features)

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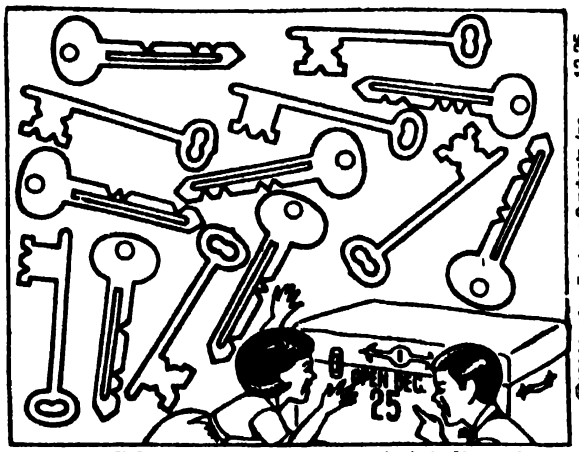
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ADMISSION OPEN

JUNIOR WHIRL

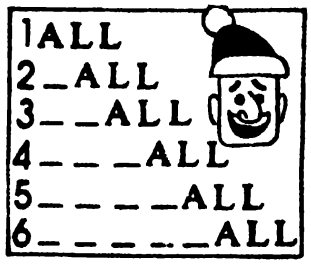
HAL KAUFMAN



KEY QUESTION! Among six different sets (pairs) of keys above is an odd key that opens the trunk Which is that?

BACK TRACK! Suppose you took a number, doubled it, subtracted 7, divided by 5 and obtained 7 What was the number? Work this out in your head, if you can

Original number was 21



ALL DECISIONS FINALIZED

"AND to all says St Nick at visit s end, ' 'a good night But that s not All I for this exercise

Object here is to form increasingly longer words (one letter per step) ending in ALL in accord with these definitions

1 Whole biz (ALL, in place)
2 Telephone visit
4 Sudden storm
5 Give once-over visually
6 Weather ingredient that makes things easier for Santa's shed

Time limit two min

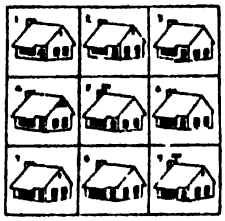
1 All 2 Call 3 Mall 4 Squall 5 Eyeball 6 Snowfall

HOUSE TOUR! You are asked to draw four straight connected lines that will pass through each of ther nine houses depected below just onne time That is to say, begin at a house, draw through another house (or houses), veer off in a new direction, etc

You may pass through up to three houses per line

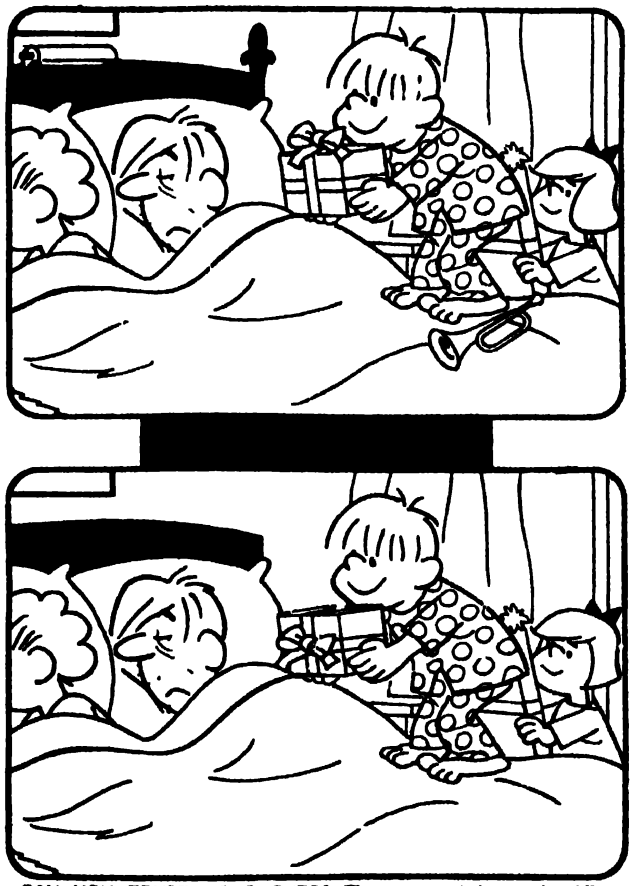
Lines may extend beyond diagram's perimeter

Incidentally, two of the nine houses are twins Which two?



One way Start at 8 draw through 7 and beyond through 4 2 and beyond through 3 6 9 through 5 1 Twins 2 and 7

HOCUS-FOCUS

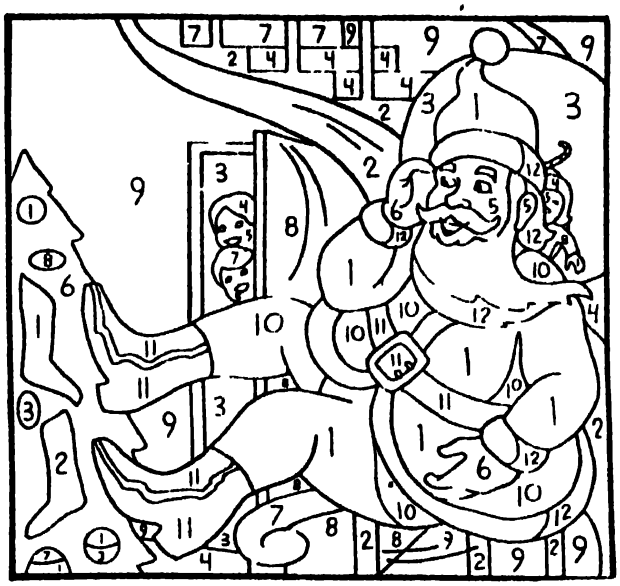


Drawings by Henry Boltinoff

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Bed lamp is missing 2 Bedpost is missing 3 Bow is moved 4 Sleeve is shorter 5 Bulge is missing 6 Hair a different

FUNSPOT



IT'S UNRAIL! Slide, Santa, slide Colors 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk purple 9—Lt purple 10—Maroon 11—Black 12—Gray

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

GRATEFUL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

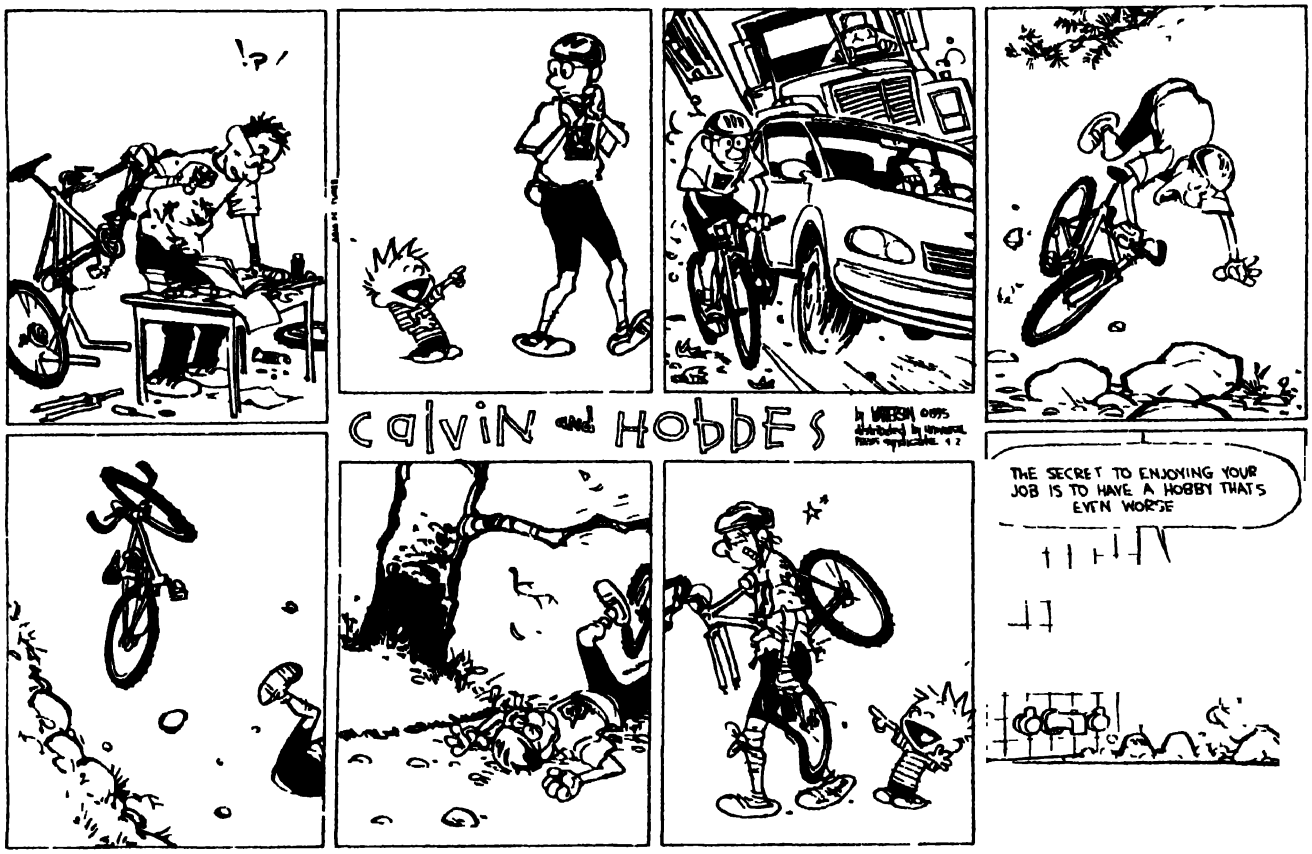
Try to score at least 30 points

Possible twosome Fun gate

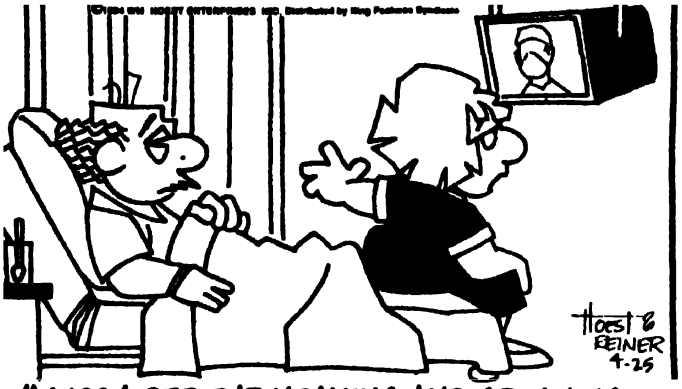
ARCHIE



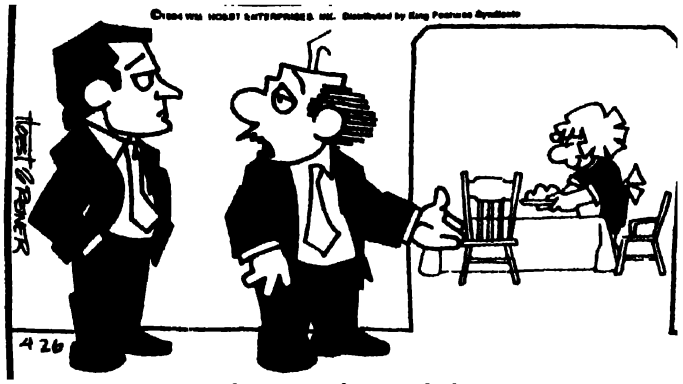
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



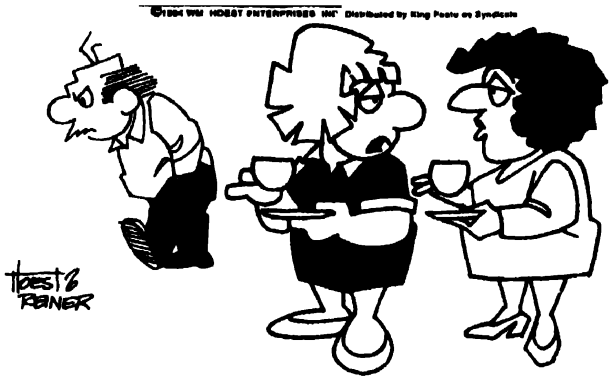
THE LOCKHORNS



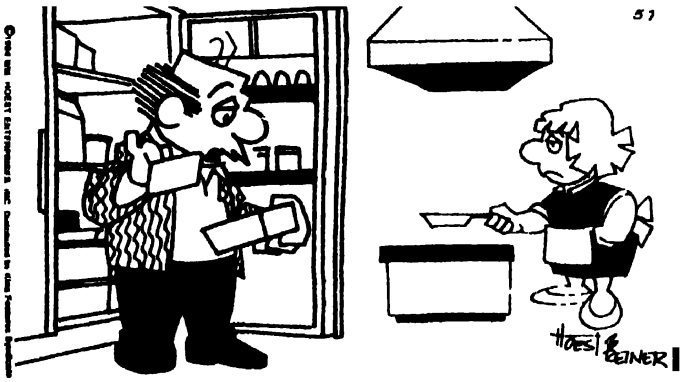
"KNOCK OFF THE MOANING AND GROANING, LEROY. I'M TRYING TO WATCH MY STORIES."



UNDERSTAND YOU'RE A GOURMET. THAT'S TOO BAD."

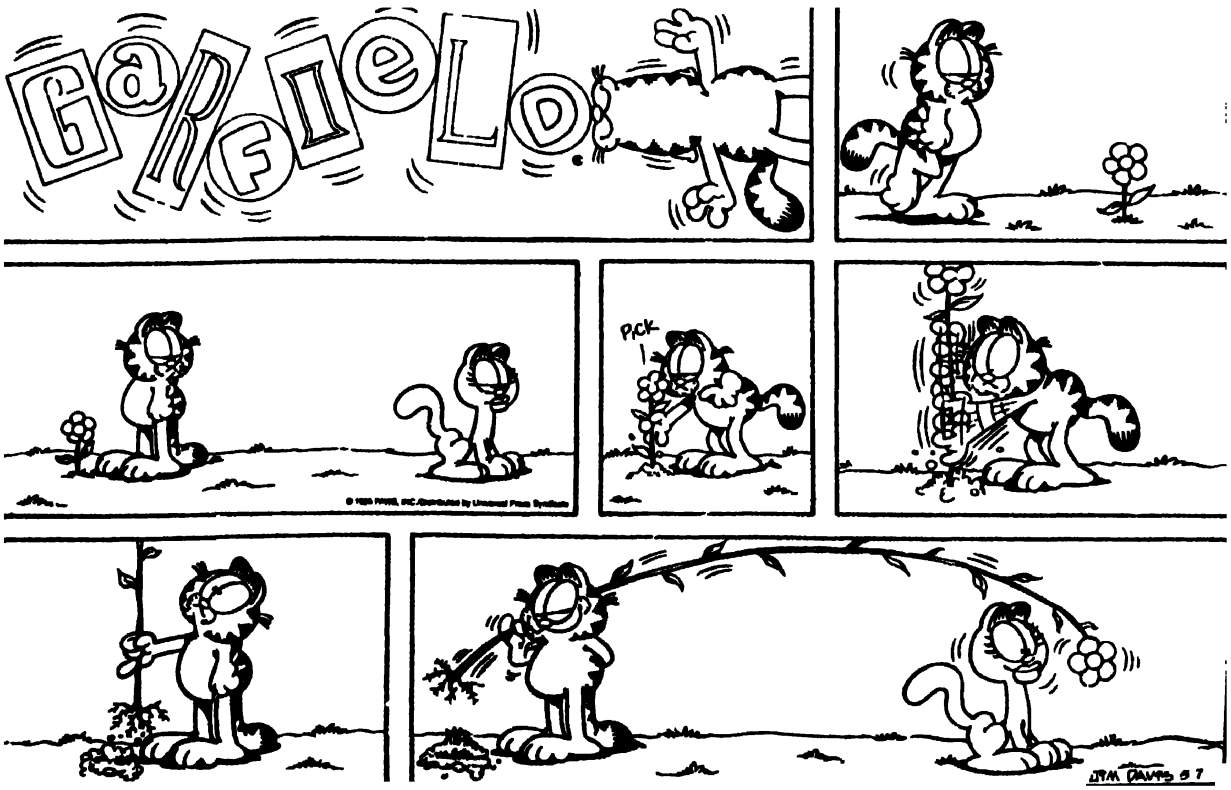


"THE TROUBLE WITH BEING MARRIED TO LEROY IS THAT I SEE HIM EVERY DAY."

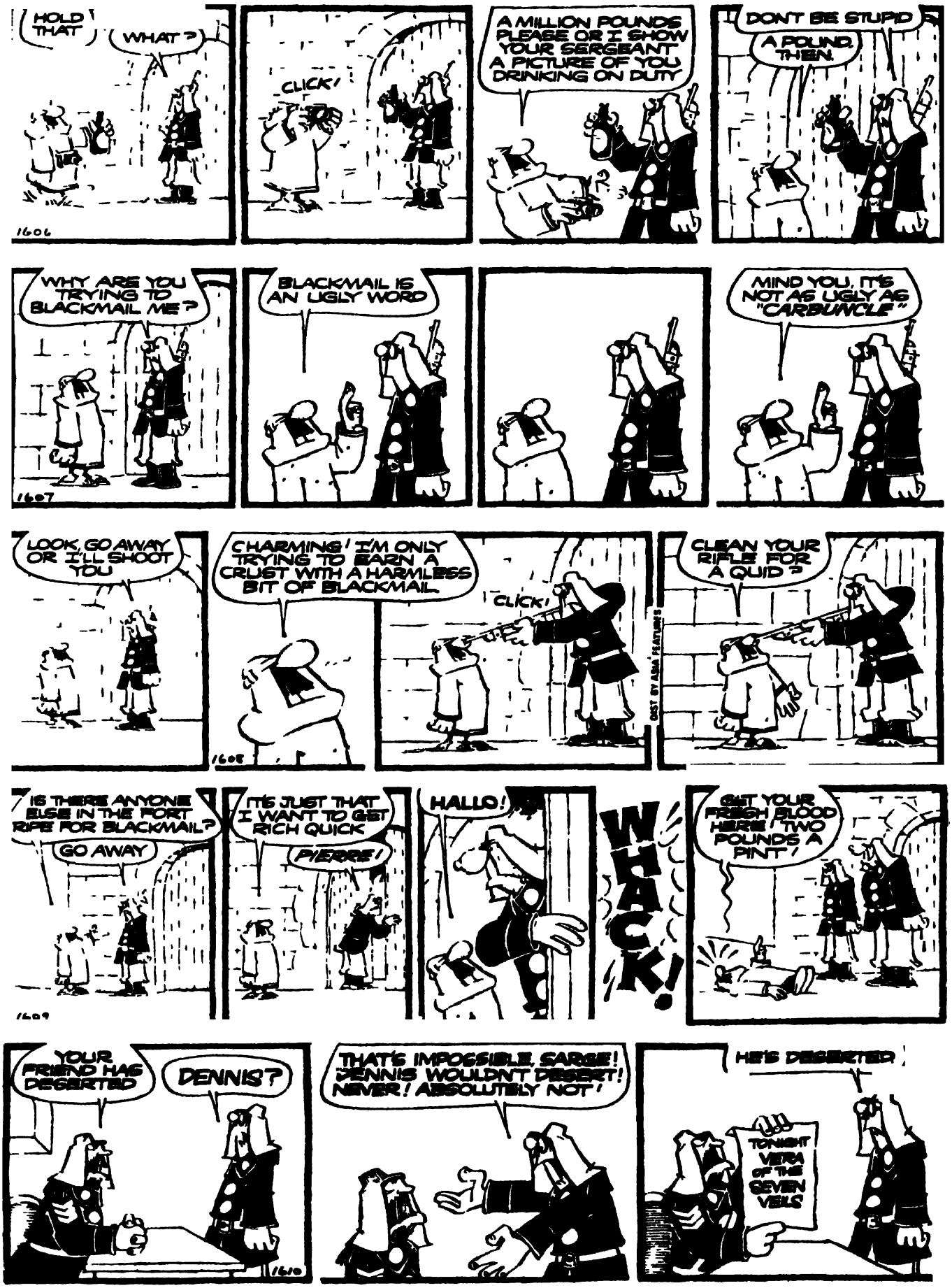


"GEE, LORETTA, YOU REALLY DO HAVE A GREEN THUMB."

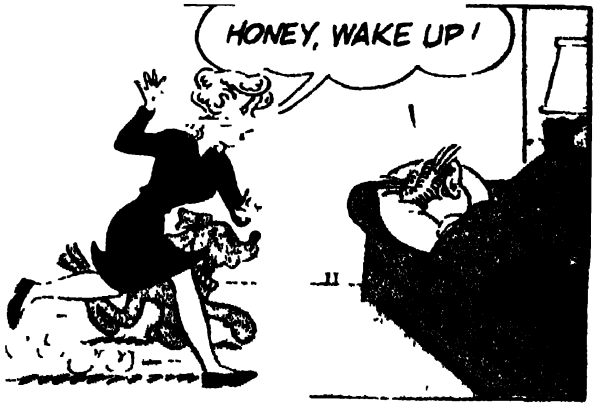
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

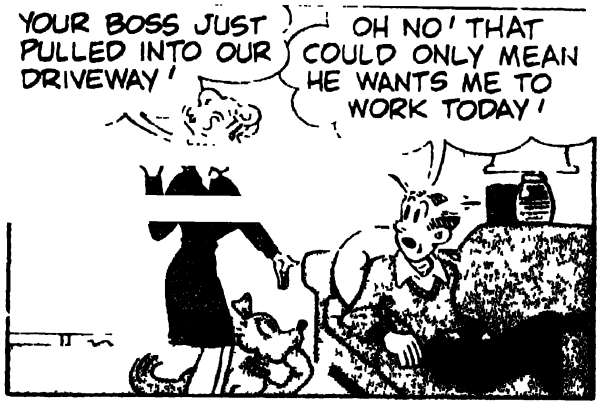


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

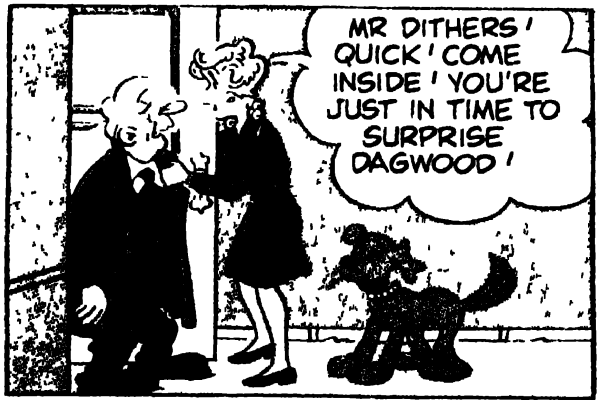








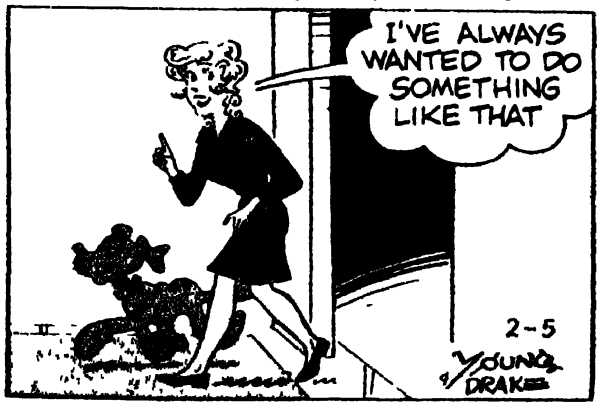




HERE, GET IN THIS CLOSET! BUT DON'T SPOIL THE SURPRISE! IF YOU SEE DAGWOOD, DON'T SAY ANYTHING!



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FOCUS

BLACK NIGHTS

In New York they mean mugging, robberies, rapes and even murder And the Blacks are always to blame, or that's what they all say
***Arthur J. Pais**, a serious victim himself, tries to analyse why this happens*

It took the man less than three minutes to overpower me, wave a knife and bang my head on the steps of my own house even as I told him that he could take all the money I had on me, kick me in the stomach many times -- and flee with $30, credit cards, and several ID cards

That night at New York city at least 20 people had been mugged, over 100 robbed, two raped and three murdered

The New York television stations and newspapers routinely report these incidents Unless a murder is particularly gruesome or the person who has been mugged happens to be the mayor's mother or the Archbishop of a big church, the incidents are forgotten in a matter of few days

Some months after the mugging, and a complicated surgery to fix the retina detachment in my right eye that my doctor says was connected with the incident, I still wake up at night, at times with a scream, often with just cold sweat

The surgery cost about $6,000 and, fortunately, was covered by the insurance But for several weeks following the operation, I could hardly write or do anything useful I wear two hats A freelance journalist and an adjunct professor at two of New York's better known schools, New York University and the New School for Social Research I cancelled one class, something I found very painful to do, and struggled through the other classes

Even today, reporting, writing and revising the stories is a struggle The surgery has given me back only one-third of the vision of my right eye

It was not the first time I have been mugged On one occasion, two teenagers robbed me on a train, and on another, two teenagers jumped out of a car, held a gun to my head, and ran away with $20, cursing me for keeping a "shit of $20"

But I had not been injured before



The author Before the assault

Nor was the mugging done right on the steps of my house in a solidly middle-class neighbourhood

Even as I sought the help of the police and doctors, I was confronted with a lot of questions by neighbours and family members What was I doing out there at 11 45 at night? "On the other two occasions when I was mugged, it was hardly 8 00," I told one relative "Who knows, if I had returned home at 2 am instead of 11 45 pm nothing would have happened"

"Why didn't you hit the man, you could have hit him on the balls Why didn't you yell? Maybe if you would have screamed fire or something, we could have then rushed out of our homes"

Thanks but the man had a knife on him Even if he did not have a knife, I would not have been sure if he was carrying a knife or a gun So how could I have taken the risk"

But the most painful question Was it a *Kallu*? (Yes, he was Black, so were the others who have mugged me But I resent the question)

Kallu, the *mantra* so many of us carry in our heads Beware of the *Kallus* When we talk about the serial killers who have always been White or about the men who tried to kill Bill Clinton, we do not refer to their race We do not call them *Gorus*

"It is wrong to always associate Blacks with crime," says a fellow journalist "But we do so because street crime hits us directly and our lives are in danger However, we should remember that there are white-collar crimes with which Blacks have hardly anything to do

"And there are moral crimes in which Indians play a big role, too," he adds "Look at the way our people are 'mugged' by our landlords who give inadequate heating even in severe winter Look at the way hundreds of Indians work for Indian firms at lower than the minimum wage so that they can get their Green Cards This is also a kind of mugging"

And yet, we have such contempt for Blacks, and blame them for the worsening law and order situation

One of the reasons we have a lot of prejudice against Blacks is because "we wall ourselves in," said Arun Gandhi, reporter and writer, in an interview "Mind you, we have prejudices against Whites, too, but the prejudices we have against the Blacks are greater

"It is also ironic that we have not realised that many of the benefits we enjoy in America are the results of the struggle Blacks waged in the Fifties and Sixties," he says

"These benefits include having a recourse against discrimination on the job and our right to go to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to have our grievances arbitrated"

"Instead of building bridges and making common cause with other minorities, particularly the Blacks, we continue to be prejudiced against

them"

Gandhi and other concerned Indian Americans have been urging the latter not to forget that we, too, have been victims of White racism — and that we will do better by joining hands with Jews, Blacks and other minorities

Eight years ago, a group of White teenagers held under fear about 30 Indian families in a middle-class neighbourhood, as they went around smearing offensive graffiti, throwing putrid eggs into their compounds, and making harassing calls in the middle of the night 'Hindus Go Back and Live on the Trees in India,' read one graffito, ironically, all the families were Christians from the state of Kerala

It was not the first time I have been mugged. On one occasion, two teenagers robbed me on a train, and on another, two teenagers jumped out of a car, held a gun to my head, and ran away with $20, cursing me for keeping a 'shit of $20'

The families kept quiet for more than six months, afraid that if they publicise their plight the problem could become worse Only when one of their men joined the auxiliary police and discussed the problem with fellow police officers, things began to change Gang leaders were arrested and given suspended sentences

And then came the Dotbusters in Hoboken and several New Jersey cities For over a year, a group of young men and women harassed, beat and humiliated hundreds of Indians - - and anybody who looked like an Indian "It did not matter if one wore a bindi or a salwar-kameez or



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

T[illegible]tle boy, the son of a colleague, gave me a wary look and w[illegible]ered to his mother "*Yeh kallu* / There was fear, and a certain [illegible]ount of disgust in his voice

Although I am a little darker than the average Indian, no one mistakes me for an American Black But the little boy did.

He had just arrived in New York City from India and was apparently conditioned by his mother to be suspicious of Blacks — called *Kallus* here, with such delicious derogation by so many of us.

Even his mother's assurance that I was Hindustani did not improve matters His fear and dislike of Blacks, articulated without inhibitions in a way so characteristic of children, reflects the attitude of a large number of America's one million adult Indians

Indians who land in New York and other big cities are often advised by relatives and friends to be wary of Blacks The word, *kallu*, becomes their *mantra* They are rarely warned about the Mafia, the White-collar crime on Wall Street, the drug cartels or sexual diseases

Many Blacks are aware of the derogatory word we use "Isn't it an irony that some of the best known Black leaders including Martin Luther King were inspired by Mahatma Gandhi while some of Gandhi's own people are so racially prejudiced," asks Teresa White, a peace activist



shorts," says Angela Pinto "We were all victioms of dotbusters "

But community leaders and historians point out that racism which has been an integral part of America from the very beginning of its history as a White nation has been directed against Indians as early as the beginning of this century

"Often people whose ancestors were discriminated against, and in some cases beaten up, go about repeating those crimes against others," says a young cab driver in Elizabeth, New Jersey, which has more than 2,000 Indian families He comes from an Italian family, and his grandfather edited his Italian name to ward off the acute prejudice against Italians

"But today many of the young Italians in this town have started beating up young Indian kids, accusing them of robbing their jobs," says the cabbie "They forget that hundreds of Indian shops and restaurants, real estate businesses and small factories have also created jobs "

On weekends, he worked for an Indian cloth importer "The money I make on weekends is often more than the money I make the rest of the week from driving the cab," he said

Hundreds of Indians who arrived in British Columbia and Washington State in response to advertisements in the Indian newspapers for workers for timber yards and farms were spat upon by the local people

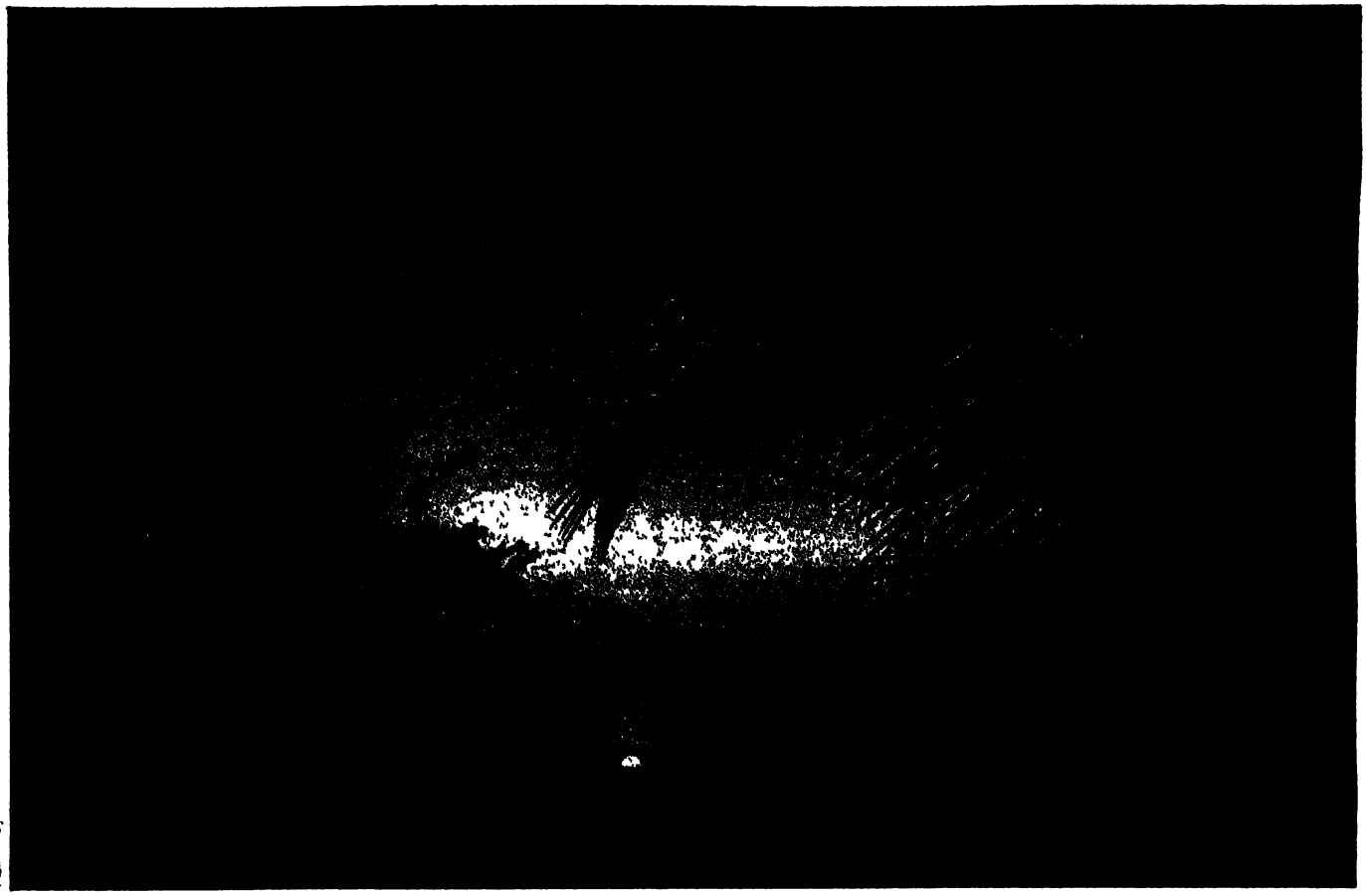
In Bellingham, over 200 town people protested against the arrival of 25 timber workers from India 'Dirty Hindus Go Back and Worship the Rats,' read one placard

"Given these factors, does it not make sense we join hands with other minorities to fight racism," asks Arun Gandhi "Of course, we should also join hands with Whites who are concerned about racism "

Last week as I went for another checkup for my eye, a young Black woman sat next to me in the doctor's waiting room We began a small chat She said she was mugged several days ago by a group of boys in their early teens

"There are all kinds of violence in our society, and White teenagers also loot and kill," she said "But I feel like telling the Black boys who beat me that they are bringing a bad name to thousands of other Blacks who work hard, who are upright in their morals, and who help people around them The world hardly seems to notice us "■

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Asim Roy

The Making of Man

All of us together build children

Parents shower affection
Children become orphans

Teachers teach,
children become illiterates
Government provides
employment,
children become unemployed

Priests give sermons,
children become fanatics

Leaders talk of patriotism,
children become terrorists

All of us together build men

Ramesh Piatap
(Translated from Oriya by Rabindra K. Swain)

A Letter to Father

Since you left us
The world hasn't changed much
The same headlines,
Scam, scum, JKLF and NSCN
Only some more have been killed
The situation tense but under
control

Another woman has alleged
Sexual harassment in the States
One more, Marilynesque,
Claims she had slept with the
President.
That gay singer has married,
And has promised to raise a family

Death has sucked in
Their bellies, cheeks and eyes,
Rwanda in Kalahandi.
Only the BBC correspondent
Is kept at bay

But I just remembered
You were not interested in these

The roses in your tubs
Have dried into black sticks
Thorns bloom -- your
Sons forgot to water them

The bees have fled the hive
Inches above where you
Used to pray.

Another Rathayatra
Came nad went,
And the oblong flag fluttered on
As ever, which you used to notice
from the
Far off railway station, Malatipur

Only that uncouth Lord of yours
Appeared to be smiling a little less

Yes, he smiled less
You were his best devotee
And for once in
Eighty years you
Weren't around

Sumanyu Satpathy

SIDDHARTH KAK *is filmmaker, art and film critic, journalist and editor of* Cinema Vision India. *As one whose range stretches from environment to history, and from Baba Amte to Raj Kapoor, Kak is today a household name as the beaming anchorperson of* Surabhi, *for which he bagged a series of awards including the first Screen-Panasonic Award (best TV production) recently Kak's* Surabhi *has proved that non-soap can also receive a record-breaking 4 5 lakh letters for one contest and has a regular response of a lakh letters*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
A mist-covered morning and alone in the mountains
What is your greatest fear?
Not being able to provide for my family
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My grandfather, Pandit Ram Chandra Kak, an enormously learned man and the last Prime Minister of Kashmir
What do you dislike most in others?
Arrogance and pomposity
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My moodiness
What is your most precious possession?
My mind
What objects do you always carry?
My pen, paper and my battered diary of events
What makes you most depressed?
Deceit or deception
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My thinning hair and expanding waistline
What is your favourite word?
Perhaps
What is your favourite journey?
From Delhi to Kashmir by road I relive my youth
What is your favourite dream?
To be surrounded by creative people and creative artistes
What is your nightmare?
To be alone without love

On what occasions do you lie?

To keep the peace!

What brings tears to your eyes?

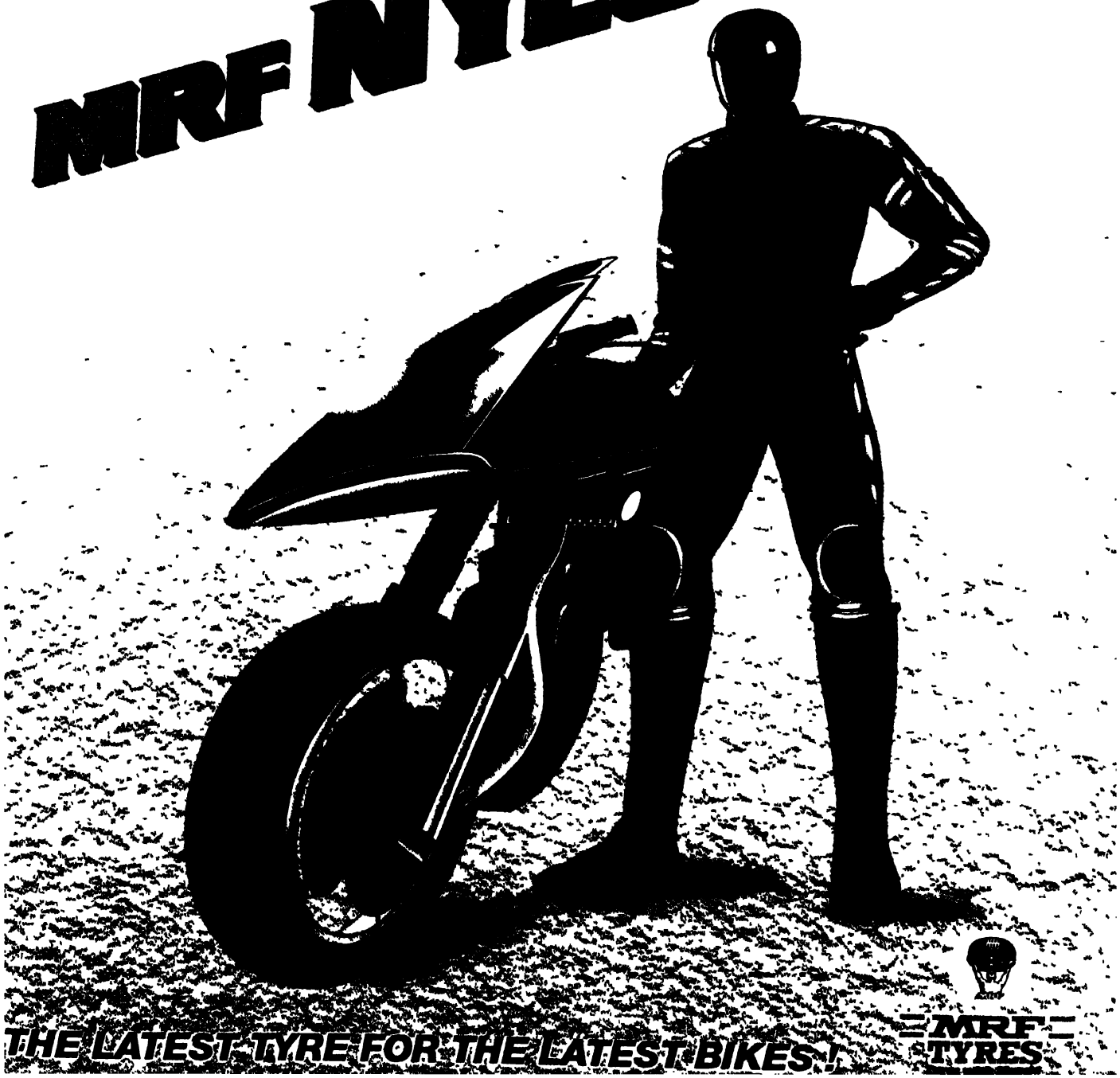
The fact that my parents who worked so hard, are not around to enjoy the fruits of my success

What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Books The world of imagination
What is your source of sustenance?
My wife and daughter
On what occasions do you lie?
To keep the peace!
What is your greatest regret?
I should have learnt a performing art — vocal or instrumental



What has been your happiest moment?
The first day *Surabhi* was telecast
What brings tears to your eyes?
The fact that my parents who worked so hard, are not around to enjoy the fruits of my success
How do you relax?
By reading and entering a different world
What do you envy most in others?
Clarity of purpose
How would you like to be remembered?
As a man who loved his people and country and gave it a place of pride in whatever little way he could
How would you like to die?
With my family beside me

THE MAN.
THE MACHINE..
THE TYRE...
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MRF TYRES

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Soft looks.
All white interiors.
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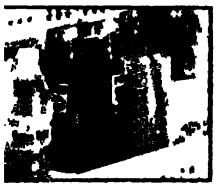


The only 165 lt refrigerator in its class with a soft look and all white interiors. From the flush recessed door handle to the crystal clear vegetable and butter trays, th[illegible] refrigerator says it all in terms of style. Besides sporting a whole new host of flexible features. Like the new **shelf-flap.**



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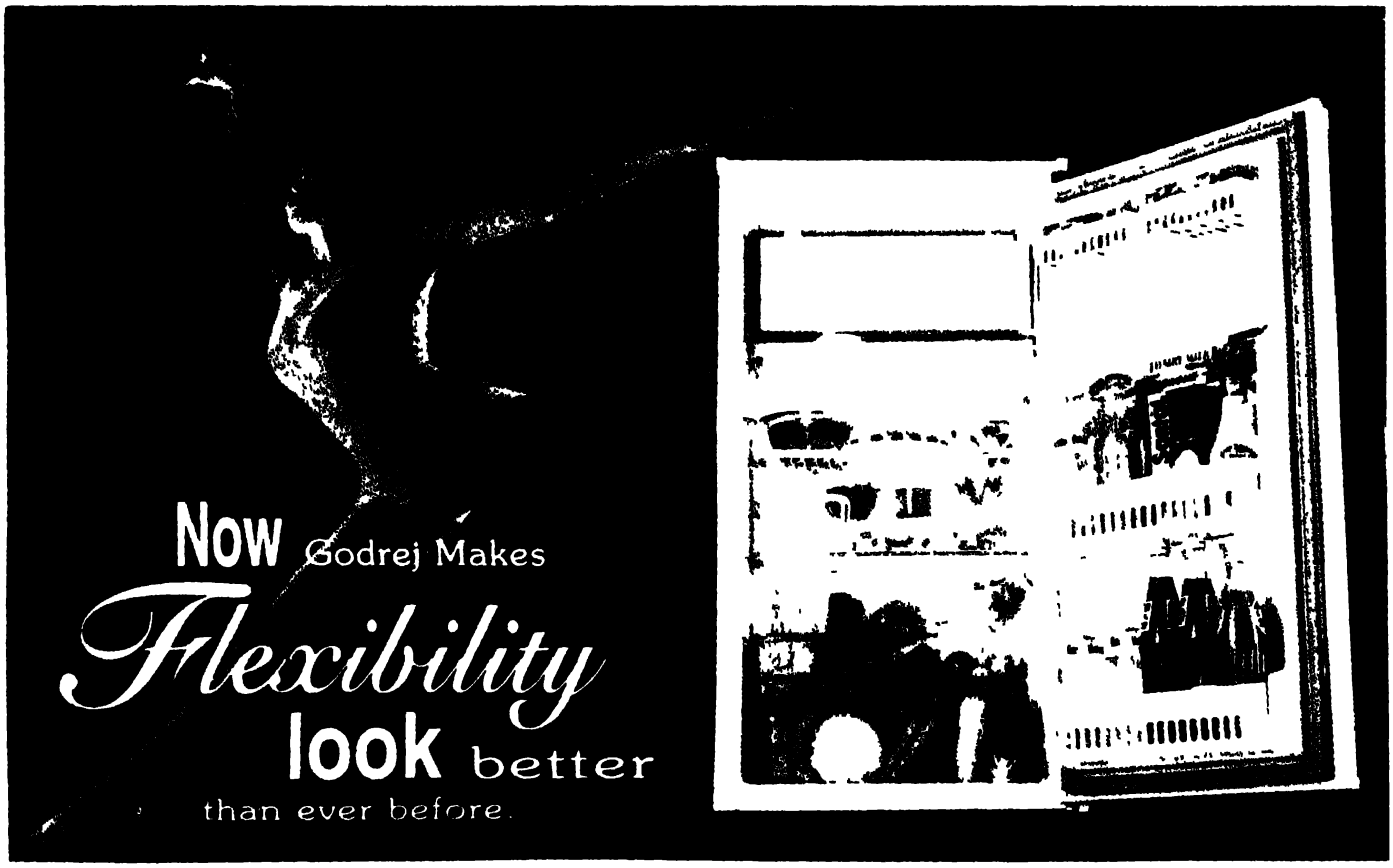
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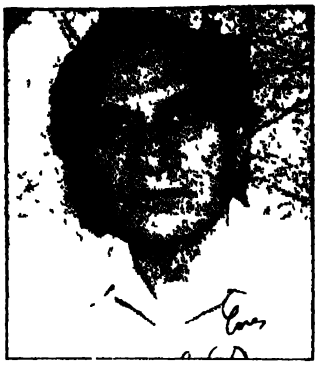
COLD GOLD Deluxe

THE FLEXIBLE REFRIGERATOR

28 MAY 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM



B R Chopra

From a Close Friend

■ The cover story on Sahir Ludhianvi made me feel nostalgic ('Timeless', March 12)

My mind goes back to the days when Sahir and I worked together. Our partnership lasted over two decades, ending only with his untimely death.

Sahir was not a mere poet, he was an institution. I was drawn to him through his *Talkhiyan* and since I was engaged in making socially significant movies I felt, and rightly so, that Sahir was the only man who could drive home the message of my films through his meaningful and poignant poetry.

I had not read the poem, *Ma*, earlier. What depth and what emotion! What irony! Even in this poem he brings in his favourite subject, that of communal peace.

Sahir contributed a lot to the lyrical value of my films — the music directors notwithstanding. It is not true that Sahir used to dictate to the producers on the selection of situations or insisted on his own kind of lyrics.

On the contrary, he was a director's man. He insisted on knowing the story in detail with all the nuances so that he could do poetic justice to the situations in the story.

I remember that only once after hearing the story of *Sadhna* he suggested a situation be found for the lyric — *Aurat ne janam diya mardon ko*.

Ours was a deep relationship based on mutual respect and mutual understanding. It could not have lasted 23 years had it not been based on strong and meaningful ties of the heart.

He was not only a lyricist for me, but a great friend. He was the first man who complimented me for *not* including any song in *Kanoon* which only shows that he was a real artiste.

You have paid a fitting tribute to him. I salute my departed friend and colleague who was a great poet, a great man and a great legend.

B R Chopra,
Bombay

Let's Face it...

■ Despite all the criticism, you have produced another cover story on models — the two Reddy sisters (Meghana and Sushama) who have stormed the glamour world ('The Sisters are Reddy', April 16).

Have you ever thought of giving the readers a cover story on male models? Or, for that matter, on body-builders?

But all said and done, your stories on the fashion world do give us the pleasure of whiling away our Sunday afternoons in absolute leisure.

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

■ With the opening up of the economy and the entry of MNCs wanting to capture a cash-rich market, the very concept of advertising has undergone a sea change.

At least to satiate our academic interest we should find out what transformations are taking place in the modelling world.

Nilanjan De,
Silchar

Booms in the Valley

■ One wonders how many of the leaders wanting to effect a solution in the Kashmir Valley are actually emotionally involved with the state and its problems ('A Hell on Earth', April 9).

Jawaharlal Nehru, for one, loved Kashmir as deeply as perhaps Cordelia loved her father, King Lear. "I speak," Panditji had once said, "not as a Prime Minister but as a Kashmiri."

In July 1947 when he was requested by several of his colleagues not to go to Kashmir, Nehru wrote to Mahatma Gandhi, "Between visiting Kashmir and being Prime Minister, I prefer the former."

The sense of insecurity and alienation that has crept into the psyche of the Kashmiris is more due to these half-hearted attempts of the government to solve the problem.

Choton Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ The government should stop blaming other countries for fomenting trouble in Kashmir. It is time to rectify past errors.

Saif Ahmed Rauf,
Calcutta



Roshan Seth

PAGE 4

ROSHAN SETH and Hollywood sex bomb Raquel Welch have set the British theatre ablaze — for different reasons. A chat with the Indian 'reject', best known for his Nehruvian features.

PAGE 26

HAS THE British Navy's decision to allow women to go to sea proved disastrous?

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
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30 FIRST PERSON

Cover: Rajesh Kumar



COVER STORY

LIMELIGHT

*Roshan Seth has all eyes on him in a new play in Britain — despite Raquel Welch throwing herself on top of him every night. How does it feel to be unwanted in your own land, and standing up to Hollywood's celebrated sex symbol? **Amit Roy** got the actor unwinding*

ROSHAN AND RAQUEL HAVE MADE IT BIG IN BRITAIN. AND ROSHAN Seth says his Indian friends are very jealous. The reason is that in the new stage version of George Bernard Shaws's play, *The Millionairess*, he has had the Hollywood sex symbol, Raquel Welch, throwing herself at him every night.

The play opened in Guildford in April and has toured Richmond, Birmingham, Sheffield, Malvern and Bath. It may transfer to London's West End

In saloon bar language, Seth enthusiastically describes her obvious physical charms: "She's got the biggest...."

His friends, he adds, have been dying to know what Raquel is really like in the flesh, as it were

So here is a relevant bit from the gushing programme guide: "Raquel Welch became an instant icon when she burst on the movie scene in the science fiction classics, *Fantastic Voyage* and *One Million Years BC.*



From this unforgettable beginning, she went on to create several lasting motion picture heroines in films such as *The Three Musketeers* (for which she won a Golden Globe award as best actress), *100 Rifles, The Last of Sheila, Fathom, Hannie Caulder* and *Mother, Jugs and Speed*

In over 35 films, she has tackled a wide variety of roles, from the roller derby queen in *Kansas City Bomber* to the seductress Lillian Lust in *Bedazzled* and the outrageous Myra in the underground classic, *Myra Breckinridge.*"

Or, to put her acting talents into proper perspective, she has generally allowed her lowcut dresses to do the talking. And what *The Millionairess* has achieved is a meeting of two cultures: Hollywood cleavage versus patrician India.

Seth feels his friends would not understand if he were also to voice certain reservations about her acting

ability on stage

"My Indian friends are going to skin me alive They say, 'Raquel Welch is throwing herself on top of you every night ' How are you coping?"'

In fact, Seth has coped very well indeed, thank you "She enjoys hugely the scenes with the doctor because she feels on safe ground," he explains "You see she is trying to seduce him

And, in the end, she does

The play, written in 1934, is about an American rich bitch, Epifania Fitzfassenden, who is courted by men she finds insipid She is bowled over ultimately by an unlikely suitor —an Indian doctor who works for Allah Initially immune to her advances, he finally falls for her 'pulse' She does all the chasing

In the original, the doctor is an Egyptian, but in the recent play and also in the 1960 film version, which starred Peter Sellers and Sophia Loren, the doctor is an Indian Unlike the film, the stage version is faithful to Shaw's play

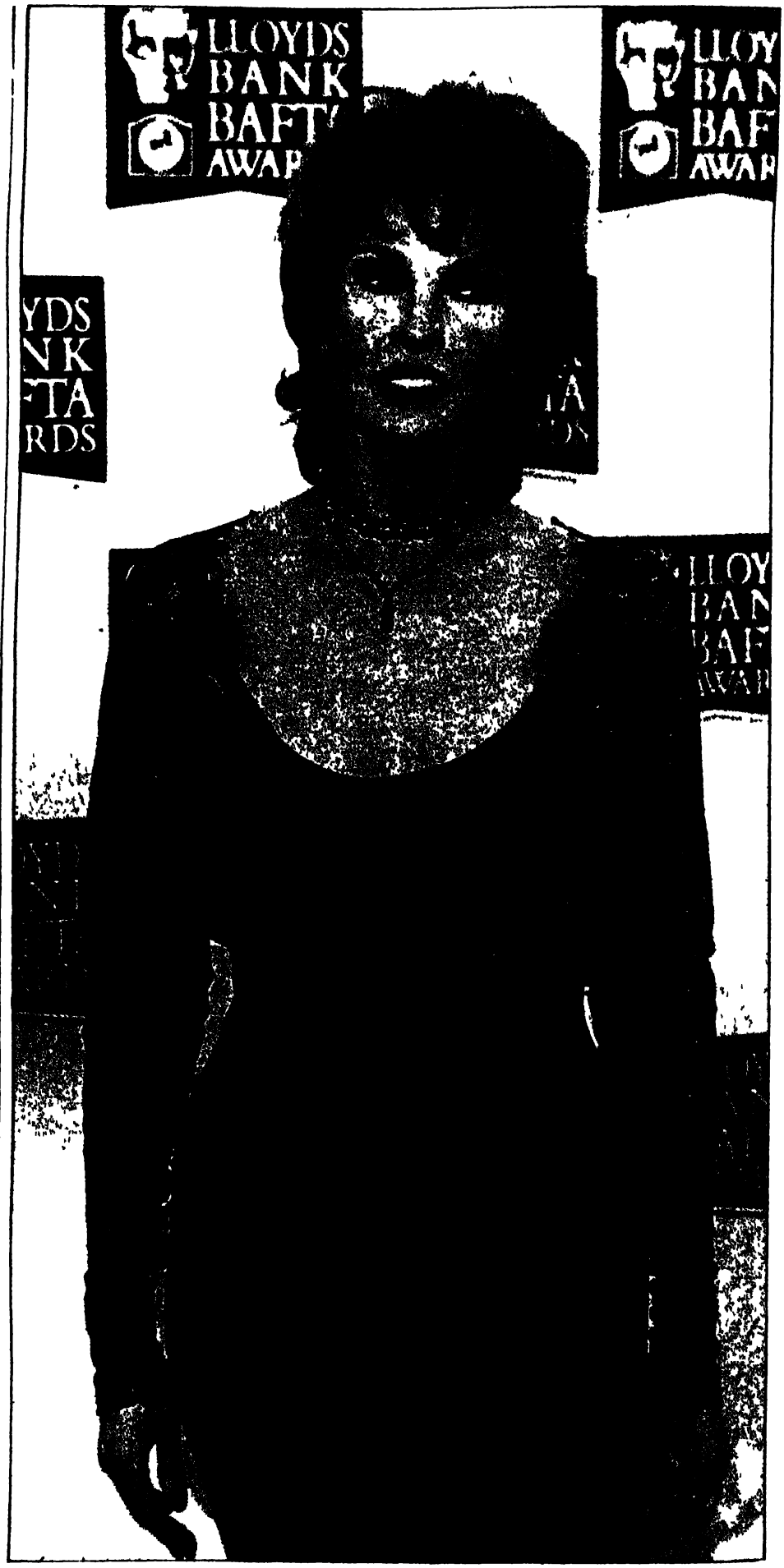
"I haven't seen the film mercifully," admits Seth "I was told by the director that the film was a travesty of the play "

He has adhered to Shaw's instructions that the doctor "speaks English too well to be mistaken for a native" Seth is, perhaps, being too generous to English audiences when he suggests that they would have cringed had he tried to reproduce the comical stereotype created by Sellers of how an Indian is supposed to speak English

"The English were very embarrassed by Peter Sellers doing an Indian accent The only people who enjoy Peter Sellers are Indians The English are doubly embarrassed when somebody tries to do an imitation of Peter Sellers doing an imitation of an Indian That is a double travesty "

Appearing in such a high-profile role opposite Raquel is obviously doing Seth's career a power of good There are many BBC and Channel 4 dramas in the pipeline now that stories with Indian themes are in vogue with British television Shares in Seth Ltd should be pretty high

He and not Raquel, has been without doubt the real star of *The Millionairess* Glamorous she might be and invaluable in putting "bums on seats" but her transition to the British theatre has been awkward It is only in the encounter with the doctor that Shaw's play comes alive Without



Seth, the production would probably have been an artistic flop The reviews Raquel received were generally unkind

Though Seth has a long list of TV and theatre credits, he has never before been so much in the public eye "So it is rather exciting to have your name up in lights," he says

In Indian terms, his origins are a real hotchpotch "My mother was born in Bhagalpur in Bihar My mother's mother was English—Weslian Methodist Her father was a Muslim from a village called Uraln near Gaya "

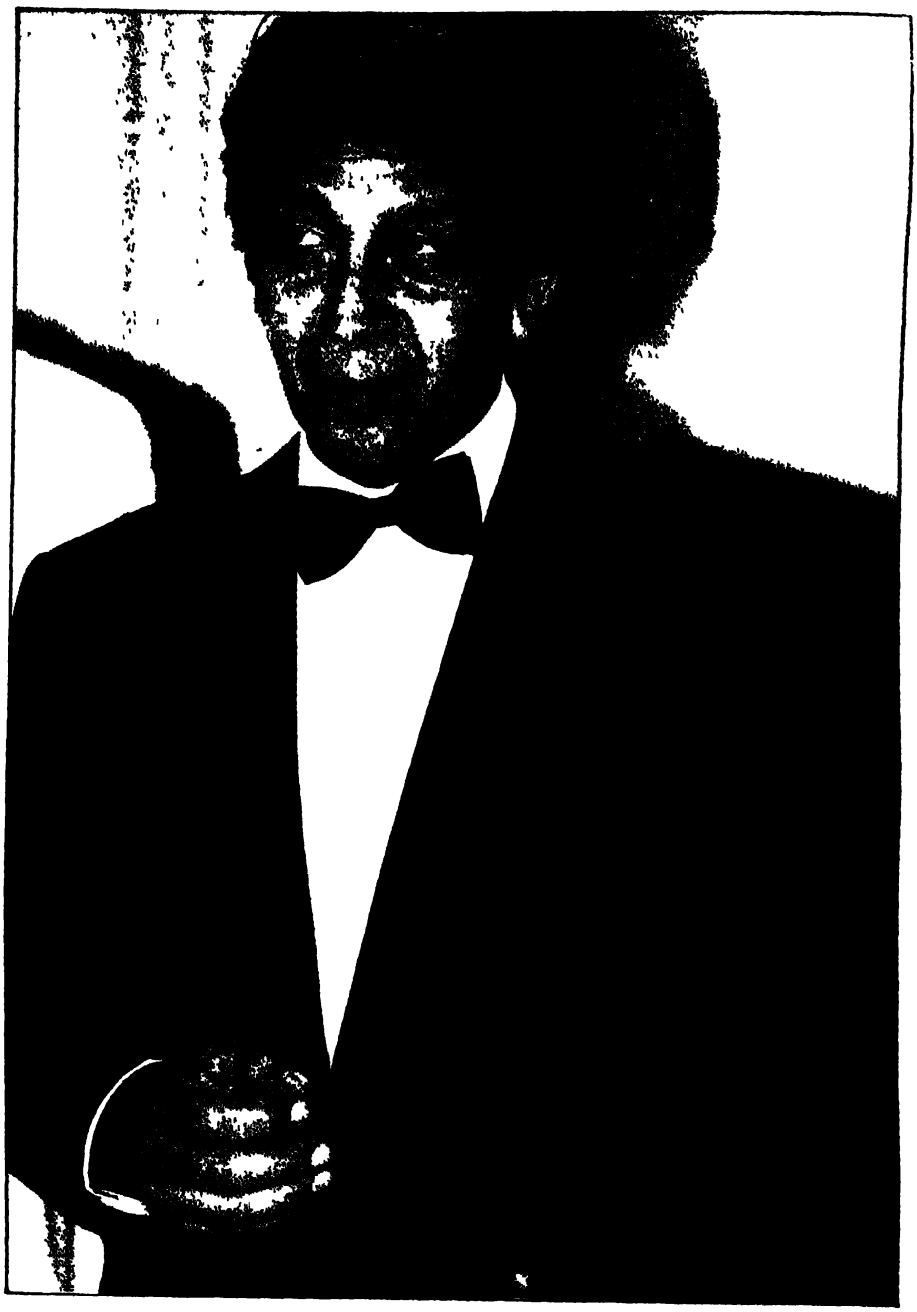
Seth adds "My father came from a Hindu family He was from Lahore and was at Patna Medical College So I am a quarter English I have got all these things floating around "

Roshan, who is 53, was educated in Patna at St Joseph's Convent and St Xavier's School Later he went to Doon His Indian public school English is laced with some earthy Hindi On stage in his elegant sherwani coat, he cuts a handsome figure opposite the voluptuous Raquel

When he arrived in England at 24 to train at the London Academy of Music, Drama and Art (LAMDA), a big proportion of the Indian immigrant population was working class and worked as train drivers, bus conductors or postmen "They were the parts I was getting Now there are Indian professionals "

The irony of Seth's career is that in order to be recognised as a talented actor on the British scene, he quit England after 15 years and returned to India in 1977 There was a time in the Seventies when he was filled with optimism, specially after a world tour with Peter Brook's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* He had also done the film, *Juggernaut*, in 1974 with Richard Lester

"I returned to England thinking the world would open up," he recalls "It did not "



Had he remained he fears he would have been forced to make too many cultural compromises "It is horrendously expensive in London I would have to bow and scrape, 'Yes sir, no sir, three bags full,' just to get work "

He feared the insecurities would change him "The tendency is to push and nudge yourself towards the culture in which you live And that pushes you away from who you are and what you are "

When *The Millionairess* opened in Guildford, he commuted by train from London, and hated it "It is enough to kill anybody It is so boring because it is all so predictable The 14 20 leaves at 14 20 In India it does not "

His opinion of the local English audience which came to the theatre is not flattering, either "They are people making big salaries in London They sit in the train and are all so grey All



'Working with Raquel, you find everything revolves around Raquel. How she is feeling, how she is behaving, what she is saying, what she is not saying.... Raquel cannot walk down the streets to buy a packet of whatever it is. She can't. She won't. She would not be seen dead in the tube....'

their life is squashed out of them When they come to the theatre in the evening they have nothing to give 'The peas are nice, dear,' is probably all they will say to their wives in the evening They are nice people, but they are so exhausted "

Not that he romanticises the chaos of India He prefers to wait for the offers to come in from London "My life in Delhi is very odd It is directionless, almost meaningless I like being there for what it does to my inside, but God, it is a difficult country India is a mess "

But going back, he says, "restored me to myself" It also worked from a professional point of view "I had to go away before anybody in Britain thought I was any worth to them I suppose I became more Indian "

He learnt another lesson "One thing going back to India has taught me is that the less you apologise for who you are the better it is for you Do not forget we have always had a defensive attitude to our history and our civilisation "

An Indian should not be like that, he declares If others do not like the way he is, he should say it is *their* bad luck

He gave up acting for five years while he edited the India International Centre's quarterly journal He came out of retirement for five months in 1980 to do Jawaharlal Nehru in Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning *Gandhi*

"I was going through a very bad personal time A long-standing relationship with a woman was ending "

He was finally tempted into the theatre when David Hare offered him a role in *A Map of the World* in 1982

Since then, British theatres and television directors have shown a much greater willingness to cast him, for example, in the TV adaptation of Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia* He was also in Kureishi's *My Beautiful Launderette*

He has played opposite Sharmila Tagore in Mira Nair's *Mississippi Masala* He accepts he will be viewed not as an actor, but always as an Indian actor "The reality is that I am always cast as an Indian. And it does not worry me in the least What else will I be cast as? I have accepted the bottom line "

Since he starred in *The Millionairess*, he has been repeatedly asked what it is like to act opposite one of Hollywood's most desirable sex bombs Her acting, he says, "is getting better"

He adds. "Working with Raquel,

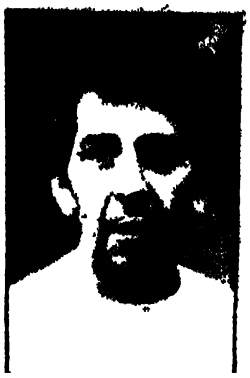


Rajesh Kumar

you find everything revolves around Raquel How she is feeling, how she is behaving, what she is saying, what she is not saying "

He talks with disdain of her 'Hollywood baggage' "Raquel cannot walk down the streets to buy a packet of whatever it is She can't She won't She would not be seen dead in the tube She has umpteen clothes, she has to live in a suite, she has to have a car I would love a car But she costs the producer so much that there is nothing left "

He says that despite all his reservations he gets on with her "To give her her due, she has realised that things are different in this country I rather like the way they are here because it appeals to my personal politics The theatre is very Shavian politically, very Fabianistic, very socialistic Once you enter the stage door everyone is equal "



'The embarrassed by Peter Sellers doing an Indian accent. The only people who enjoy Peter Sellers are Indians. The English are doubly embarrassed when somebody tries to do an imitation of Peter Sellers doing an imitation of an Indian. That is a double travesty'

He will go back in due course to Delhi, which he points out is not an option open to the new generation of British-born Asian actors For them he

BEING THERE

Roshan Seth is not the only actor from India working in Britain. However, he is exceptional--he has been appearing in mainstream British theatre

Other Indians are being given new opportunities in the United Kingdom — thanks to the pioneering work in the state by British Asians It is a point that is usually forgotten

For example, Anupam Kher and his wife will shortly stage a performance of *Saalgirah* at the Waterman's Arts Centre in West London, a venue which specialises in Asian cultural events

Later this year, Naseeruddin Shah will come to Britain for the Tara Arts production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. In the past, Shabana Azmi who had a part in the film, *Madame Sousatzka*, has performed in a stage version of *Tumhari Amrita* with Farooque Sheikh.

Indian actors come to Britain partly for recognition and partly for the money (though the theatre pays poorly compared with film or television)

For *Brothers in Trouble*, a BBC TV drama about immigrants to be broadcast in autumn, two Bombay actors, Om Puri and Pavan Malhotra, joined 16 British Asian men in the cast Shashi Kapoor whose numerous credits include *Heat and Dust* and *In Custody*, is expected to be included in a film version of *Gulliver's Travels*

When BBC Radio 4 dramatised *The Ramayan* last year, he was in the cast So was Nitish Bhardwaj, best known as Krishna in *Mahabharata*

The Bombay actress, Padmini Kolhapure, who hit the headlines when she kissed Prince Charles many years ago during a trip to India by the heir to the British throne, has announced she is opening an acting school in London

Now that British television is taking an interest in stories with an Asian theme, demand for Indian actors is growing. Those deemed to have a 'genuine' Indian accent have a better chance of being cast British-educated Asian actors, who speak with London, Birmingham or other regional accents, have to make an extra effort to sound like 'real Indians'.

American actors, too, come to Britain, and the big names are considered invaluable in filling the theatre — "putting bums on seat" Raquel Welch's predecessors have included Dustin Hoffman (as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*), Ralph Fiennes (as Hamlet) and Richard Dreyfuss (who directed *Hamlet*).

Shabana Azmi and Farooque Sheikh in *Tumhari Amrita*



predicts a passage rougher than the one he suffered

"They were born here, educated here, they are going to work here as actors and as Indians Now what is Indian about them other than their names? Other than the colour of their hair and some vague geneological connection with the subcontinent? Nothing They are British "

They are unlikely to be given mainstream roles or even Asian ones, he says "A man with a brown skin and black hair who sounds like a Cockney is an odd dish An English director would not consider him Indian enough "

Asian actors in Britain cannot benefit from the kind of integrated casting that had become commonplace in America, he argues "Unless things get to that stage in Britain they are not going to make it "



In her debut film, *One Million Years BC*, 1966, a superhit, which she now calls 'a turkey'

The only solution, as he sees it, is for Asian writers to create more parts for Asian characters to reflect the reality of multicultural Britain "The best way is for Asians to write the stuff"

And what of his own future?

One of his ambitions is to direct a film for Indian television based on Shashi Tharoor's collection of short stories, *Five Dollar Smile* "One is about a village girl set in Kerala The two are set in Calcutta, one called *Aunty Rosie* and another called *Political Murder*

He has been in *Kashmakash* directed by Chandra Narang for Zee TV "I've also done something for Sai Paranjpye for TV"

He feels frustrated that his talents have not been fully appreciated

"Nobody approaches me for anything They just do not seem interested in my kind of work"

He is also dismayed by the rise of the Shiv Sena and the Bharatiya Janata Party "Why have we got it all wrong? We are intolerant We are getting more and more fundamentalist"

He refuses to be caught up in the satellite television craze "The Indians are like atomic particles frantically charging around Everybody is saying, '*Arre yaar*, satellite *aa raha hai*' But there is no trained personnel, no writers and big holes everywhere"

He feels unwanted "Someone like me is totally marginalised in India An English speaking Indian is a total irrelevance There is no Bombay producer who has rung me up"

But would he do a Bollywood movie, given he cannot stand the chaos of the industry?

He nods "I would, just for the fun of it"

CAVEWOMAN TURNS MILLIONAIRESS

Still sensuous (and still difficult) at 54, Raquel Welch fulfils her ambition of being in the theatre, says ***Megan Tresidder***

In 1966, a big-bosomed girl from San Diego stepped on to the big screen dressed as a cavewoman in a furry bikini, in a film called *One Million Years BC*

She said four words and became an international sensation

Nearly 30 years later, Raquel Welch is playing the part of the filthy rich Epifania Fitzfassenden in George Bernard Shaw's *The Millionairess* She keeps her clothes on, and has plenty of dialogue, and the critics have panned her

The lesson, she says, is clear The critics will always try to flatten her "because I am Raquel Welch"

We meet at a hotel in the middle of London If Raquel Welch could be judged on her entrances alone, she would win an Oscar She arrives, skittering across the marble floor in fishnet stockings and high-heeled ankle boots The effect is of a lost deer wearing lip-liner

At 54, she is still very beautiful, with a voluptuous mouth pencilled in two tones of trembling pink Her skirt is a brief flounce of pleats, as short as the one she wore three years ago to the wedding of her son, Damon

Welch is a surprise She has a good sense of humour (her best parts have been comic, such as the role of D'Artagnan's lover in *The Three Musketeers*), and she can be self-deprecating *One Million Years BC*, she says, was a 'turkey' and she had vowed she would never do another And did she? "I've done plenty," she drawls

Then there is the matter of the fountain, splashing noisily by our table in the restaurant I move the tape recorder as far from it as possible Raquel goes one better and gets the fountain turned off

Then there is the menu A menu is conventionally a list of options, but Raquel treats the menu itself as optional She settles for Chicken Caesar Salad but later, surveying the choice of tea, coffee, herbal infusions, and decaffeinated, she looks the head waiter in the eye and asks for a cup of bouillon As he scuttles off, she says, grinning "Isn't it terrible to have such power over the kitchen?"

Raquel says that appearing in *The Millionairess* represents a life-long ambition "I always had a plan, which I am now fulfilling, to be in the theatre I just ended up doing everything backwards"

And, it must be said, slowly Welch took 32 films to make the move "That is a little uncharitable," she replies "It is a question of the right material There has not been anything since I did *Woman of the Year* (the Broadway musical in which she was a hit in 1981) which I have found exciting or interesting enough"

The Millionairess, she says, is a chance to vindicate herself and 1995, she says, will finally scotch *One Million Years BC* "That chick who was only allowed to come out of her trailer to say the line, 'Me Loana, you Tumak' is now dead"

Since her early twenties, she has had a reputation for speaking her mind and getting her way James Mason, her co-star in the 1972 film, *The Last of Sheila*, called her "the most selfish, ill-mannered, inconsiderate actress that I have ever had the displeasure to work with"

"I suppose I can be difficult," she says "I am very opinionated, very involved in what I do and like to get my fingers into every little thing Some people do not like that because I have a lot of ideas and I will not shut up I have lots of ideas about the scripts It is just my nature, and you can imagine the effect when I brought that nature to the set of *One Million Years BC*



'I suppose I can be difficult,' she [Raquel] says. 'I am very opinionated, very involved in what I do and like to get my fingers into every little thing. Some people do not like that because I have a lot of ideas and I will not shut up'



'Sex is power' she says, with Roshan Seth in *The Millionairess* and (inset) in her earlier days

"Whenever I spoke up, they said, 'Just shut up Go to your trailer and wait until we call you' "

Raquel never wanted to be a Bond girl "I could not understand why anyone would want to simper around in the background, just showing up for the kiss I wanted to do more physical things, be more androgynous I spent maybe the first 10 movies trying to get across the message that I was a fighter I said, 'Don't ask me to stand three paces back If you're gonna give me a gun in a movie, let me shoot it Do I have to wait while Burt Reynolds and Jim Brown shoot everybody while I am left standing there, holding the thing by the butt? No! I want to blow somebody away!' "

She was ambitious from the start, encouraged by her mother — an Englishwoman who met her father, an aeronautical engineer from Bolivia, at a Spanish class in Chicago The family moved to California, to a beach town called La Jolla, where Raquel won the Miss Photogenic competition at school and left to work as a TV weather-girl

Then she got pregnant by her high-school sweetheart, a fisherman called Jim Welch They married, had two children, but parted two years later, in 1964, when she was 24 Raquel took the children to Hollywood and worked as a waitress, a tailor's model, and as a billboard girl until she won a bit part in the Elvis Presley film, *Roustabout*

The film biographies say Welch was launched by her second husband, Patrick Curtis, who marketed her after *One Million Years BC*, getting her picture onto 200 magazine covers in 1966 "Most of that is garbage," she says "When I met him, he was working in a mailroom somewhere in Los Angeles He was no big honcho He was riding on my coattails But I did not say anything at first I did not want to cut the man's balls off "

That came later, when, after two years of hard work, she slowly realised the partnership was unequal "I had been working six days a week and he had been living off my ass And I said to myself, 'You gotta get this guy out' "

Out went the honcho But her biggest battle came 10 years later, in 1980, when she was sacked from the film *Cannery Row* by MGM They cited her temperamental behaviour on location, which she denied, arguing that this was a foil to disguise the fact that they had gone over-budget and had to cut costs by getting rid of her

Welch sued MGM and won, with an award of £14 million ($21 million) in compensation But it put her on the Hollywood blacklist "To the big power-brokers, yes, I am an outcast But not to the artistic community — to directors and other actors "

Now, after a third marriage and divorce, she lives alone in Beverly Hills She runs Raquel Welch Productions Inc, working on her latest idea for a film, about mother-daughter relationships She practices yoga, markets her exercise video and fitness book, makes ads for an American sugar substitute, and pursues her alternative career as a singer, appearing occasionally on the Las Vegas cabaret circuit And now there is the theatre

"I have always wanted to do the classics," she says Shakespeare would be wonderful, she adds, but she has first to acclimatise theatre audiences to Raquel Welch, classical actress

Raquel's cup of bouillon is long since drained and she has to go There is just time left to ask her about the verdict of Camille Paglia, the feminist writer, that Raquel Welch is the role model for all feminists "Raquel Welch," Paglia says, "represents all the pagan ideals of sensuality and glamour that contemporary feminism has prudishly edited out of its vision of female power "

She is, says Paglia, proof that the future for modern women lies in celebrating their sexiness, not hiding it

"Why not?" responds Raquel, triumphantly "Sex is power!"

(The Guardian)

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says the new moon makes you very enterprising, "full of valour and daring" News, views, letters, calls, appointments, meets, conferences, hold the key to your future, and definitely so May 28 and June 3 offer glorious opportunities So gear up for this promising phase

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Your planetary ruler, Venus, helps you to live well, earn better, get along with people Deals and contracts will be signed Once again it is buying, selling, and distributing time The problems regarding loans, mortgage and funds will be resolved shortly

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Give life your best shot That means you should work with a will and expect success, find time to enjoy yourself and develop a hobby You could socialise, call friends over, enlist in clubs and do some charity to help others It is time to reach your full potential

Cancer

July 21—July 20



You will be in an introspective mood Restlessness and anxiety could possess you Travel, trips may be expected Or, you will be seeing a lot of visitors, relatives and foreigners For astrologers, poets, teachers, writers, this is a week of inspiration Expenses will hit the roof

Leo

July 21—August 21



Friends will love you, enemies will be out to vilify you, do you in, scuffles and sword play can be expected This is indeed an enormously exciting but uneven week, the highs and lows to be sure New ties probably at the cost of old ones, are destined and should therefore happen

Virgo

August 22—September 22



The new moon and Mars combine to energise you However, there is a strong possibility of clashes, court cases and conflict of interest Changes on the home front and on the work front are ordained Many Virgoans will be in for a new direction, a different purpose

Libra

September 23—October 22



Health and expenses could well be the bugbears, the disadvantages for Librans On the positive side, journeys, ceremonies, rites, rituals, functions and celebrations find you in your element News from distant lands and collaborations are foretold

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



You will have to work at top speed to finish pending assignments and start new ones Once again, loans, funds, monetary dealings and considerations, education and communication are strongly indicated This is a week of fast scoring and steady application And rewards too

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Wedding bells, sweet and clear, peal for you Alternatively, it could very well imply partnerships at all levels and marriage is the most personal Separations and legal battles are however very likely Changes in work patterns, danger to parents and in-laws are foretold

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



A little care at work and in health could save you a lot of necessary problems and headaches Ganesha says May 28 and June 1 and 3 should work in your favour Pets and colleagues need to be handled gingerly and tactfully Loans may have to be returned An uneven week

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



The drive to go ahead, the patience to be at it, the inspiration to be creative will all be there Success will attend upon your efforts Those interested in research, childbirth, hobbies and extra-curricular activities find happiness and fulfillment Trips and ties indicated

Pisces

February 19—March 20



You could go in for renovation, decoration and refurbishing of the home and office which are the dominant trends now You will have much to do with elders, parents and in-laws Many of you will be pining for new and greener pastures Mood fluctuations will be tremendous

B I R T H D A Y S

May 28: Moon-Saturn sextile leads to a new awareness of goals and values, and with that comes a better perception of life Efforts will lead to positive results

May 29: The new moon makes you active and alert. You will thus grab the opportunities and the chances that come your way Wedding bells for the eligible

May 30: Mercury-Moon conjunction gives you the creative impulse, which could be applied in a million directions Ganesha says this phase favours teachers and creative people

May 31: Moon-Mars sextile leads to a burst of energy, intense concentration and possibly, adaptability While there will be opposition, you should make it

June 1: Moon-Venus sextile helps women in general, fashion designers, models, film stars and those into cosmetics If there is a money squeeze at times, do not give it much importance

June 2: Moon trine Saturn and Pluto could lead you to success. A wish fulfillment comes your way and that is well deserved Financially, your bank balance shows an upsurge

June 3: Moon trine Jupiter makes you lucky, giving you the capacity to enjoy the good fortune Those in arts and corporations do well

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

THE SEEDS OF A MOVEMENT

In the Himalayan foothills of Tehri Garhwal, new varieties of rice, wheat and potatoes green the valleys and terraced fields, promising wealth and access to the cash economy

But some farmers feel uneasy with this change, seeing it as a threat to their agricultural heritage Longing to turn the tables on history, they have started the Bij Bachao Andolan, a movement to save the seeds of the past Recently, they were persuaded to overcome their distrust of outsiders, take the bus to the Capital and put their hoards on display

Laid out were 110 varieties of *rajma*, as beautiful as jewels — black with a white lip, pink with black patches, yellow, cream and green, in a great profusion of shapes and sizes In small jars were some of the 126 varieties of native rice they have collected, 35 types of millet, nine of horse gram and nine of wheat

"Can I buy some?" I asked

'Buy some?" replied one of the moustached men behind the counter, scandalised "We have not come here to sell"

Kindly, though, he handed me a Garhwali *datun*, not of neem but of a thorny plant called temru I looked at it rather dubiously, and began to examine the innumerable seeds, ginger roots and other crops before me Soon several yeomen of Garhwal gathered around to expalin how they were going to stop modern agriculture in its tracks and return to their traditional systems of farming I asked Kunwar Prasun, the most vocal of them, how big the movement was

He looked me straight in the eyes and replied with great pride, "There must be six or seven of us"

His confidence in the face of overwhelming odds was disarming, but even he was underestimating the movement's strength Six or seven whole families have, in fact, dedicated themselves to collecting and preserving traditional and fast disappearing varieties of hill crops



"Vijay Jardhari started it," said Kunwar Prasun, introducing a softly spoken man with lively eyes, "He saw that new hybrids cannot survive long without expensive chemical fertilisers and pesticides Then you have to keep buying new seed stock So then Vijay turned back to local seeds, just using cow manure for fertiliser and no pesticides He did well, and we joined him "

They have had to work hard to collect seeds

"So many old crops just cannot be found any more," said Vijay "And once they are gone, no one can recreate them in a factory So we go deep into the interiors where some farmers still use traditional seeds and collect as many as we can We travel through Tehri, Uttarkashi, some parts of Pitoragarh Often farmers gift us seeds, but if they want some payment, we give it

None of the action group seemed to have any formal agricultural training, but they talked passionately about the dangers of being restricted to seeds with a narrow genetic base, specially in a country like India where growing conditions vary so widely

"We all have two or three acres of land — and we do not want a seed museum, we want them living — so we divide them among us and sow some of each We sow most widely the types which can match the hybrids, yield for yield No one publicises this, but there are many that do "

He gave me a handbill listing a host of higher-yielding varieties — *thapachini* rice 72 quintals per hectare, *jhumkya* 68 per hectare

None of the action group seemed to have any formal agricultural training, but they talked passionately about the dangers of being restricted to seeds with a narrow genetic base, specially in a country like India where growing conditions vary so widely

They were adamant that chemical fertilisers depleted the soil, making it 'addicted' Self-sufficiency is their central philosophy — the villains in their eyes being all those who have made hill farmers dependent on outsiders

"In our villages," said Kunwar Prasun, "you could have cartloads of rice carried into your grain store, but you were never considered prosperous until you grew a good crop of *baranaja*," 12 grains grown together Millet was the main among them — that was for bread — then there were pulses and sesame was the oilseed These gave you a balanced diet

"Now these scientists come and tell us to sow soyabeen instead of *baranaja* But soyabean, no matter how much protein it has, will go to the factory and not stay in the village Then before we grew *chaulai*, a spinach, now they say grow just peas But peas will not stay in the village either, they will go to hotels in the plains

"As for the dwarf varieties of rice, they do not give the fodder our cattle need So the old links between cattle and fields are breaking down The jungles have gone far from us, and when we need fodder we are given crops which cannot produce it "

I glanced through their handbill again The words, 'multinational companies', also occurred with great frequency What then was their own political philosophy?

"To stay far away from all politicians," says Prasun, "we are a movement and stand for *lokniti* not *rajniti* We don't even have official members — but we do have some slogans — *Yeh lo apne bij aur khad, In se kheti hai barbad,*" he concluded with a grin

"*Apni kheti apni khad, apna bij apna swad,*" chipped in Raghuvir Singh, a geography student and farmer, full of enthusiasm For him, the movement is inspiring "It is all a part of my mental development which is going on in all directions, he said "And I know we will succeed "

And had they enjoyed their visit to Delhi, I asked

"It is a difficult city, Delhi," commented stubbly-faced Dayal Bhai, who stood wearing a woollen khadi jacket and jeans

He and his companions laughed, and I picked up my *datun* and left, sure that if dedication and teamwork meant anything, their tiny movement would take root

(*Sanctuary Features*)



Illustration Subrata Gangopadhyay

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

■ AGARTALA

Departures Flt No	Time	Days	Arrivals Flt No	Time	Days
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7

■ AIZAWL

PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7

■ BAGDOGRA

PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1010	1 2 3 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 2 3 6 7

■ BANGALORE

IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily

■ BHUBANESWAR

IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6

■ BOMBAY

IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	2035	6	IC-274	1830	daily
AI 681	2350	1			

■ DELHI

IC 263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 016	0815	1 3 4 5 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0950	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1730	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily

■ DIBRUGARH

PF 737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
D2 181	1145	1 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	1 3 5	4S 815	1635	1 3 5
IC 701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5

■ DIMAPUR

IC 257	1230	1	IC 257	1605	2 4

■ GUWAHATI

IC 704	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 703	0730	1 3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
PF 737	0730	1	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	IC 230	1620	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 253	1200	1 2 6	PF 736	1730	1
IC 701	1240	daily	PF 738	1730	3 5

■ HYDERABAD

S2 023	1045	1 3 5	S2 024	1525	1 3 5
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6

■ IMPHAL

IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1230	2 4	IC 257	1605	2 4

■ JORHAT

IC 213	0910	4 7	IC 213	1315	4 7

■ LILABARI

PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

■ LUCKNOW

IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2005	1 3 5

■ MADRAS

IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	1 2 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1740	1 2 4 5 6 7	IC-766	2220	daily

■ NAGPUR

IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6

■ PATNA

IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5

■ PORT BLAIR

IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6

■ RANCHI

IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7

■ SHILLONG

PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7

■ SILCHAR

IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6

■ TEZPUR

IC 213	0910	4 7	IC 213	1315	4 7

■ TEZU

PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5

■ VARANASI

S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5

■ VISHAKHAPATNAM

IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5

■ ZIRO

PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

■ AMMAN

RJ 185	1345	1	RJ 184	0705	4

■ AMSTERDAM

KL 876	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC-731	0855	2 4 5 7	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 108	1240	5
KB-105	0850	2 6	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
TG-314	1355	1 3 6	IC-732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI-306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6
BUCHAREST					
RO-076	1950	5 7	RO-075	1055	5, 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC-225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
DHAKA					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
IC-747	1115	1 3 5	IC-748	1455	1 3, 5
RA-214	1815	1 4	RA-213	1715	1 4
[illegible]					
BA-142	2050	3 7	BA 143	1525	3 7
[illegible]					
SU-538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
[illegible]					
KB-106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
[illegible]					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
[illegible]					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure

Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat		
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	1 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Jaipur Express** (Mon)	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 30	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	3 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tue Thu Sat	1 15	3186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure

Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	3 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 10	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2401	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	—
—	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2402
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Centra Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 15	6321
—	11 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
—	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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USKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

BEAR IN THE BALLROOM

The old Savoy Bar had witnessed the passage of many famous celebrities—actors, politicians, business tycoons, beauty queens—and sometimes they merged into one composite personality, vanity being the common factor

But the most unusual visitor was the brown Himalayan bear which wandered in after a heavy snowfall last January During severe winters when food is scarce, wild animals do occasionally wander into the hill-station—remember the leopard that carried off all Landour strays a couple of years ago?

I was sitting on my favourite bar stool (the one that tilts slightly) waiting for the Man-from-Sail to walk in and sign for my drink, when I heard the swing doors open behind me Without bothering to look around I said, "Come on, old chap, you are half an hour late this evening"

All I got in response was a grunt Now, the Man-from-Sail does snore (I have shared a railway compartment with him) but I have never known him to snore standing up!

"In a bad mood?" I asked, and knocking on the counter to attract the attention of the barman, I said, "Get Sail Sahib a whisky-and-soda" The barman came out from behind his cubby hole, looked over my shoulder and let out a shrill cry

I turned then, and saw the bear a few feet away, looking very hairy and threatening Did I ever tell you that I was the 200-metre hurdle champion in my school days? Well, I can assure you that at 60, I have lost none of my speed or skill I was over the bar-counter like lightning, holding hands with the barman, nice boy, but not my type

The bear was now separated from us by the high counter, and not being a high-hurdler itself, began to vent its frustration by flinging bar stools all over the place With great presence of mind, the barman shook himself free of my embrace, picked up the house phone and rang the front office Almost immediately, he got Nandu on the line, and the conversation went something like this

Prakash "Sir, there is a bear in the bar"

Nandu "Make sure you give him a bill"

Prakash "A bear, Sir, not a customer"

Nandu "A bare customer? Did he have too much to drink?"

Prakash "No, Sir Bear,

I turned then, and saw the bear a few feet away, looking very hairy and threatening. Did I ever tell you that I was the 200 metre hurdle champion in my school-days? Well, I can assure you that at 60, I have lost none of my speed or skill. I was over the bar-counter like lightning, holding hands with the barman, nice boy but not my type



bhaloo — big, brown bear "

Nandu· "Well, give Mr Bayer a drink and ask Mr Bond to look after him till I get there He is here to arrange a conference Bayer and Bayer, you know They are into cosmetics Very important customers "

Nandu put the phone down and we were left to our own devices

The bear had now discovered a decorated Christmas tree in a corner of the room and he was proceeding to take it apart Paper streamers, tinsel stars and plastic holly were soon festooned over the rampant animal While this mayhem was still in progress, Nandu and the Man-from-Sail entered at the swing doors Wordless, they backed out again and ran for the security guard

The security guard (a retired *Havildar* from Meerut) carried a muzzle loader which dated back to the Mutiny He rushed into the room and fired at random, shattering the glass of the clock that had been stationary ever since the atom bomb had fallen on Hiroshima The hands now made rapid and seemingly endless revolutions, as though to make up for all the lost years when time had stood still

The bear now rushed at the security guard who left by the swing doors and retreated to the conference room where Nandu and the Man-from-Sail were holding a council-of-war Fortunately for Prakash and me, the bear was able to negotiate the doors, and, finding the lobby deserted, made off down the corridor, stopping at the only occupied room on the ground floor

In residence was Miss Darshini Singh, an up and coming TV producer who was planning to film some of my plain tales from the hills

Miss Darshini had only just arrived from Madras, where she had been making a documentary on crocodiles She was still wearing the Crocodile Dundee hat which had been presented to her by an elderly Australian tourist After crocodiles, bears were small fry to her When the Savoy bear thudded into the door of her room, she flung open the door, clapped her hands and exclaimed, "Oh, how cute! A real live bear! The Man-from-Sail must have arranged it He really is enterprising Now we can do the scene where the bear chases Ruskin Bond up a maple tree!"

The bear had now discovered a decorated Christmas tree in a corner of the room and he was proceeding to take it apart. Paper streamers, tinsel stars and plastic holly were soon festooned over the rampant animal. While this mayhem was still in progress, Nandu and the Man-from-Sail entered at the swing doors. Wordless, they backed out again and ran for the security guard



Miss Darshini's dog Rambo, a Golden Retriever of considerable charm, and character, now rushed at the door, barking furiously Bears are afraid of barking dogs, they do not know what to make of them The visiting bear turned and ran, continuing its journey down the corridors of the Savoy till it found the billiard room

"Oh no, not my billiard cloth!" cried Nandu in genuine distress "It cost me a fortune! Made in Holland, 1922 Of course, I'm not that old," he added as an afterthought

Fortunately the bear bypassed the billiard room, dashing instead, into the old ballroom which was sometimes used for conferences and dinner parties The annual State Bank party was in progress with the commissioner as chief guest No respecter of persons, the bear charged straight through the gathering of dignitaries, upsetting a drinks cart, a drunk, two waiters and a retired Major-General Then entangled in a table cloth ("Do not forget to bill them for it," said Nandu), the uninvited guest dashed off into the night, heading in the direction of Convent Hill But that is a nun's story

(Sanctuary Features)



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LIC policy guarantees a secure future It is a means of employees' welfare and employees' incentive Salary Saving Scheme is an additional facility

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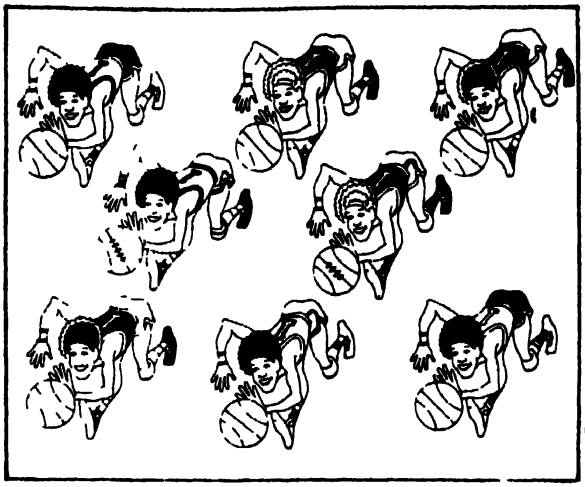
For more details, contact your LIC Agent

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JUNIOR WHIRL

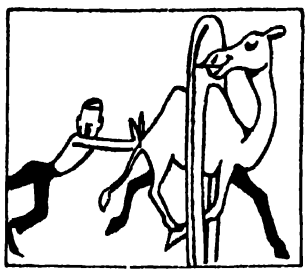
HAL KAUFMAN



FIND TWINS! Two of the eight basketball players above are enough alike to be twins Let's see if you can find them

LETTER HEAD! Find a single initial letter that will convert each of the following four-letter words into five letter words ABLE EASE OUCH LASH RATE Remember it s the same letter for each word

Letter C will comply



'IMPOSSIBLE' TASK FORCE

THERE are some things traditionally that just can t be done You are challenged to fill blanks of ' impossibles' below

1 You can't push a — through the eye of a needle

2 You can't have your -- and eat it too

3 You can't get — from a stone

4 You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's—

5 You can't buy the wag of a dog's—

6 You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it—

Time limit 30 secs Think fast

1 Camel 2 Like 3 Blood 4 Fur 5 Tail 6 Drink

CORNER SHOT! Let's see how quickly you can complete this "magic" number square (below) For better or worse, the centre number is 13 Surrounding 13 are the numbers 1 through 25, four of which—9, 11, 15 and 17—are missing from corner squares

You are asked to insert the missing numbers so that each horizontal, vertical and five-square diagonal row totals 65

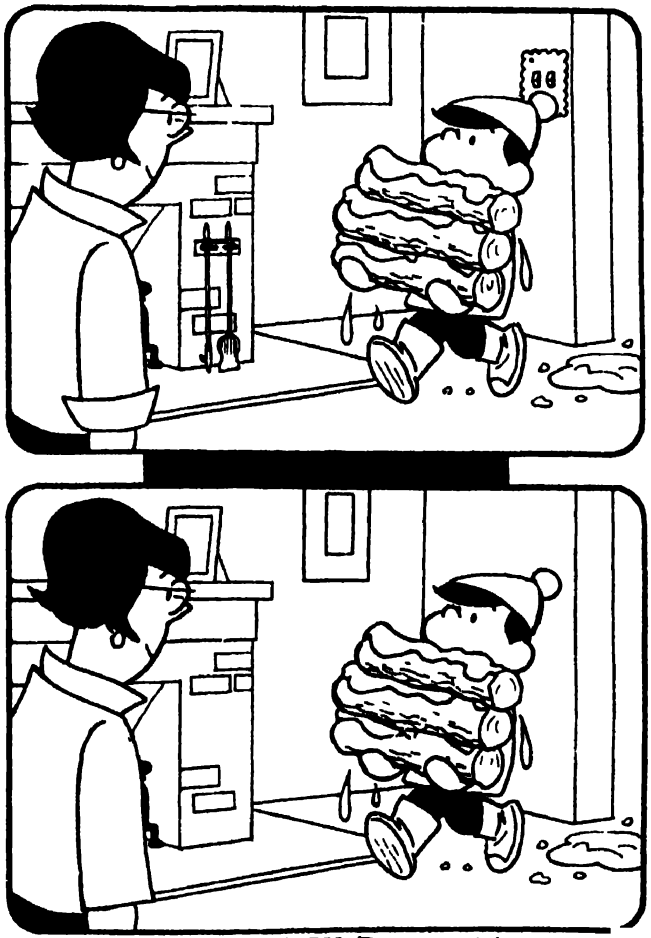
Time limit Two minutes

No fair peeking at answer

Top left — 17 top right — 15 bottom left — 11 bottom right — 9

	24	1	8	
23	5	7	14	16
4	6	13	20	22
10	12	19	21	3
	18	25	2	

HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Hair is different 2 Cuff is missing 3 Andirons are missing 4 Picture is different 5 Hand is moved 6 Switch is missing

FUNSPOT



SMASH HIT! Yikes, the yoke is on our egg-juggling friend. Add colors by number. 1—Red 2—Lavender 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt. green 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

GRANDEUR

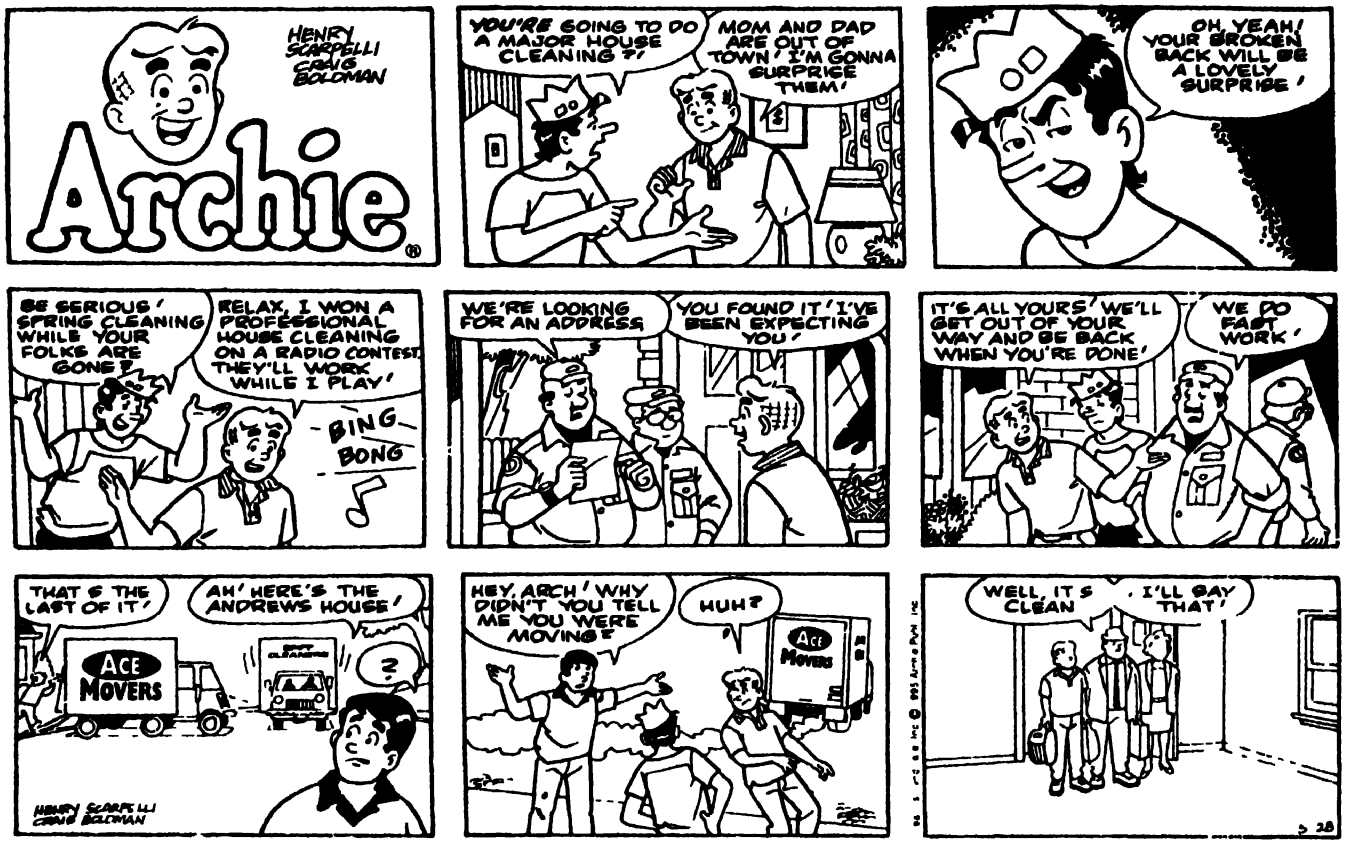
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

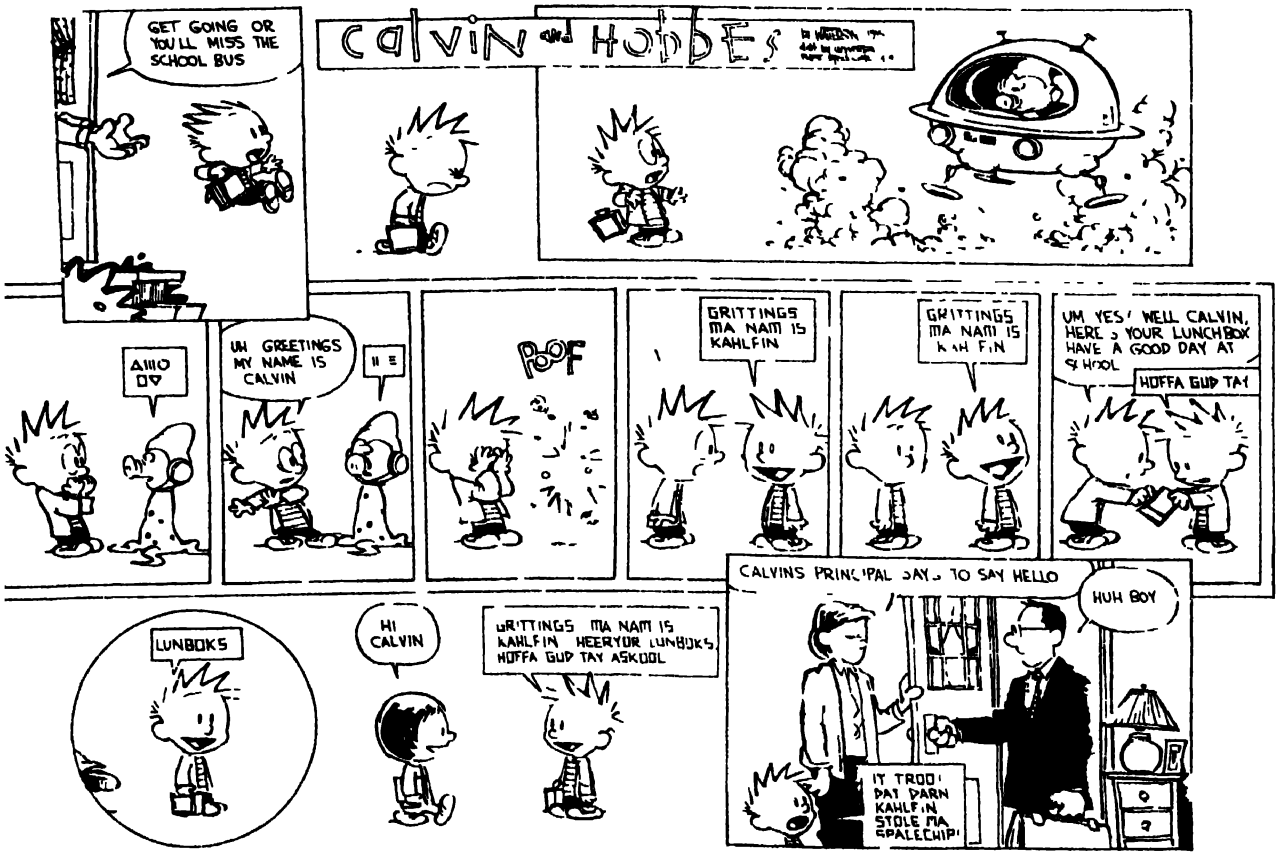
Possible twosome Rang nude

COMICS

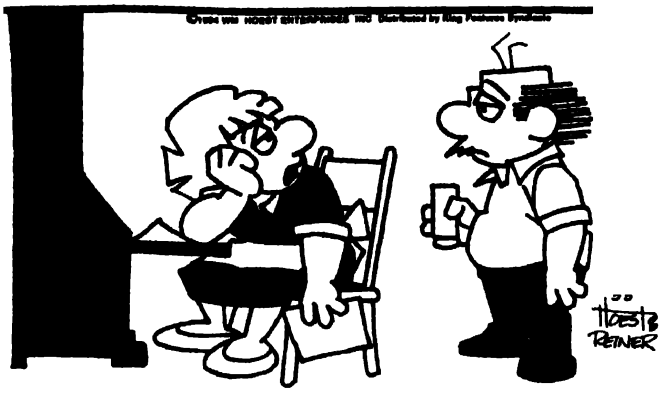
ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS



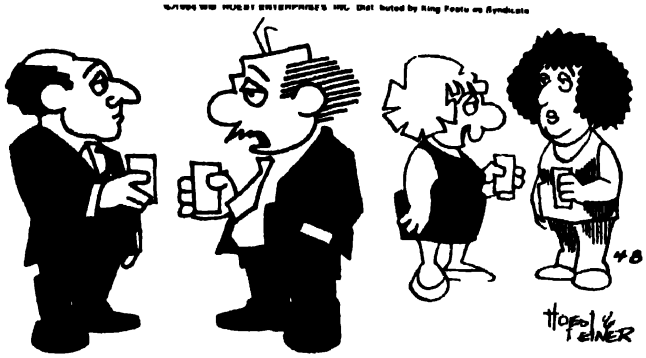
"WE CAN'T AFFORD TAXES THIS YEAR, LEROY."



"I HAD A CLOSE CALL THIS MORNING. LORETTA TRIED TO PACK ME A LUNCH."

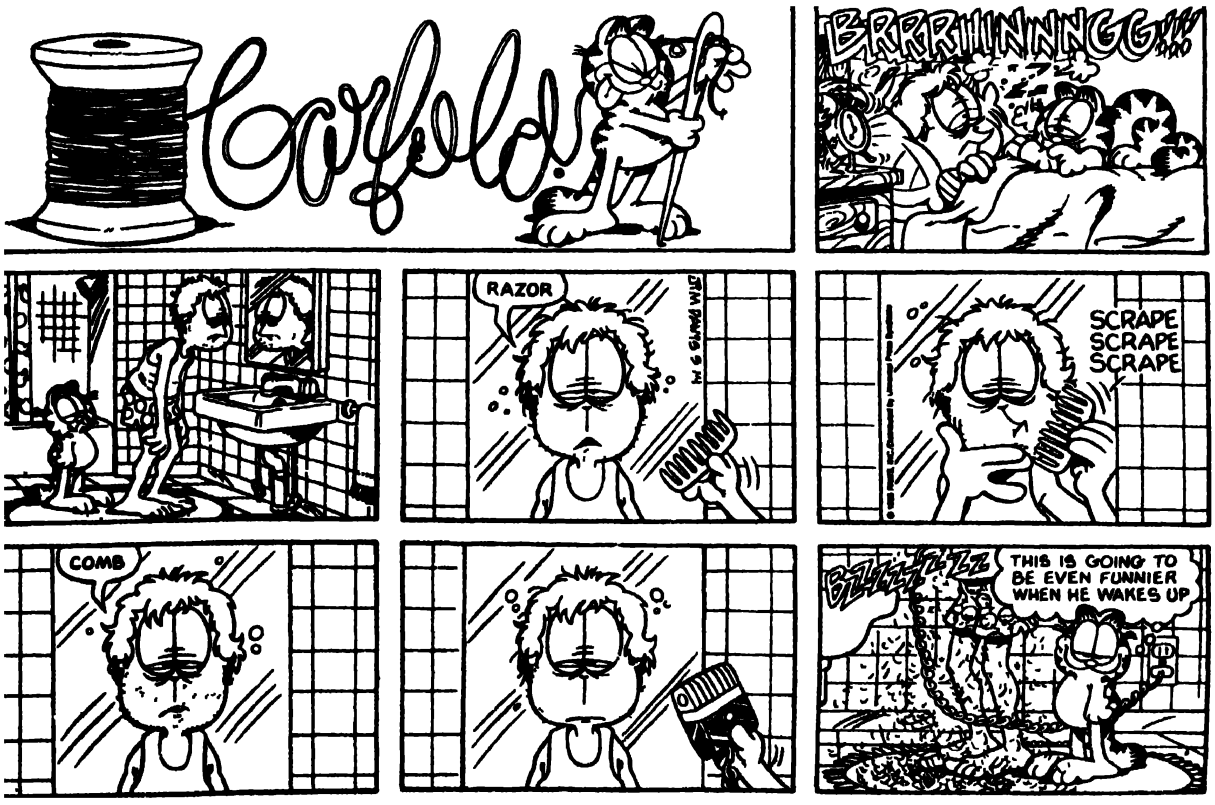


"I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU WEAR STRETCH PANTS, LORETTA, SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL MAKE USE OF THEM."

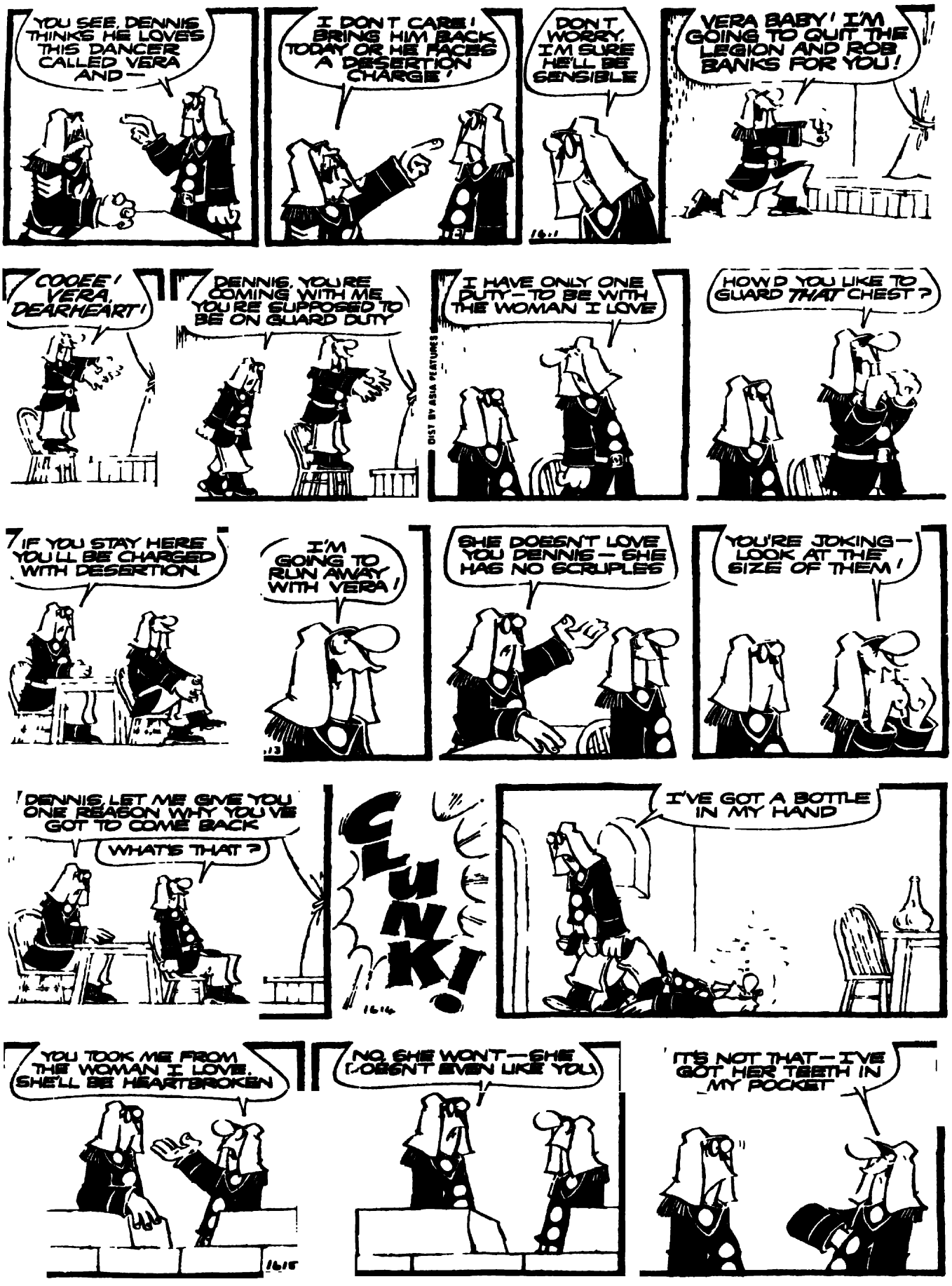


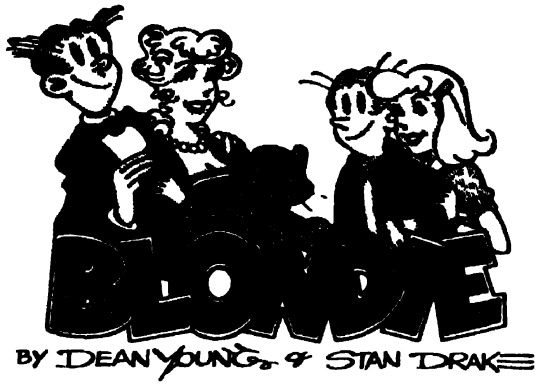
"I'VE BEEN MARRIED A LONG TIME···I GUESS I HAVEN'T PAID MY DEBT TO SOCIETY."

GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

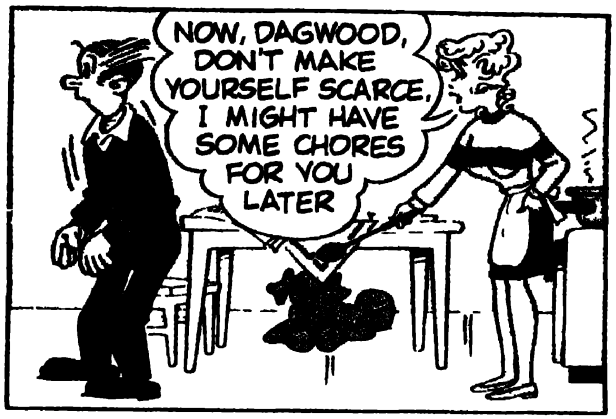


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



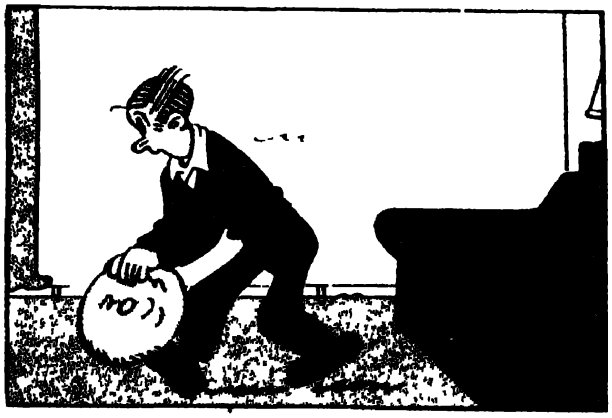


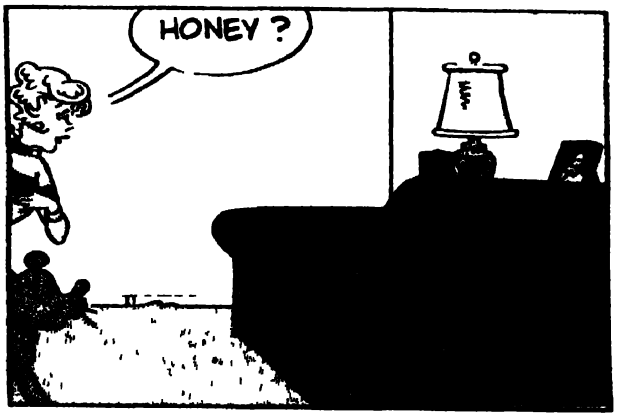


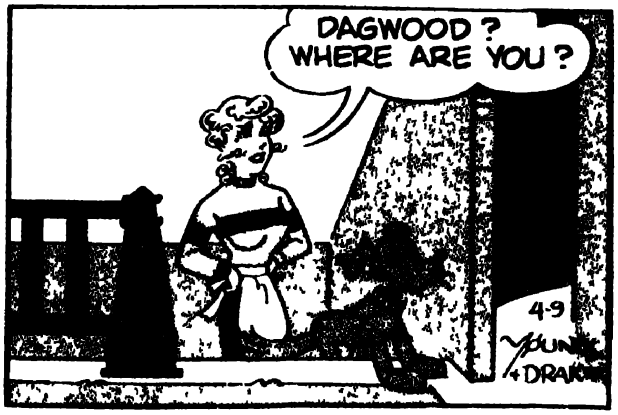


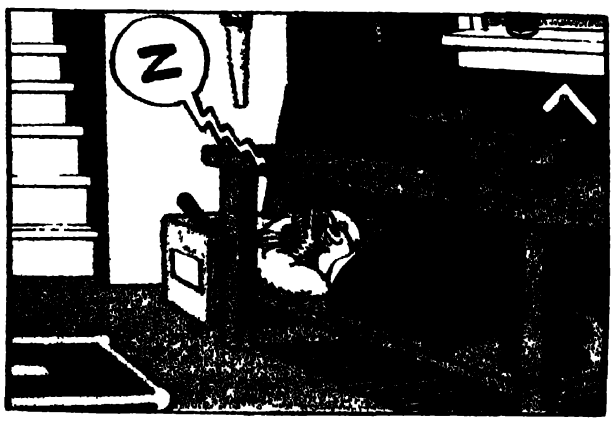
PLEASE DON'T MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I'M ALWAYS TRYING TO GET OUT OF WORK AROUND HERE! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT, ANYTIME

I'M SORRY, DEAR, I DIDN'T MEAN TO SOUND THAT WAY









PANORAMA

SHE AT SEA

The British Navy's decision to permit women on board has raised too many sexist and marital problems ***Sandra Parsons*** *and* ***Frances Hardy*** *report on the disasters it has run into*

Brave is the woman who ventures through the swing doors of the Albany pub in Portsmouth. Inside it are wall-to-wall tattoos on brawny arms lifting the umpteenth pint of the evening. "Those real jodhpurs, darlin'? Come over 'ere, I'll give you a ride!"

These are naval ratings, toughened men who are expected to die for their country if need be. Tonight, off duty and far from any war zone, they are relaxing the way they like to — with strong drink, salty language and a keen eye for any passing skirt.

Once this was an all-male preserve where the boundaries of behaviour — or lack of them — had been quite clearly defined by 200 years of seafaring custom. But today some of those shipmates are women, formerly known as Wrens, who now, in the relentless march for equality, have been stripped of their title, their distinctive badge, some of their uniform and, sadly, much of their dignity.

The Women's Royal Naval Service, from which the Wrens got their name, was once the most feminine branch of the armed forces and certainly the most chic. Male colleagues respected and adored them. But that was before the disastrous decision to send them to sea.

Propping up the bar of the Albany, a rating from *HMS Southampton* gazes gloomily into his lager as he tries to articulate the issue of women at sea. "Some of the lads in here," he says, with a wave of his muscular arm, "will just explode if you even say the word 'Wrens' to them."

If you've never been to sea, it's probably hard to understand. But let me put it this way: if this pub suddenly caught fire, would you be able to put me over your shoulder and carry me? You wouldn't? Well, that's why most of us don't want women on board. Most Wrens can't lift a 40-kg engine part. They can't carry two drums of foam weighing 25 kgs each - a lot of men struggle to carry them.

"So what happens is that she asks one of us to do it. Worse still, if it's her watch and the rest of us are asleep, she'll wake one of us. And when you're tired, that's not funny. It causes resentment and then she gets upset because she thinks you're being nasty. Well, sometimes we bloody well do give some lip. We give it to blokes, too, if they don't pull their weight. It's not a bloody cruise."

It took the Senior Service more than 70 years from the formation of the Wrens to offer women equality by allowing them to go to sea like the men. Four years on, female recruitment levels are falling, while drop-out rates of those in service are increasing. Earlier this year the navy decided that seven ships should lose their female complement, and that a programme to convert ships to accommodate women should be ended.

Naval sources insist that this is due not to the disillusionment of women, but to swinging defence cuts which have forced them to reduce recruitment generally. They say that while there have been a few problems, the decision to send women to sea has been a success.

Why then when the *Daily Mail* set out to investigate the true impact of Wrens at sea, were we informed by the ministry of defence that the media were no longer permitted to interview serving Wrens about life on board "because there has been so much adverse publicity"?

Serving men we spoke to admitted they were so worried about the damage they would do to their careers by talking to us that all asked not to be identified. Of the half-dozen we talked to, only one said he was happy with the Wrens at sea. "And that's because I'm married to one, so I've got to say that, haven't I?"

The two former Wrens we interviewed both had stellar naval careers. Wendy Clay, a radio operator, served on *HMS Brilliant* during the Gulf War and was awarded three medals while the Candida Brooks, a naval rating, left *HMS Brazen* with an honourable discharge and an exemplary record. Yet their advice to women thinking of joining the navy is blunt. "Don't do it."

The third woman we spoke to is the wife of a lieutenant commander and she blames the navy for the break-up of her marriage. "I have no doubt that if Wrens had not been allowed to go to sea, my marriage would still be intact," she says bitterly.

The message is clear. Allowing Wrens at sea has been at best an experiment which has failed, and at worst an

Women aboard the *HMS Brilliant* that served



utter disaster

Why did it go wrong? Everyone cites different reasons For the men, it is their resentment at having to 'cover' for women who are physically unable to do their jobs For the wives, it is the dangerous sexual tensions which inevitably surface between men and women living and working together 24 hours a day in a confined space While for the Wrens themselves it is the daily trauma of having to run the gauntlet of rampant sexism and sexual harassment

Candida Brooks, 26, who left the navy a year ago, says "One incident remains vivid in my memory I can recall the almost tangible, jeering hatred of my male colleagues as if I were still standing there, surrounded by them I was in the middle of a group of six men on the quarter deck of *HMS Brazen* "They were speculating, using the most lewdly anatomical language, about how many men would bed me by the end of the posting The whole incident had a nightmarish unreality I simply could not believe it was happening I wanted to shout 'How dare you talk to me like that?'

"But I dared not risk the consequences of expressing my entirely justifiable anger So I resorted to feeble sarcasms"

This was not an isolated aberration It was symptomatic of the prevailing attitude towards Wrens One instructor turned public humiliation into an art form He used a particularly prurient form of sexual harassment, addressing a girl in front of the rest of the class with enquiries about the regularity of her sex life

"I spent just a year in the navy I had envisaged an excellent, character-building career I thought I would be joining a team of dedicated professionals, esteemed as the Senior Service Instead I was pitched into a largely foul-mouthed and misogynistic rabble The atmosphere was nasty, threatening, unfriendly and bewildering"

Wendy Clay joined *HMS Brilliant* in October 1990 is one of its first 15 Wrens and left for the Gulf a few months later She was not subjected to such severe sexual harassment but knows it went on "I worked on the bridge with the captain and other officers, which was fine But I knew a girl who was in a signals office where she would be verbally ripped to pieces By the end of the watch she would be in tears

"There was this leading radio operator, one rank above me, who would make the girls do all the work while the lads went to sleep In another case, one of the men, who was particularly horrible, had been left by his wife and his reaction was to take it out on women generally"

The naval ratings at the Albany in Portsmouth listen to such reports with genuine bewilderment In their language it is banter, and nothing to get too upset about

"Some of the Wrens give as good as they get," says one "What normally happens is, they take it for a couple of days, then give it back, and you should hear their language Then whoever is doing it will move on to someone else Could be another Wren, it could be a bloke It is part of the job Women who cannot deal with it have no place on a ship"

Another rating, a 20-year-old leading hand in a fire-fighting team, sips vodka and orange and tries to explain the incompatibility of women and ship life by recalling a fire at sea on *HMS Broadsword* last year, in which two men died and two more were badly burned

The Wrens who were part of the fire fighting team are still having counselling, because they think it is their fault the blokes died It was not, but they basically could not do their jobs Fighting a fire at sea is one of the most stressful experiences — pitch black, smoke, you can hear people screaming The Wrens could not carry the big drums of foam, they did not do their job properly and so they think they are to blame

"There are lots of jobs, such as radar and anti-surface warfare that Wrens do really well But I have seen a Wren in the engine room refuse to do a task because she has broken her nail The engine room is a dirty place, and I'm sorry, but I do not think it is a fit place for a woman I do not think war is suitable for a woman, either

"I was in the Gulf twice and in Bosnia, and in the Gulf I have never been so scared I do not think any of us hate women, it is just that half the time they cannot do the job the that they are supposed to"

Almost every aspect of ship life appears to carve a deeper chasm between the sexes Issues which men find difficult — such as coping with the long periods away from home are dealt with quite easily by women Others, such as lack of privacy, do not bother the men, yet drive women to distraction

"We were living on a ship designed for single-occupancy and had to run the gamut of leering men as we walked in our dressing gowns to the loos and shower rooms," says Candida

the Gulf war



Brooks "I know a Wren who became pregnant during a relationship with a fellow rating and then suffered a harrowing miscarriage on board She had to walk, haemorrhaging badly, through three corridoors before she reached the woman's lavatory, her distress compounded by the complete absence of privacy

It seems deplorably negligent that impressionable Wrens, some barely 17, go to sea without an older woman officer to advise them and, above all, to set a responsible example"

But, as a navy wife whose marriage ended last year points out, senior Wrens do not always set a good example The woman, a 35-year-old mother of three small children, does not wish to be named because she and her husband, a lieutanant commander, are in the middle of divorce proceedings He left her for a Wren officer serving on the same ship

"I know my husband's affair began blamelessly enough His work is enormously stressful he is a navigator in the Fleet Air Arm – and it is hardly surprising that he welcomed the chance to confide in a woman of comparable rank, to discuss his problems with her at the end of a fraught day

"But this is the flaw in the navy's logic however ardently it denies it, the climate on board is one in which sexual liaisons are bound to prosper Men do not readily discuss their problems with other men An accessible woman who proffers a shoulder to cry on, therefore, becomes an irresistible emotional temptation

"It is a short step from such a relationship to sex I do not know when he began to sleep with her I do know they shared a beach hut for five days on a tropical island off Singapore on a shore leave break I had hoped to share with him

"When he first said he was leaving home I was desperate for him to stay I was bitterly angry and resentful towards the navy because I felt it shared the blame for what had happened I dashed off a furious letter to his captain because I felt that his seniors had turned a blind eye, while ratings would have faced reprimands for similar behaviour

"I still feel the response I received exemplifies the navy's double standards I was told that my husband had conducted his affair discreetly and on shore, and that in those circumstances it was outside the navy's jurisdiction to intervene I believe that the navy *should* take responsibility for the sexual transgressions of personnel, when such behaviour could so patently jeopardise the smooth running of the ship

"I do not want my husband to lose his job However, it seems I am the only one who is being penalised for his infidelity and desertion He has not been demoted He has not even been reprimanded The navy placed temptation squarely in front of him and has turned a blind eye to the disastrous consequences"

Candida Brooks agrees "I'm afraid that the majority of those I encountered were promiscuous A favourite place for illicit sexual liaisons was the boatswain's locker where couples often made love undetected despite the rule that there should be no sexual attachments in camp or on board the ship"

Most of the women on *HMS Brilliant*, says Wendy Clay, formed



Asia Features

Candida Brooks: Bitter memories

relationships with their fellow men, and she was no exception She attracted publicity when she returned from the Gulf pregnant But she says her boyfriend, Darren never broke the rules

"When the war ended in March we then had another six months' tour in foreign ports Darren and I slept together only when we were on shore It is down to your own morals really, but what irritates me is that when there is publicity about scandal on ships it is always the women who get the blame"

The uneasy balance between the sexes on *HMS Brilliant* wavered according to whether they were in ship or shore On board, the women were routinely insulted by the younger men On shore, their tormentors would suddenly be transformed into chivalrous charmers

"They would try to buy you drinks, be really pleasant and became extremely protective if anyone else tried to talk to you," recalls Wendy "But you also saw some shocking things on shore While we were in Mombasa some of the married men went to all the whore houses You would see officers you respected coming back from them It was disgusting"

In the Albany bar, however, the men fail to see what all the fuss is about "Look, I'm 29 and single and I have never had any girlfriend for longer than three months," says one "Some people have sex on board and as long as you are discreet and do your job, no one is that bothered But no sailor needs a Wren for sex If we are away for a long time we go to brothels"

Wendy Clay left the navy at the end of March 1992 after being told there was no guarantee she would not be sent to sea again She did not want her son Alex, now three, to grow up with parents who were both continually away

Now an assistant computer manager with the NHS, she says she is sad at what she perceives to be the needless de-sexing of Wrens The newer women members of the navy, she says, seem to be taking equality so far that they are even behaving like men "The girls swear and shout and drink with the men, they're very rough and ready The men probably think it is great, but I think it is horrible"

Candida Brooks believes that women do have a place in the navy "They are capable of cool-headed decision-making Their brains and wits are as finely honed as any man's, but they should be allowed to develop their inherent skills, not forced into jobs for which they are physically and temperamentally unsuited

"Their place—and I may sound desperately anti-feminist in saying so—is on-shore and in operational departments such as anti-surface warfare, radar, sonar, missile guiding and computers"

As Wendy Clay says "The navy is changing Wrens totally It has tried to make them into men and, tragically for the women involved, it has succeeded"

(*Asia Features*)

In

THE PICK OF THE WEE

VIDEOS



Stargate It is one of those recent 'flights' of fantasy you'd love to watch over and over again

The film is about an Egyptian artefact that turns out to be a gateway to another galaxy

James Spader, a dishevelled professor who can speed-read hieroglyphs, and Kurt Russell, as a disillusioned military commander in a saucy green beret, enter the stargate and land up on a planet where slaves wear turbans and bow down before Jaye Davidson, who plays a sinister extraterrestrial posing as Ra, the Sun God

Jaye Davidson has a whale of a time being snooty, Kurt always seems as if he is about to explode with laughter, more perhaps, because this trip across the universe, while carrying a concealed nuclear device, finally helps him get over the earlier death of his little son in a handgun accident

Stargate proves that all that oppressed people anywhere really need are slabs of chocolate and maybe nylons It is why the film is such a slick experience

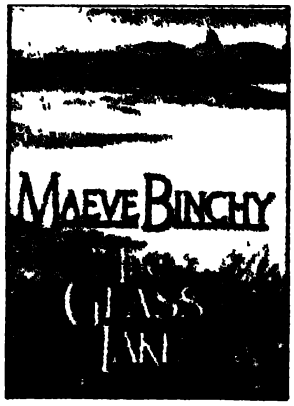
BOOKS

The Glass Lake: **This novel, set in an Irish lake town of Lough Glass, has all the ingredients of an old-fashioned melodrama. Several characters flit in and out of the story — a doctor, a chemist, a vitriolic drunk, a pristine nun.**

The spotlight shifts to the McMahon family. Martin McMahon is a nice, innocuous man with a beautiful wife, Helen, and two children. Helen does not love her husband and takes long walks by the lake at night. Almost everyone thinks she is crazy.

One night, Martin McMahon's boat is found floating upside down in the lake and all are convinced Helen is drowned. But they are wrong. Helen has run off to unite with her former lover.

Maeve Binchy creates an



exquisite morality tale which induces the reader to traverse through it. (Delacorte, $23.95)

LIFESTYLE

Kettle talk Why just Polly? Anyone can put this automatic kettle on Introduced for the first time in India by Vesta, this cordless beauty is a smart operator

Equipped with a two level safety switch, the kettle can boil upto 10 cups of water in only three-and-a-half minutes It switches off automatically once the water is boiled

Priced at Rs 850, a useful item for home as well as office



Courting the Caribbean Here's a spirit that ensures pure drinking pleasure Launched by International Distillers India Limited, Malibu has what it takes to be exotic blending Caribbean white rum with tropical coconut

This heady concoction, first tested in Scotland in 1980, was later rolled out to UK on the crest of the cocktail wave where it served as a perfect base for an instant Pina Colada

One could, if one liked, also enjoy it on the rocks or fuse it with fruity mixers like the piquant pineapple, tangy lemonade or just a dash of cola

The spirit, which comes in a milky white bottle (750 ml) is tagged at Rs [illegible] is meant for the discriminate few

FASHION

Network by design: **Now that summer is at its scorching best, try out a few breezy styles this season.**

How about Vivienne Tam's fancy embroidered net tunic gorgeously woven with flowers of every hue?

Worn over a finely pleated georgette slip dress, the floral web is sleeveless, showing off those bare slender arms.

The slip in thin, red-and-white pin stripes clings loosely to the figure reaching way above the knees. Brought out from the boudoir, it gives the wearer a chic and svelte

A dash of red lipstick is all that you'll need to complete the ensemble. So slip into this elegant combo this summer.



PHOOLAN DEVI, *celebrated, reviled, hated, feared, glorified, ridiculed . bandit queen, has managed to stay in the news and capture the imagination of the public for over a decade. She emerged from a long stint in prison to a fresh wave of international publicity with Shekhar Kapur's controversial film Recently separated from her husband, the living legend is trying to put her life back on the rails, again.*



Ashok Vaid

What objects do you always carry?

The name of Ma Durga in my heart

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
I have never known happiness in my life, so what can I say on it?
What is your greatest fear?
I have known no fear for myself and for others (social) I have learnt to fight it, be it for myself, or for others
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
Mulayam Singh Yadav Had it not been for him, my sufferings would have continued and I would have still been languishing in jail
What do you dislike most in others?
Lies, deceit and hypocrisy
What do you dislike most in yourself?
That I was born in a low caste and poor family because of which I have been abused and exploited
What is your most precious possession?
The story of my life
What objects do you always carry?
The name of Ma Durga in my heart
What makes you most depressed?
When people try to deceive you and use you for their own selfish interests
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My face I don't think it is pretty at all
What is your favourite word?
Ma I love and respect her a lot and whenever I think of her, I want to run into her arms
What is your favourite journey?
To a place that is lonely and desolate
What is your favourite dream?
That something is done for the poor so that they are not exploited and deceived all the time by everyone
What is your nightmare?
When the lives of young innocent girls are ruined because of petty family feuds and enmities
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Myself I have fought and struggled alone Even my parents bowed down to pressure
What is your source of sustenance?
The habit of facing challenges and adversity right from childhood
On what occasions do you lie?
When people make me lie Like Umed Singh made me lie and oppose Shekhar Kapur's film, so that he himself could make money out of it while people believe that I had done it willingly and knowingly
What is your greatest regret?
My marriage with Umed Singh
What has been your happiest moment?
When I heard that all cases against me had been withdrawn by the UP government, but it was a very fleeting happiness because the very next moment I was overcome by worries about my future
What brings tears to your eyes?
My past And the question why exploitation and deceit with me continues still
How do you relax?
By venting my anger and hurling abuses When there is too much tension, I take a sleeping pill
What do you envy most in others?
That they are lucky they have not gone through the exploitation and abuse that I have
How would you like to be remembered?
Whenever there is a crime committed against any girl, they remember me as one who did not take it lying down
How would you like to die?
I am willing to face death in whichever way it comes

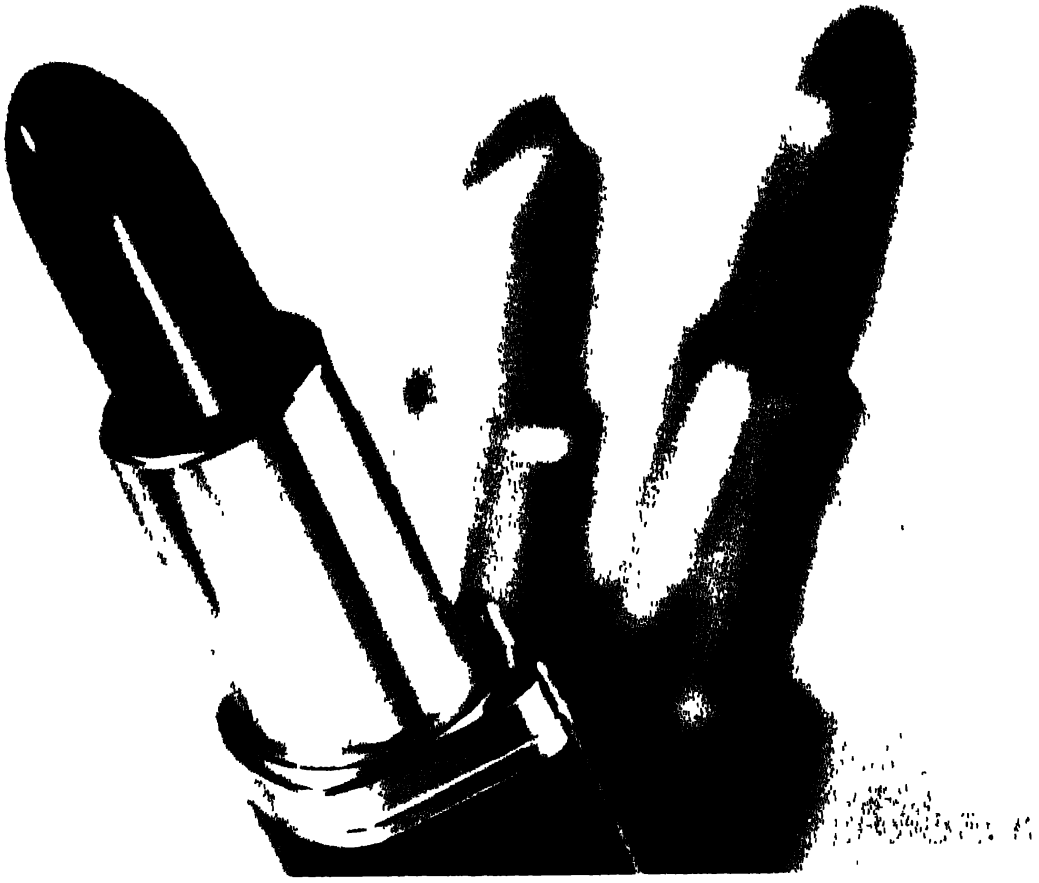
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LAKMÉ

ULTRACREME

You can feel the difference

Mukta Grey

The Telegraph

4 JUNE 1995

POST MORTEM

Yours, Mine and Ours

■ In this age of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation where all that glitters is supposed to be gold, the fourth estate has a certain role to play in making or breaking a leader ('Aamchi Bombay, Our Mumbai', April 30)

Whether he is a political or a religious *dada* he has to knock at the doors of newspapers to build a larger than-life image for himself (" the Press was playing into their hands and helping to create these monsters")

In Mani Ratnam's *Bombay* the journalist shoulders the responsibility of encountering these 'monsters' on the streets and offers himself for sacrifice at the altar of religious fanaticism

Forget the Hindi film-style romance in the film and you will realise *Bombay* reminds the audience of the potentiality and responsibility of this much maligned profession

Choton Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ There is little doubt that Bombay is a great survivor A city that can survive bomb blasts for several days, and riots, and the threat of an international conspiracy to destroy it, must be a great and resilient city

The hue and cry raised over Mani Ratnam's *Bombay* was purely a community reaction The Shiv Sena had no objection to the film and, in fact, were responsible for getting it released in the city

What objections can there be to a Hindu-Muslim marriage? India is secular and its people are free to marry anyone they wish without any religious bar

In fact, Mahatma Gandhi encouraged inter community marriages Indira Gandhi married Feroze Gandhi And in the film industry mixed marriages are very common Sunil Dutt and Nargis, Tiger Pataudi and Sharmila, Aamir Khan and Rina, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and Subhalakshmi, Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri are just a few names that come to mind

Bal Thackeray's decision to cleanse Bombay of illegal residents should be well lauded Look at the state of Bengal, overburdened with refugees, and not knowing what to do

The new saffron ministry has started off well with firm actions like enforcing anti-pollution laws for vehicles, making sports compulsory for academic institutions and reemphasising the need to adhere to the codes of advertising

Indeed, Bombay is poised for a great leap forward

Santosh Kumar Sharma,
Kharagpur



Arvind Swamy with Manisha Koirala in *Bombay*: Being responsible

■ If Bombay has to be renamed at all, it should be called Shivajinagar and not Mumbai

Prahlad Agarwala
Nadia (W B)

Farce Person

■ The First Person page is getting very boring Why don't you change the questions? We are tired of reading about the ambitions, deceitful statements and so-called ideals of political personalities

Why don't you interview people from the world of cinema? Like A R Rahman or Arvind Swamy?

Sourav Ghosh Chowdhury,
Calcutta

Children of Politics

■ Tavleen Singh's 'A Hell on Earth' (April 9) was a poignant portrayal of the mess that Kashmir is in

What are we leaving behind for the children? A bleak future?

Nazma Tanweer,
Calcutta

INSIDE



PAGE 6

IN A spiritual journey to the past, leaders of two religious traditions both of which have experienced suffering and exile, meet to share their mystical wisdom

PAGE 26

A TRIP down picturesque Salzburg where it is Mozart, Mozart everywhere

The Dalai Lama

SECTIONS

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21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 PANORAMA
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover The Dalai Lama photograph by Tapan Das

"The eye shadows were perfect, the lipsticks smashing. But the lady behind the counter was not willing to sell."



Sarwat Khan, 26,
Artist, New York



"They're not for sale. Not until you try them first," she said with a smile, pointing out to The Orchids: rich lipsticks, lush mascaras, sheer foundations, displayed on an exclusive counter.

She watched me try a pastel pink lipstick.

"Perhaps a rich pink would suit you better," she said softly. A trained beauty counsellor, I could tell, just like they have back on Fifth Avenue. Polite, and unwilling to push a product not suitable to the customer.

"Lakme has spent many years studying skin types before creating The Orchids. Each product has been specially made to suit the Indian complexion."

"Ah, you've already noticed," she said, seeing my expression of joy.

The pink was perfect

THE ORCHIDS

THE EUROPEAN COLLECTION FROM LAKME EXPORTS

COVER STORY

Don't Worry, B Buddhist

In his journey through mystique, The Jew in the Lotus, *Rodger Kamenetz attempts to fuse the two traditions of Judaism and Buddhism* ***Arthur J. Pais*** *on the mysterious connections between seemingly different Gods*

IN 1989, THE SAME YEAR HE WAS AWARDED THE NOBEL PRIZE, the exiled Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, turned to a group of Jewish leaders in New York for help "Tell me your secret," he said, "the secret of Jewish spiritual survival in exile."

The Dalai Lama was concerned not only about the political struggle for his people, but also about keeping Tibetan religious traditions alive in exile

A few months later, eight Jew rabbis and scholars, and a poet, travelled to Dharamshala for the first ever dialogue between Buddhist and Jewish religious leaders

A class in progress in Dharamshala





The Jewish delegation was also feeling that Jewish people in America had lost much of their own religious tradition and history

So it was apparent to them that they were not going to teach the Dalai Lama anything startling and that they were more interested in sharing with him Jewish mysti-



cal thoughts and learning from him about Buddhist mystical traditions.

But they also knew that they had a rich menu of crises to choose from — the expulsion from Spain, the Inquisition and the Crusades were among the many disasters the Jews have faced.

But all of them were thinking of the Holocaust in which an estimated six millión Jews perished at the hands of the Nazis. Earlier, Rabbi Lawrence Kushner had told the Dalai Lama

when they had met in New Jersey. "The Chinese came to your people as the Nazis came to mine."

Rodger Kamenetz, poet and director of Jewish Studies at Louisana State University, was one of the nine delegates. His account of the momentous journey, *The Jew in the Lotus*, was published recently by HarperCollins in America.

A graduate of Yale College, with advances degrees from Johns Hopkins and Stanford, he is the author of five books, including *Terra Infirma and The Missing Jew: New and Selected Poems*.

"Seeing the photographs of the Chinese destruction of Tibetan Buddhist monastries, temples and libraries," he writes in *The Jew in the Lotus*, he recalled "the systematic Nazi destruction of synagogues.

"When I read about celibate Tibetan nuns and monks being humiliated and tortured, I remembered the SS forcing rabbis to spit on the Torah before shooting them. And the death of more than one million Tibetans as a result of occupation brought up the inevitable charge of genocide."

Much before the publication of the book Kamenetz had made TV history when CNN beamed pictures to viewers worldwide showing him challenging David Duke, a former Nazi sympathiser, and now an ultra-right politician. Kamenetz confronted Duke when he visited the campus of LSU during his unsuccessful campaign for governorship of Louisiana four years ago.

Kamenetz writes that during the face-to-face confrontation, he was serene deep inside him. (Elsewhere in the book, Kamenetz who is initially a sceptic and irascible, is confronted by a lama originally from Montreal. "You doubt everything else," the lama says. "Why not doubt anger?")

And that this serenity rose from the indepth meetings with the Dalai Lama and fellow Buddhists. "If you have ever practised Buddhist meditation and found that you are calmer, that you are less prey to emotions, that you handle your ups and downs better, then I think naturally as a Jew. Is there anything like this in my own tradition?"

"I believe the answer is yes."

But the answer did not come easily.

"I have to admit that going into this project, my attitude was something like, these people are fakes," says Kamenetz, referring to the hundreds of American Jews, including poet Allen Ginsberg who had embraced Buddhism.

"My attitude now is that maybe we can learn something from the Buddhist experience, something to help us strengthen contemporary Judaism and make it a little more complete."

The Jew in the Lotus, a philosophic, intriguing, and yet fun-filled book, lucidly recollects the journey to India. Kamenetz has written a book that can be read without any problems even by those who have no idea of the esoteric sides of Judaism and Buddhism.

The Jewish delegates were charmed by the Dalai Lama's boyish enthusiasm. "At one point, (Rabbi) Zalman Schacter mentioned *devas*, Kamenetz recalls. "He translated it further for the Dalai Lama as 'angels'. Now the Dalai Lama knew something about the angels -- his eyes lit up and he went on for about 20 minutes with all kinds of questions about angels. What colour are angels? Do angels affect the weather conditions? Do angels cause earthquakes?"

A large number of Jews are not aware of the Jewish esoteric teachings found in the texts of Kabbalah, and as Kamenetz and fellow travellers listened to the Dalai Lama's questions, they wondered if this was one of the reasons why many spiritually inclined Jews have opted for Buddhism, rather than seeking out the mystical tradition inherent in their own religion.

"It is not really that these people



A large number of Jews are not aware of the Jewish esoteric teachings found in the texts of Kabbalah, and as Kamenetz and fellow travellers listened to the Dalai Lama's questions, they wondered if this was one of the reasons why many spiritually inclined Jews have opted for Buddhism

Richard Gere: Seeking solace in Buddhism



were alienated from Judaism," Kamenetz said in an interview

"Judaism itself was not presenting its best face or tradition to us

"How did mainstream Judaism after World War II present itself to young, socially curious people? It was very outward-looking and exotic," he says

"It was very outward-looking and exoteric It was involved in political issues

"I grew up as a Reform Jew — and Reform Judaism was the civil rights movement, it was liberalism, but it was not talking about God or spirituality or how to improve yourself"

Discussing the points of similarity between the two religions, Kamenetz says "One of the key concepts of Buddhism is *shunyata* — the sense of 'emptiness' you strive to attain Similarly, I think the Kabbalists (those who follow the Jewish mystical tradition found in such literature as *Zohar*, the 13th century Kabbalistic masterpiece from Spain) realised that all these personal names we ascribe to God in the Torah — judge, king, father, — are just images, not the ultimate reality

"And the name they give us to the ultimate reality is *ain sof* -- the impersonal aspect of God, sometimes translated as 'no thing' because when you are at that stage of contemplation there is nothing you can say"

For many years, says Kamenetz, "these mystical elements were suppressed and despised — certainly by the German Jews who developed the rationalist tradition of Reform Judaism"

"And yet one of the things the Dalai Lama asked us is, 'Why do you not open these teachings up to more people?'"

Rabbi Zalman Schachter told the Dalai Lama "Our teachings have been kept secret even from Jews for a long time

"So every day, when people get up and say their prayers, there is an exoteric order But hidden inside the exoteric is the esoteric, the deep attunement, the deep way"

Kamenetz notes that many Jewish parents are not happy to see their children towards Eastern philosophy as they see it as the genuine threat to Jewish continuity

"I don't think any Jewish parent is happy to see their child becoming Buddhist or Hindu," he says.

"But if we start asking ourselves why did these people do this, maybe we are asking a better question And if we start asking among ourselves and with these people, maybe we would come to a better understanding"



Rodger Kamenetz: Drawing parallels between Judaism and Buddhism

Two years following the dialogue, Kamenetz says, "There was at least one effect of Jewish dialogue with the Dalai Lama had become clear The Tibetan leader now consistently describes the tragedy of his people as "cultural genocide" and "a Buddhist holocaust"

And more than before, the Dalai Lama, who became the first official visitor to the Holocaust Museum in Washington last year, has been making efforts to enlist the support of international leaders to highlight the plight of Tibetans

At a tribute to Tibet that followed, Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, and a Noble Peace Prize winner, told the Dalai Lama that Tibetans better learn the facts of life that the 20th century has taught the Jews "Prayers alone are not sufficient"

The Dalai Lama has begun to understand the importance of Tibet as a physical country

He is warning fellow Buddhists, particularly those from foreign countries, against fatalism that is accompanied by a feeling that things are not after all so bad since 200 Tibetan monasteries have sprung up all over the world, many taking the names of ancient monasteries destroyed by the communists in Tibet

"It is very unlikely that (the sacred land of Tibet) can survive as a cultural and spiritual entity if its physical reality is smothered under Chinese occupation," he told American Buddhists last year "Clearly, in this light, active support for the Tibetan cause is not just a matter of politics It is the work of *dharma*"

There are a number of practical results that have followed the dialogue Several major Jewish organisations have recorded their support for Tibetan people and the Jewish-Buddhist dialogue continues at the religious level in many cities and towns across America

How did the dialogue affect Kamenetz?

"My image of the encounter goes back to the moment we first saw the Dalai Lama in Dharamasala, at Tsuglakhang, the main temple We were sitting in a row on metal folding chairs I overheard Richard Gere explaining to Zalman Schachter (one of the delegates) some of the many *thangkas* hung about the temple, painted on silk in the bright primary colours Tibetans delighted in One behind the Dalai Lama depicted a layered cake of Buddhas rising up in rows

"Zalman asked about the pool of water where they meditated 'Actually,' Richard Gere said, 'that pool of water is really a pool of nectar'"

"I could not have described our encounter with the Dalai Lama any better He provided us a pool of nectar to look into, sweeter than a mirror, so that we Jews could see ourselves, not necessarily as we are, but as we might"

This is what Kamenetz saw

"Judaism, stripped away of all its historical baggage, the long history of anti-Semitism and the defences it has aroused Judaism with its own joys and sweetness, and its own deep wisdom The Dalai Lama gave each of us a glimpse of that, a glimpse so powerful it changed every one of us who experienced it"

The Jew in the Lotus is getting excellent reviews across America

Discussing the chapters on meditation, *The New York Times* wrote "To read these chapters (of *The Jew in the Lotus*) is something like walking through the mythic garden, and they are cause for reflection on many subjects, not least of them the shape of human consciousness and what might be called a bending of tradition to such an extent that the richness of its resources becomes inaccessible"

His book is also acclaimed among the literatti Robert Olen, the Pulitzer Prize winning writer, Rosellen Brown, a bestselling writer, and E L Doctrow, one of the most honoured writers in contemporary America today, are among them ■

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Aries

March 21—April 20



Sun-Mercury conjunction makes you alert, vocal, communicative and very sociable, claims Ganesha It is time for travelling, calls and contracts Brothers, sisters and relatives will have much to do with you Your creativity will be fully matched by your independence

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Venus, your planetary ruler, is well placed with both Neptune and Saturn resulting in long range planning, contracts and commitments Your charm and patience will help you to carry home the booty Buying, selling, and shopping are clearly indicated

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Time to shift into high gear, mentally, emotionally and physically The house will clamour for its full share of attention and energy A conflict of interest could therefore arise for the working man or woman Behind-the-scene activity will be absolutely hectic Get set to travel shortly

Cancer

June 21 –July 20



While expenses tear into you, rest assured, you will cope with them and could even make a killing or two Rely on friends, well-wishers and social organisations Your luck will hold, specially with large organisations, because Venus and Saturn is in fine formation

Leo

July 21—August 21



You will be signing contracts and deeds Also, important changes will have to be made and guide-lines laid down in procedures and methods Friendships, socialising, having a ball, attachments, romantic inclinations and flirtations are more than likely

Virgo

August 22—September 22



The screws will be really turned on you and you will have to cope The personal aspect and the professional angle now cause psychological posers and even physical violence On the plus side, trips, ties, collaborations, buying and selling are foretold

Libra

September 23—October 22



Beware of wagging tongues and the green-eyed monster, jealousy Expenses could literally murder you Hospitalisation is not ruled out June 8-10 is for inspirational moments, honours, awards, travel and tours You will recover lost ground, so to say

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Take care of finances which would then take care of themselves Or there could be a financial squeeze Romance blooms and a lot of activity is possible in that direction If you get too emotional you could get hurt or, at least, singed Beware of accidents

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Ganesha says, you could be on a collision course, unless you are wary and diplomatic Your work will also demand too much from you Legal matters will keep you busy June 7, 8, and 10 give conditions of relief It is then that flirtations and partnerships are also possible

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



The twin focal points are job and health A few changes can be expected and you may have to tow the official line willy nilly While you could be physically under the weather, your heart will be most eager and willing for a supreme fling and that is the paradox of it all Go slow

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Your feelings will be deeply stirred Be it a child, or flaming romance or a burst of creativity Financial jugglery will be required for most of you It would be wise to safeguard your health Many of you will be in a mood to open out, accept life totally and yet move ahead

Pisces

February 19—March 20



The domestic front could be hit, unless you are very cooperative and conciliatory Legal battles are indicated, or, at least, a little heart burning Paradoxically, new ties and alliances and liaisons are absolutely fated These contradictions make June an exciting time It all starts now

BIRTHDAYS

June 4: Moon-Mercury sextile suggests skills and tact, which would stand in excellent stead to salesmen, dream merchants and those in media and communication.

June 5: Venus-Saturn in fine tune helps writers, artists, researchers, sculptors, businessmen and scientists, asserts Ganesha. Those in wholesale trade do well.

June 6: The Moon's first quarter could roughen matters a wee bit. You must guard against nervousness and anxiety Accept changes gladly and then move ahead.

June 7: Moon-Pluto placing helps you to take the lead, be creative, settle issues, shares, or have an issue. Those in business and profession gain most by this placing

June 8: Moon-Sun excellent position proves favourable to all Geminis, specially to government servants and officials, artists, entertainers, actors and media people

June 9: Moon-Neptune square might result in psychological problems and acute tensions On the positive side, your creativity and talents will help you

June 10: Moon-Mars sextile helps you to give your best to your work and play too That by itself should be pretty fulfilling. Your finances will improve

EXTRACT

Dharma DILEMMA

RAVAN & EDDIE
KIRAN NAGARKAR

BY KIRAN NAGARKAR

Extracted from Ravan & Eddie by Kiran Nagarkar; Viking (Penguin India); Rs 195

The Hindus and Catholics in Bombay's CWD *chawls* (and perhaps almost anywhere in India) may as well have lived on different planets. They saw each other daily and greeted each other occasionally, but their paths rarely crossed. Ravan and Eddie too went their separate ways. It was not just a question of different religions and cultures, they shared neither a common colonial heritage nor a common language. India won independence from the British in 1947. The tiny state of Goa, tucked into a pocket of the subcontinent, was a Portuguese colony till 1961. When the Catholics from CWD *chawls* went home to Goa, they needed a Portuguese passport. Their children went to 'English-medium' schools run by Catholic priests and nuns in Bombay. They learnt Marathi, the local language of the region, under duress for a few years and tried to forget it as quickly as possible thereafter.

At home, they switched unconsciously to Konkani. Their parents who were educated in Goa, spoke and wrote fluent Portuguese. The Pope and Rome were important to them but the most devout event of their lives was kissing the toe of the miraculously undecaying body of Saint Francis which had rested in the Bom Jesu Church in Panjim, the capital of the colony, for over 300 years. They celebrated Christmas but they really let their hair down at the Carnival in Goa.

There was prohibition in the state of Bombay, as it was known then. In Goa, wine and booze, both the local and foreign brews, were available dirt cheap. You drank for fun and sang and danced without reason. Goan Catholics were born and bred in India but their umbilical cord stretched all the way to Lisbon. Practically all the Hindus at the CWD *chawls* spoke Marathi or a dialect of it. Almost all of them went to Marathi municipal schools where the second language was English. English, the language of the former coloniser, was still the key which opened doors and gave you special privileges. But it was taught so badly and feebly in vernacular schools that it retained the status of a perpetual hurdle.

Parallel worlds can only meet in a geometrical utopia called the horizon. Then where did Eddie learn to speak Marathi like a native? And how did Ravan discover the sin of Cain? How did Hinduism bring these mortal enemies, Eddie and his sister Pieta, closer? What made tae kwon do part of Ravan's physical vocabulary when hardly anybody in India or the West had heard of the Far Eastern martial arts?

Perhaps the answer lies in subtle undercurrents, in phenomena or vibrations so tenuous that no instrument can record them. If history is the teeter-totter dialectic between heroes or villains and social forces, then chan-



ce, the stray remark and the accidental encounter are often the under-rated instruments which shape and reshape the contours of individual lives

In front of Chawl No 11 were open grounds On the left were an Indian gymnasium, a small Maruti temple, a sand-pit with three swings and a see-saw. The empty space changed character depending on the season and occasion

During the Ganapati festival, an icon of the god sat here under a cloth *shamiana* to the accompaniment of 14 hours of blaring and cracked film music, with a break at 12 noon and 8 pm for *arti* and other rituals Come election time, local leaders gave speeches here Once in a while the chief minister or a big name from Delhi would come and the grounds would be packed But most of the time it was a playground The boys played cricket and games like *kho-kho*, *hu-tu-tu* or *kabbadi-kabbadi* as it's called now, seven tiles and *gili-danda*, games that hardly anyone remembers today Sometimes, the Christian boys got together and played football

The space in front of the gymnasium, it was generally recognised, belonged to the Sabha, a volunteer organisation of Hindu revivalists, of white shirts and flared khaki half-pants fame "All are welcome Come one, come all," Lele Guruji, the head of the Mazagaon branch of the Sabha, told Parvati when she decided to enroll Ravan, as he told every mother who wished to recruit her son in the Sabha brigade Needless to say, in the all-encompassing 'all' of Lele Guruji, there was no room for Muslims

Parvati had no idea of the political sympathies of the Sabha and it certainly wasn't Ravan's idea to save India from non-Hindus Parvati's objectives were pragmatic Keep the boy out of her hair and out of trouble He had taken a bet of four annas with a boy twice his age that he could break three panes from his own kitchen window with three successive throws of the tennis ball with which they played cricket. He had lost the bet because, when he came to pick up the ball after the second hit, Parvati sliced it open with a knife and was willing to do the same with his head The older boy had come up to collect his dues but had instead to part with eight annas in damages because, as Parvati said, "At your age you should have known better "

There were barely 17 members in the Mazagaon branch of the Sabha Once, when Ravan showed some resistance to attending the Sabha sessions, Parvati hauled him along to Lele Guruji The Guru looked genuinely puzzled as he listened to Parvati's plaint "Now why would you want to stay at home when you can help build a great Hindu nation?" He wondered as he lifted Ravan off the earth by the narrow edge of his ear It was a stunning experience Ravan felt he had been shot in the head by a million pin-point pellets that exploded in undreamt of colours like Republic Day fireworks He was not overly keen to repeat this exercise in levitation

Putting on the white shirt and khaki half-pants (never called shorts) was a ritual as complex as a Samurai initiation First, the loin cloth You tie the strings around the waist at the belly button while the tail of the loin cloth trails on the ground Ensure that it's at the dead centre of the cleavage of the buttocks Now pick it up, bring it forward between your legs and pass it under the knot at your navel Heave Tighter and tighter Can't breathe? You're joking Looks loose even from this distance Haul, heave, pull and then pull some more till your testicles have ascended all the way into your brains Now pass the band of cloth over your crotch once again and tuck in the remainder as tightly as you can at the back

Your b s may be pinched, smashed, squashed and crushed but this home-made jock strap will make sure that you'll never get hernia Put on your vest and your shirt Pick up your half-pants The relationship of the bottom of each leg of the pants to the waist is as precise as the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter The flare is 7 19378345267 times the waist Put the left leg through the left khaki pyramid, then the right leg through the other pyramid Tuck in the shirt, very tight please Don't want to see a single crease in it at the waist, do we? Okay, button up and buckle up All set? Good Now just before you step out, shove your hand under the pants, get hold of your shirt and pull Go on, keep at it, the idea is to use your shirt to lever your half-pants up to your rib-cage, preferably all the way to the neck As soon as you reach the grounds, shove your hand in again and hoist the recalcitrant pants. This is the only way they can defy gravity Any time there's a break in the exercises, or your sister-in-law or Lele Guruji himself comes over to talk to you even when you grow up and become *Shakha Pramukh* and are talking to an assembly of distinguished guests, don't forget, yank up the pants

"Attention," Lele Guruji barked and 15 youngsters, five to a row, came sharply to attention Each boy stood a precise arm's length from his neighbour On the right, resting on the ground beside each child soldier for Hindutva, was his six-foot wooden staff Time to bring one's right hand smartly to one's chest and say Jai Hind before going home Instead Lele Guruji said "at ease" and followed it up with a "sit down"

He looked into the distance The all



too solid and numerous CWD *chawls* obscured his view, but he saw right through them into every boy's soul "Every day you reiterate your loyalty to our cause You swear that you have faith in our religion But faith is a torch Unless you light torches in the hearts and souls of others, our flame will waste and die

"Our Sabha desperately needs new blood " This was puzzling Why was the Sabha bloodthirsty? Hindutva is an infinite ocean But in the last few years, specially after the death of the great martyr Godse, the ocean is retreating " Ravan got the picture now Hinduism was an ocean of blood but there was a hole at the bottom, so you had to keep filling it "It is your bounden duty, it is your *dharma* to enroll at least one new member in the next 10 days Anyone who does so will get a magnificent calendar with a picture of the goddess Bhavani presenting her sword to his royal highness, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

"But even this is not going to be enough Our leaders have sent a special message to us For centuries, Muslims, Catholics and Protestants have converted Hindus It is time we turned the tide What we need is a wild bushfire that spreads across the country and brings back the lost souls to Hinduism Anyone who enrolls a non-Hindu in our Sabha will get a Wilson fountain-pen And the new member will be given not only a Wilson fountain pen and ball-point set but also a beautifully illustrated and abridged copy of the *Stories from the Mahabharata and Shri Krishna's Life* in Hindi, English or Marathi Go into the world and light fires, the fires of Hinduism Jai Hind "

Did Lele Guruji know what he was doing? That 10- and 15-year-olds, like 40- and 50-year-old adults, may pick only the out-of-context vivid phrase and act upon it? How many of Lele's pupils became arsonists must remain a matter of conjecture We must disappoint you and inform you that Ravan didn't But the mixed and the muddled metaphors of his Guru and the temptation of a Wilson fountain-pen when school would permit him to use a nib and holder had a fiery effect upon him He would convert, yes, he would be a missionary such as the world had never seen Having resolved upon a vocation, the question was whom was he to convert? What better place to start than home? No point letting go of the calendar After all, Lele Guruji hadn't said it was an either/or proposition He would win both the



calendar and the Wilson fountain-pen

"Dada, I need to talk to you about an important matter " His father was lying on the only bed at home in the living-room with his face to the wall If anybody had asked Ravan what his father did, he would have said, "He lies in bed with his face to the wall " He had done that ever since Ravan could remember

From the occasional outbursts of his mother, Ravan had gathered that there was a time when Shankar-rao Pawar had had a job He had been a weaving operator in a cloth mill, moved on to an ice-factory as loader, had done a stint as a car-mechanic's helper and then been a dark-room assistant in a photographer's studio

"Why don't you work like a man?" Parvati would scream at her husband every few months

"What's the point, I always end up resigning Mark you, I've never been sacked I've always walked out "

"Every man I know works Nobody sits at home "

"You should have married them You know so many of them God knows how intimately "

"You watch your tongue now My own husband saying such awful things about me "

"Why shouldn't I? You don't treat me like your husband You don't let me come into your bed "

"Is this any way to talk in front of a child? Besides, I would if you were a man and earned a living like one "

Ravan couldn't figure out why Parvati asked his father to mind his language He rarely swore He certainly hadn't just now Unless bed was a swear word

He had the strange sense that, when his parents argued about work, or anything else for that matter, they always ended up where they started No gains, no losses Back to square one His father still called him Ram Parvati called him Ravan If they called him Ravan in school, it was because Parvati had taken him over for registration Was he Ram or Ravan? Good or evil? Black or white? He had no idea He didn't mind being either His name was a source of taunts and baiting in school and in the *chawls* but even good, solid, decent names could be distorted and lent themselves to wit, rhyme and scatology 'Eat shit Dixit' "What the f , hard luck Deepak " He would have liked to have made everybody happy by calling himself Ram-Ravan or Ravan-Ram, but both his parents found the hyphenated conjoining offensive

His father wasn't sleeping, but if you wanted him to respond you had to repeat whatever you said

"Dada, I need to talk to you about an important matter "

"If it's fees, talk to your mother If your school principal's rusticated



you, I'm sure you deserve it Talk to her but I doubt if it will help Frankly if it's anything important, might as well catch her ear You know I don't count in this house "

"It's about some work "

"Not you too, you brat " His father got out of bed with unfamiliar alacrity, but Ravan sprang out of his reach "Don't you tell me how to lead my life "

"Not work work It's got to do with the future of the Hindu nation "

"Is that what you woke me up for, Ram?" He was very angry now "Well, you know where you can shove the future of the Hindu nation?"

"Where?" Ravan asked not so innocently, for he had a feeling that this was a rare occasion and his father was going to use some choice phrase But before Shankar-rao could reply, his mother was out of the kitchen

"Don't you dare, don't you say a word against our Hindu religion "

No, Ravan had to admit that recruiting his father was not a wise move How foolish of him Why hadn't he thought of it earlier? There was a candidate, no, a house full of candidates right next door The Dixits The mother and four daughters, like his own mother, had to be disregarded unfortunately since the Sabha, at least the Mazagaon branch, didn't admit any women, but between the Dixit father and sons, the tally was a goodly seven. And there was no doubt that you couldn't get a more eligible family than the Dixits They were the only ones apart from the Monteiros who flew the national flag on Independence Day

Should he talk to the youngest Dixit and then work his way up, or just talk to the boss man and leave the rest of the clan to follow? Caution, he counselled himself, best to talk to Chandrakant who's my age and my friend but choose a time when the father's around and casually direct some of the heavy stuff I have to say in his direction

Ravan chose the occasion astutely Five of the children and Ravan were playing not-at-home, the most popular game of cards in the CWD *chawls*, while Mr Dixit read *The Times of India*

Chandrakant narrowed his eyes and looked at his older brother like a policeman collaring a thief

"All right Ashutosh, it's about time you parted with the four aces you've been hoarding Let me have them "

"Not-at-home," Ashutosh yelled gleefully

"Chandrakant, the Hindu nation is in danger Only you can save it "

The effect of his words was beyond his wildest expectations Without looking at Dixit Sr, Ravan knew he had got his full attention He hadn't just lowered his newspaper, he was taking off his specs

"Me?" Chandrakant asked in wonder and awe at discovering such unexpected prowess

"Not just you You and your entire family The infinite ocean of Hinduism is drying up because Muslims, Christians, and," the word Protestant was too difficult and new for him, "Parsees are converting Hindus to their religion We need to light a fire to convert "

Ravan heard a rumble He had never before heard or seen a volcano but he knew in his guts that this was it

"*Sala*, you bloody murderers of Mahatma Gandhi, yes, yes, you, don't pretend to be so surprised, you murdered the Mahatma, you have the gall to come to my house and preach the gospel of the Sabha? Five times I have been to jail I left school to follow Gandhi and save our nation and now you want to destroy everything that we stood for and built? Out, out "

The whole building, Mazagaon, Bombay city seemed to resonate with that cry 'Don't you ever, ever step into this house Chandrakant, if I see you talking to this boy again, I will strangle you with my own hands " ■



TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-741	0620	1 3,4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC-742	1050	4,6
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1,3 5,7	PF-702	1610	1,3 5 7
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2 4,6,7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3,5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1,2,3 6 7	IC-722	1250	1 2 3 6 7
[redacted]					
IC-771	0800	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
[redacted]					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2 4,6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
[redacted]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-306	1840	5
9W-212	1945	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2-103	1935	daily
AI-309	2035	6	IC-274	1830	daily
AI-661	2350	1			
[redacted]					
IC-263	0700	daily	S2-025	0810	1 2,3 4 5,6
S2-026	0845	1 2 3 4,5,6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI-662	0950	1
IC-812	1700	1,3,5	S2-015	1015	1,3,5
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	4S-806	1130	1,2 3,4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1720	1,2 3 4,5 6	S2-005	1855	1 2,3 4 5,7
			IC-811	2055	1,3,5
S2-006	1930	1,2 3,4 5,7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC-264	2210	daily
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3 5	D2-181	1620	1 5,7
D2-181	1135	1,5 7	D2-183	1620	2,4 6
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	IC-702	1630	1,4,6 7
4S-816	1205	2 4,6	4S-815	1635	1,2,3
4S-812	1205	1 3,5	4S-811	1635	2,4,6
IC-701	1240	1,4,6 7	PF-738	1740	3 5
[redacted]					
IC-257	1230	2,4	IC-257	1605	2,4
[redacted]					
IC-703	0610	1,3,4,5,7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF-706	1510	2,4,6,7
PF-705	0730	2,4,6,7	D2-181	1620	1,5 7
PF 735	0730	1	D2-183	1620	2 4 6
D2-181	1135	1 5 7	IC 230	1620	daily
D2 183	1135	2,4 6	4S 811	1635	2,4 6
4S-816/811	1205	2,4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1,3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC-229	1310	daily	PF-738	1740	3,5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
HYDERABAD					
S2-023	1045	1 3 5	S2-024	1525	1,3 5
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5,7
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC-257	1230	2 4	IC 257	1605	2,4
JORHAT					
IC-213	0910	4 7	IC-213	1315	4 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC-811	2005	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	1 2 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1740	1 2 4 5,6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4,7	S2-015	1015	1 3,5
S2 016	1555	1 3,5	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
IC-812	1700	1 3,5	IC-811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-248	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF-705	0730	2,4,6,7	PF-706	1510	2,4 6,7
[redacted]					
IC-255	0800	3,5,7	IC-256	1250	3,5 7
IC-253	0800	1 2 6	IC-254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
[redacted]					
IC 213	0910	4 7	IC-213	1315	4,7
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3,5	PF-738	1740	3,5
VARANASI					
S2-016	1555	1,3,5	S2-015	1015	1,3,5
[redacted]					
IC-542	1115	1,3,5	IC-541	1030	1,3,5
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

AMMAN

RJ-185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4

[redacted]					
KL-876	0345	7	KL-875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
KB-105	0650	2, 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 5, 7	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 5, 7
AI-308	1950	5	AI-309	1925	6
[redacted]					
RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5, 7
[redacted]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[redacted]					
BG-092	0650	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1, 2, 3 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1, 3 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	BG 093	1825	1 2, 3 5 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
			[redacted]		
IC 747	1115	1 3, 5	IC-748	1455	1, 3 5
RA 214	1815	1 4	RA-213	1715	1 4
■ LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA-143	1525	3 7
■ [redacted]					
SU-538	1755	4	SU-537	1555	4
■ PARIS					
KB 106	1105	3	KB-105	0810	2, 6
KB 106	1325	5			
■ [redacted]					
SQ-415	2345	2 5	SQ-416	2230	2, 5
■ SOFIA					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	
■ TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure				Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn	
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312	
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006	
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004	
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382	
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304	
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302	
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun , Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306	
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues , Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074	
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048	
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010	
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008	
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050	
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040	
3019	16-05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020	
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022	
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660	
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318	
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030	
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036	
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032	
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026	
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072	
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016	
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri , Sat & Sun , Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160	
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Ar. Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172	
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328	
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182	
		Sealdah			
3141	13-40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed , Thurs , Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142	
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144	
3111	20-15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112	
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658	
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154	
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664	
3151	11 45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152	
3133	20-55	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134	
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104	
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thus & Sat	4 25	5186	

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16-20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fri Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13-45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22-05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	—
—	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
—	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
—	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

GOOD DOG

There are two types of people Those with dog culture and those without To a small room trembling from the effects of being under a flyover, come a surprisingly large number of those with dog culture Here two young vets, one from Haryana and the other from Bangalore, are worked off their feet from 9 am to 8 at night They work with a team of Nepalis, only one of whom is a trained assistant

This is the charity Friendicoes The phone rings constantly reporting sick or wounded stray animals which their van collects and brings to the shelter The veterinary practice helps with running expenses And so I brought my own dog here, and here she was for the sixth day, lying on a steel table being fed by drip As I sat and stroked her to stop her dislodging the pipe feeding her, animal loving humanity paraded past, distraught by non-human suffering

There was the elderly man whose puppy had distemper, and whose eyes on being told it would most likely die, filled instantly with tears "Don't break my heart," he said "After this I could never another dog " Three young boys brought in their pet, which refused to take medicine, and so the young vet instructed them how to squirt the drug down its throat with a syringe, and sent them off with strict instructions to feed it *zabardasti se*. Then there were the slumdwellers from the nearby *jhuggi* with their goat — a victim of a hit and run accident, and a wandering sadhu whose *Hanuman langur* was feeling indisposed A young man wanted to know if it was still all right for his dog to sleep at the foot of his bed, even though the animal had an infection

The dog as footwarmer and friend has been around at least since medieval times The great cathedrals of Britain are strewn with stone images of lords and ladies lying on their funeral beds Under their long pointed feet lies, more often than not, a curled up hound

A succession of rather grubby children kept on looking in at the door asking what was wrong with my dog They had come to play with the stray puppies, two at a time, which are kept for most of the day in pens in a greenish area

The door behind me opened This was the operating theatre, where at irregular intervals anaesthetised dogs, their tongues lolling to one side, were carried out, carefully wrapped in newspaper, into the recovery cage next door Most of the operations were for sterilisation Friendicoes specialises in the sterilisation of strays, and all the many permanent residents of the shelter have had the operation

One of the new strays that day was brought in by one of Friendicoes' regular visitors, Mrs Italia She saw me sitting by the drip looking tearful and came to console me Soon her daughter arrived too — to comfort the dog as much as me She stayed for five minutes and then, overcome by the sight of the unconscious animal, became giddy and faint and had to step outside

There was the elderly man whose puppy had distemper, and whose eyes on being told it would most likely die, filled instantly with tears. 'Don't break my heart,' he said

Why should one care so much for a dog? Perhaps because lack egos What-ever tensions there may be between human beings, there is no tension or lack of undertanding between human and animal The only thing they do to upset you is to get sick and die

The level in the saline drip bottle declined, and I remembered John Updike's poem, *Dog's Death*, one of the most touching about a family-pet relationship, the story of the fate of a puppy still being house-trained

She must have been
kicked unseen or brushed by a car

Too young to know
much, she was beginning to learn

To use the newspapers
spread on the kitchen floor

And to win, wetting
there, the words, "Good Dog! Good Dog!"

We thought her shy
malaise was a shot reaction
The autopsy disclosed
a rupture in her liver
As we teased her with
play, blood was filling her skin
And her heart was learning to lay down forever

Monday morning, as
the children were noisily fed
And sent to school, she
crawled beneath the youngest's bed
We found her twisted,
limp but still alive
In the car to the vet's,
on my lap, she tried

To bite my hand and
died I stroked her warm fur
And my wife called in
a voice imperious with tears
Though surrounded
by love that would have upheld her,
Nevertheless she sank
and, stiffening, disappeared

Back home, we found
that in the night her frame,
Drawing near to dissolution, had endured the shame
Of diarrhoea and had
dragged across the floor
To a newspaper and
carelessly left there Good Dog

The vet untied my dog, from the table and shook her feet to wake her from sedation Unsteadily we went home together, neither of us sure she would get better And behind us the vets and Bahadurs went about their daily work, in a not so rough and ready way, caring for all comers, animals and human

(Sanctuary Features)

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

WALNUT THIEF

It is nice to have a walnut tree just outside the window This is a tree for all seasons In winter its branches are bare but they are smooth and straight and round like the thighs of a dancing goddess

In the spring, each branch produces a hard, bright spear of new leaf By May, the entire tree is in leaf and by July, the walnuts, encased in green jackets, have reached their full growth

But they do not ripen until mid-August Then the outer skin begins to split, revealing the hard, brown shell of the walnut Inside the shell is the nut itself

Look closely at it, and you will observe that it is shaped rather like a human brain No wonder the ancients prescribed walnuts for headaches

Every year, the tree makes us a gift of a basket of walnuts But this year, the walnuts have been disappearing one by one and I am at a loss to know who had been taking them

Could it be Bijju, the milkman's son He is an inveterate tree-climber But he is usually found up oak trees, gathering fodder for cows He tells me his cows do not eat walnuts He admits that they ate all my dahlias last week but says they will not touch walnuts

Last week I found a fat *langur* sitting in the walnut tree. I watched him for some time to see if he was going to help himself to the fruit, but apparently he was only sunning himself.

Later when I was not looking, he came down and ate the geraniums, but he did not take any walnuts



She is an old *pahari* woman, her face is as wrinkled as the walnuts she has been stealing. In spite of her age, her arms and legs are sturdy. When she sees me, she is as quick as a civet cat in getting out of the tree

It is not the woodpecker He is out there every day, knocking furiously against the bark of the tree, trying to prise an insect out of a narrow crack

The walnuts have been disappearing very early in the morning, while I am still abed So this morning I decide on surprising everyone, including myself, by getting up before sunrise

"Day, you will not begin without me!" I declare and, emerging just before dawn, I am just in time to catch the culprit climbing out of the walnut tree

She is an old *pahari* woman, her face is as wrinkled as the walnuts she has been stealing In spite of her age, her arms and legs are sturdy When she sees me, she is as quick as a civet cat in getting out of the tree

"And how many walnuts did you get today grandmother?" I ask "Only two," she says with a giggle, offering them to me on her outstretched palm

"You can keep them," I say "But you should have asked"

"People say you are an angry man So, I did not ask"

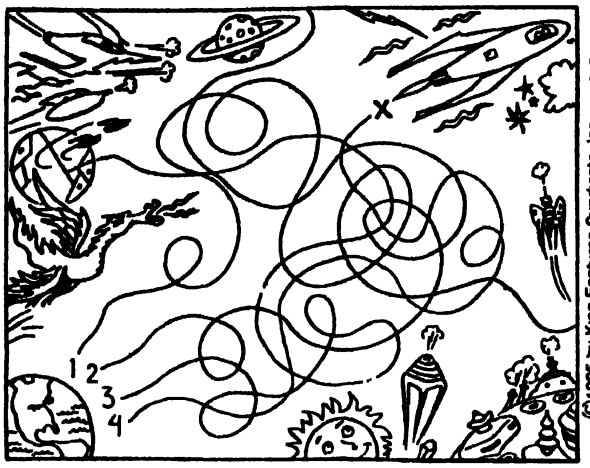
"I was angry yesterday and I will be angry tomorrow, but I got up too early to be angry today so you would do better to take all the walnuts you want"

She does not hesitate but climbs back into the tree and helps herself to all the remaining walnuts! It is impossible to object I am too busy admiring her agility in the tree wondering if I'll be able to climb walnut trees at 70.

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

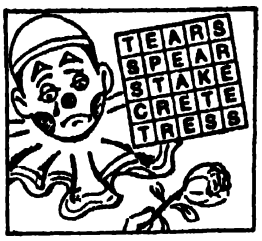
HAL KAUFMAN



SPACE CHASE! Just one route above puts the spacecraft on course. Which one? Choose path 1, 2, 3 or 4 to find out.

SAY WHAT! Let's see if you can complete these words from Mark Twain's "Life on the Mississippi": "I was gratified to be able to answer promptly, and I did. I said —" What three words are missing?

"I didn't know."



WORD JUGGLER EXERCISE

LET'S see if you can rearrange letters of the five words above to form a word square. That is to say, form a grouping of words that will read the same both across and down. Here's how:

1 Rearrange TEARS into a flower.

2 Rearrange SPEAR into a kind of tire.

3 Rearrange STAKE into business profits (slang).

4 Rearrange CRETE into an upright stance.

5 Rearrange TREES into times of repose.

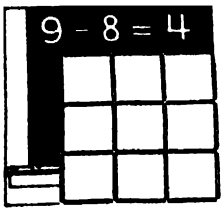
How quickly can you bring can you bring about the changeovers? Time limit: 2 min.

1 Aster, 2 Spare, 3 Takes, 4 Erect, 5 Rests

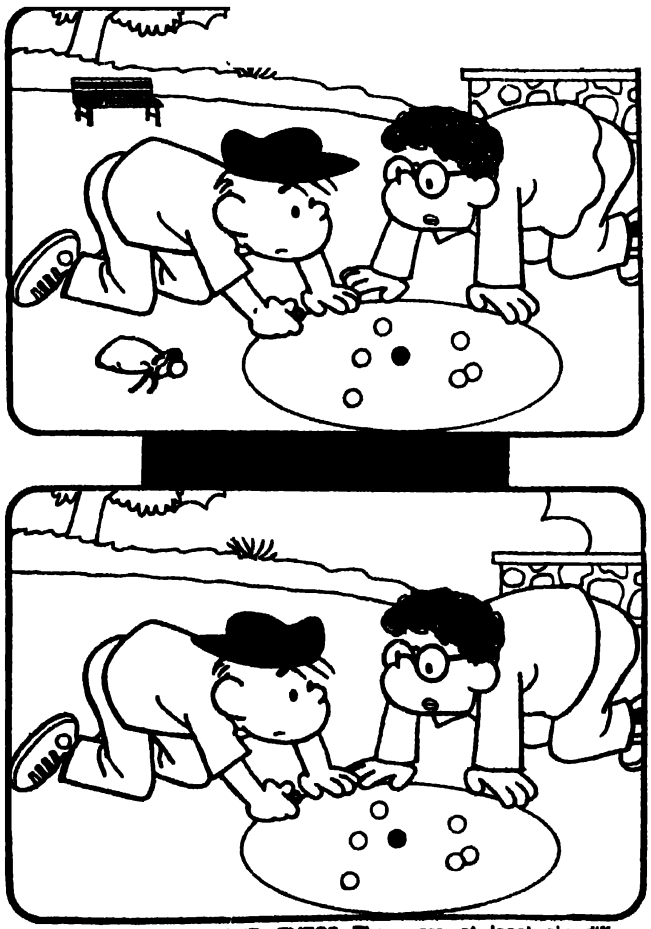
PICK PLAY! Nine minus eight equals four in the toothpick trick below — in a manner of speaking. Object is to remove eight toothpicks from the nine squares and have just four squares remain. How is it done? Give it a try before reading on. Try not to peek.

Here is the answer.

Alakazam, simply remove middle toothpicks of each outside row, then remove four toothpicks at center.



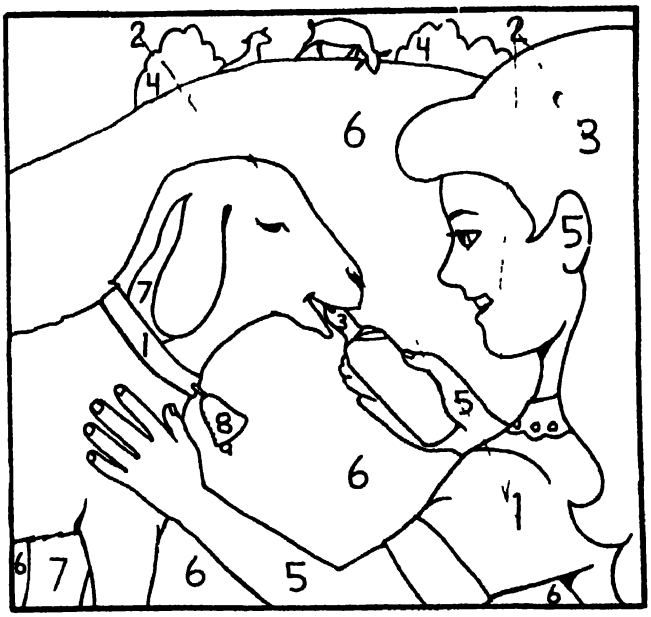
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Difference 1 Bench is missing. 2 Marble bag is missing. 3 Cap is reversed. 4 Arm is moved. 5 Wall is shorter. 6 Shirtail is different.

FUNSPOT



BO PEEP SHOW! Not to worry — Little Bo Peep's lost sheep have returned. Coloring code: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4 green. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Purple. 8—Orange.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

PALOMINO

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 30 points.

Possible two-worme: Moth, loop

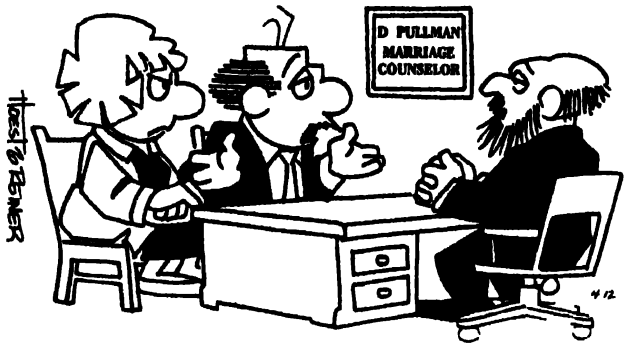
ARCHIE



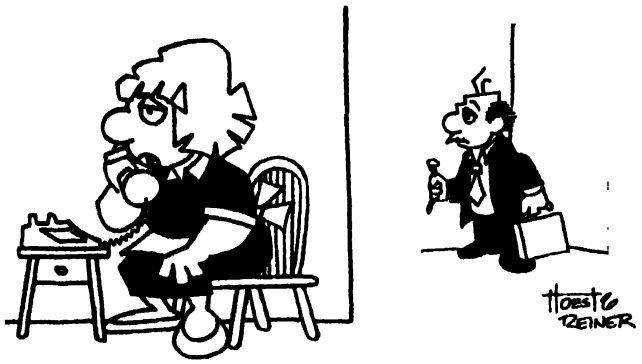
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



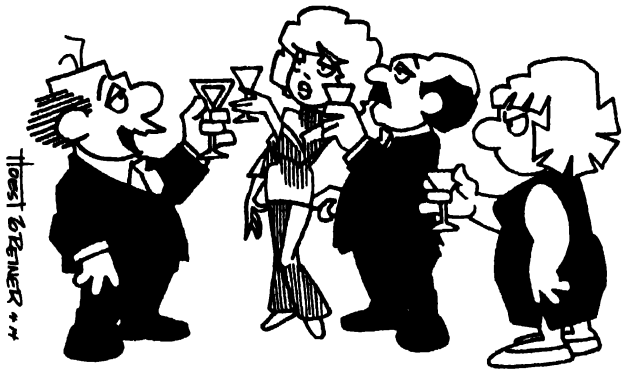
THE LOCKHORNS



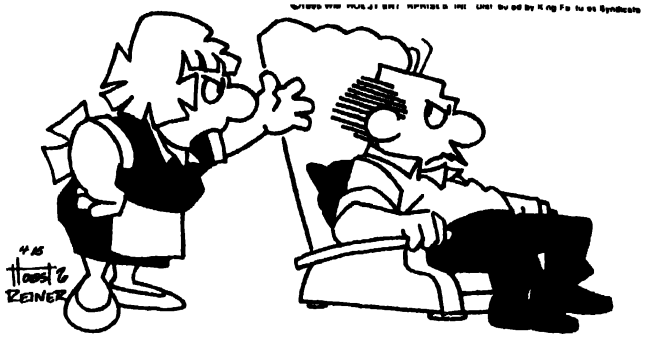
"LORETTA GAVE ME HER YOUTH . IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT SOMEONE ELSE SHOULD GET HER OLD AGE"



"I'M NOT WORRIED, HELEN LEROY WILL GET OVER IT."

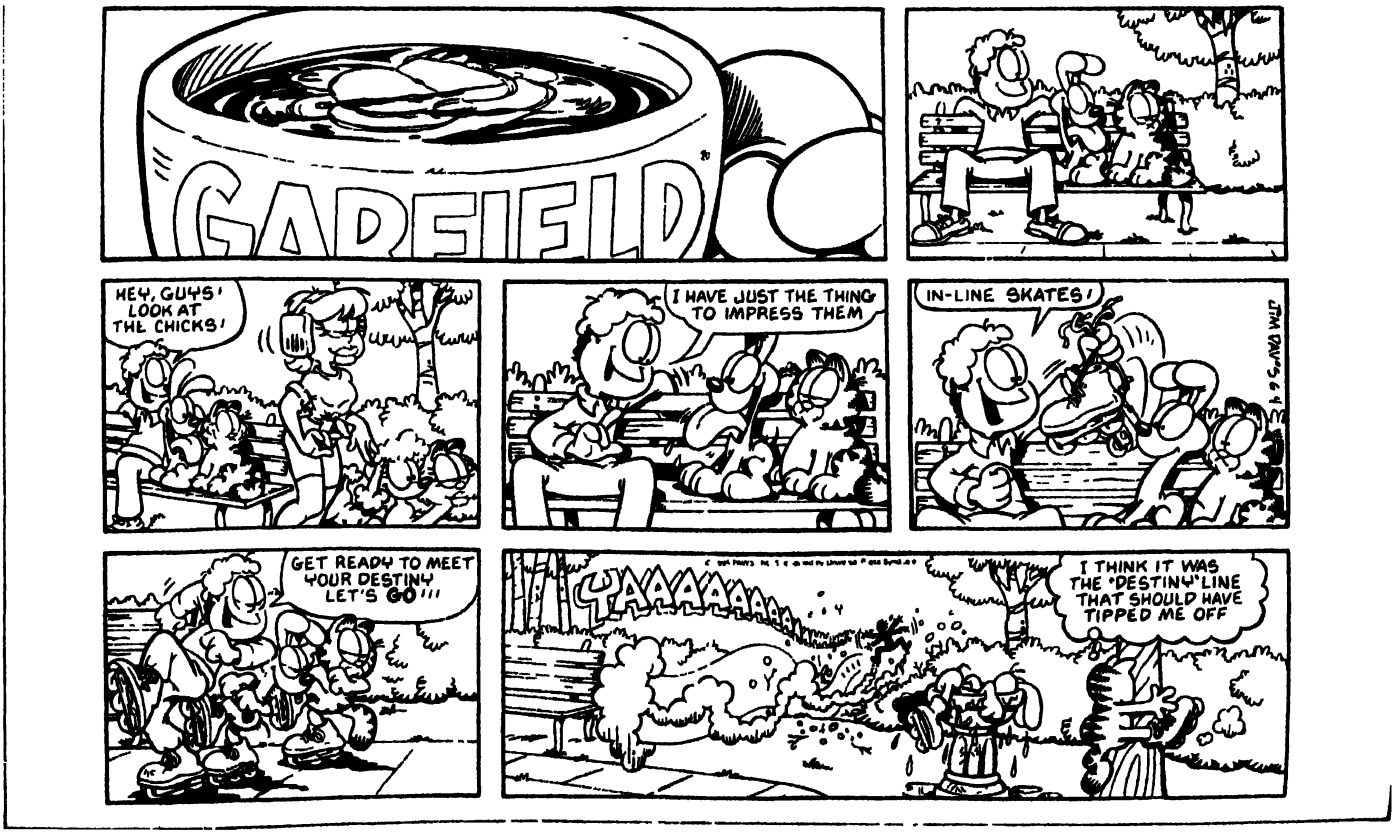


"TO THE LOVE OF MY LIFE FOOTBALL"

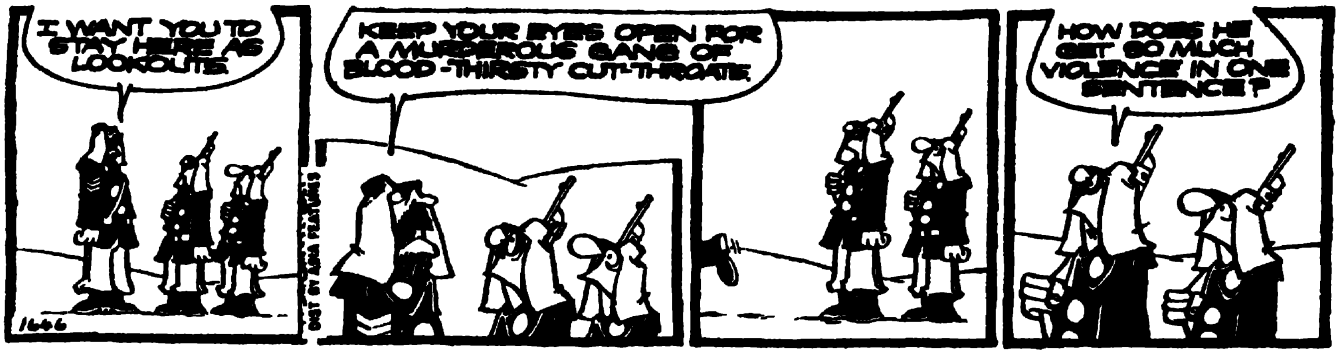


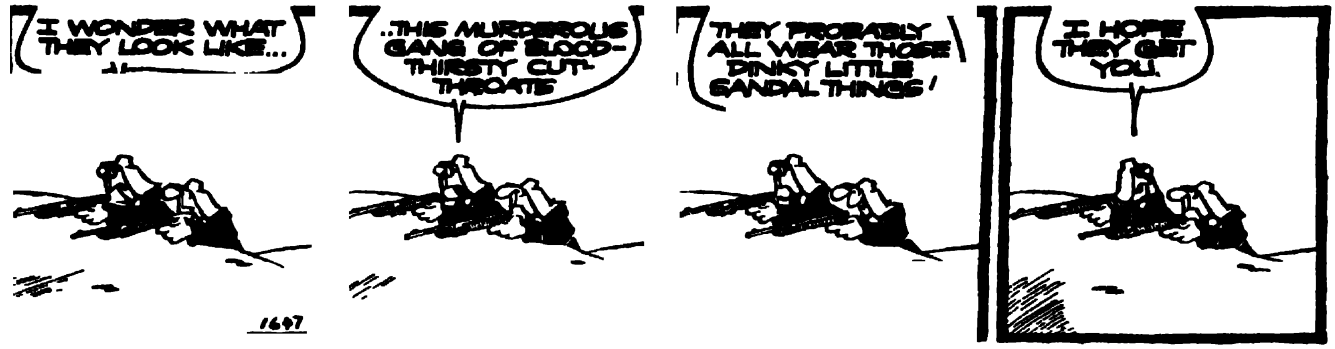
"YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER SAYS HE'S SORRY BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER NEEDS TO"

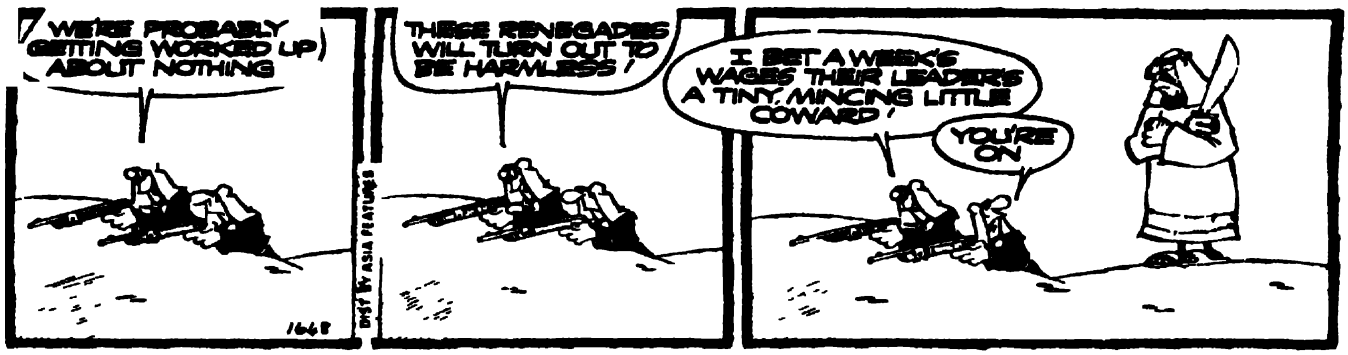
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



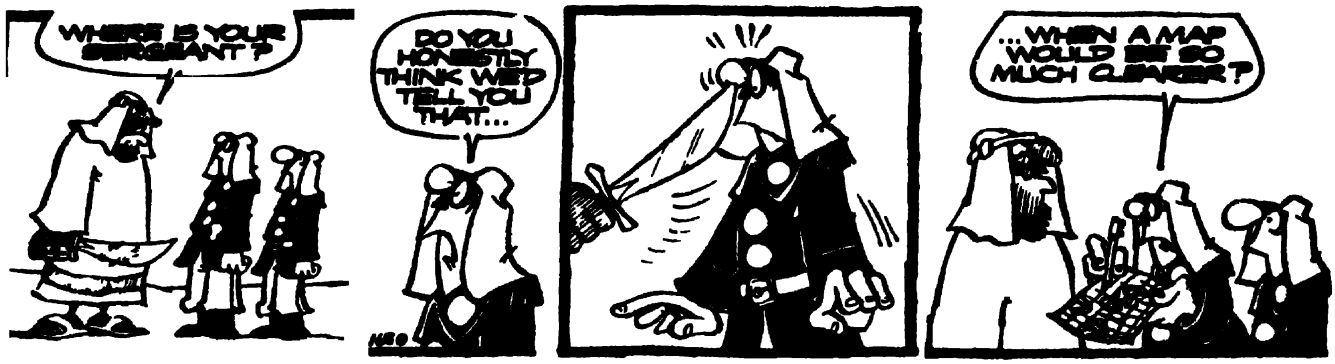
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

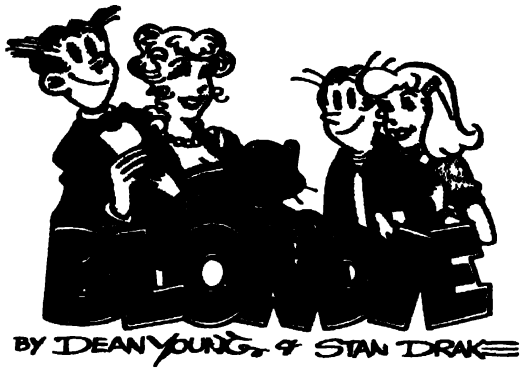


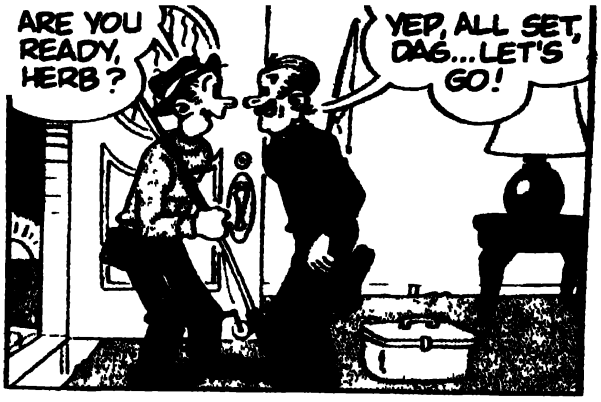








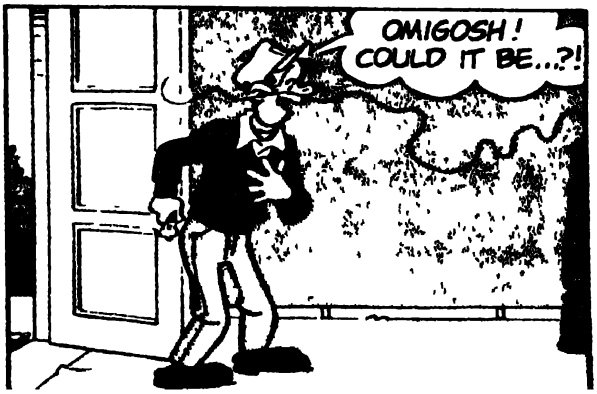




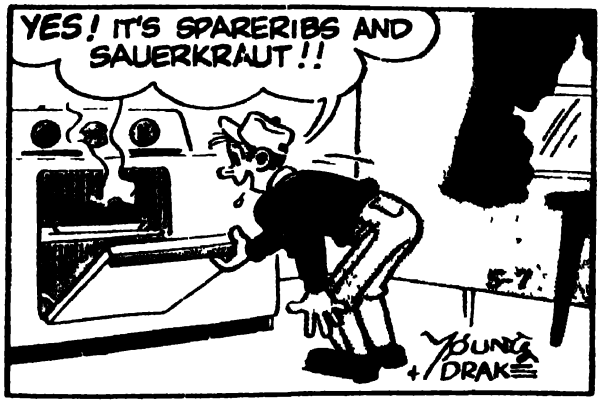






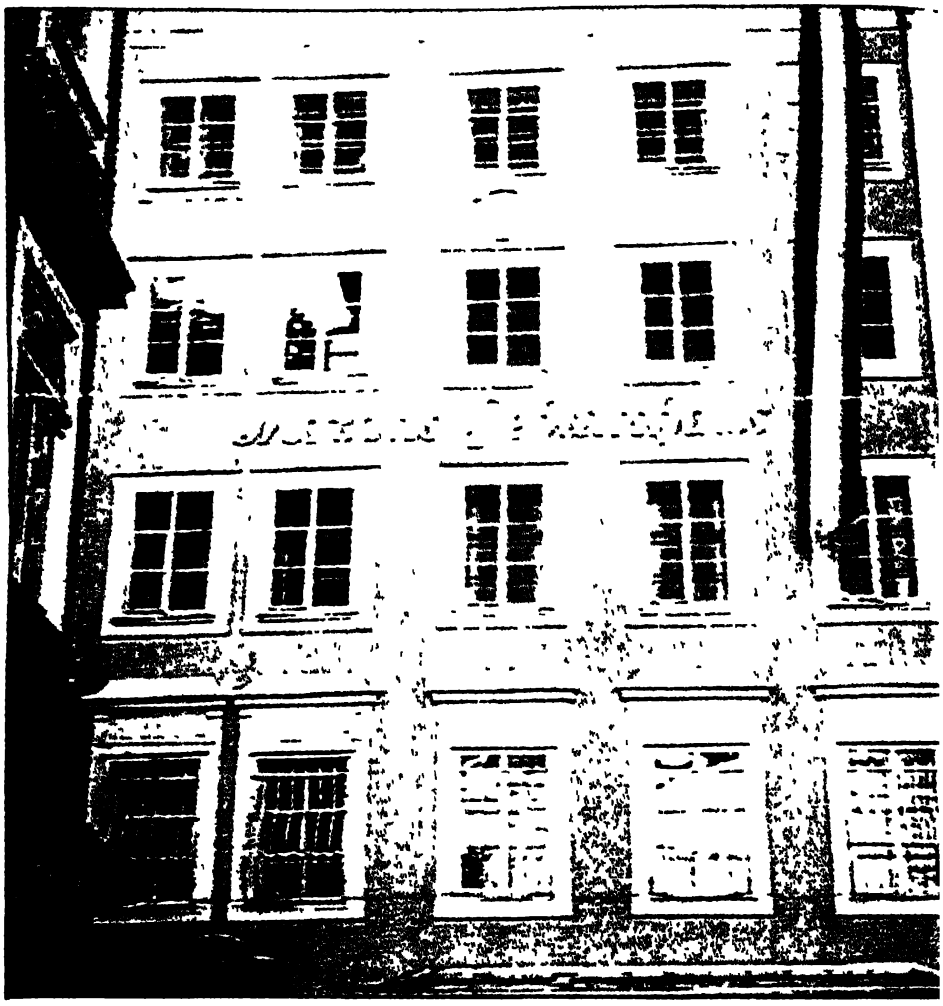


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Even though Mozart spent only the first few years of his life in Salzburg, he is the city's presiding deity, says ***Seema Sirohi***



Mozart's birthplace

HERE A MOZART.

Without Mozart there would be no Salzburg He was born here, learnt to play music, slept and ate here and went on to become one of the greatest composers of Western classical music

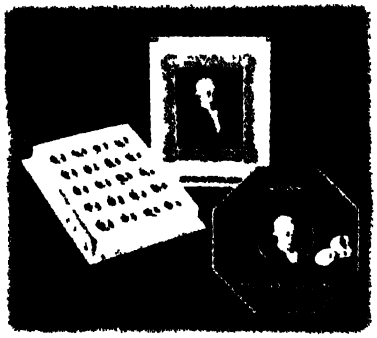
Even though Joannes Chrisostomus Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart spent only the first few years of his life in Salzburg, he is the city's patron saint, crowd puller, presiding presence and marketing genius He leaps out of sweet shops, liquor stores, music shops and, of course, the museums which are dedicated to recounting his every motion in life — musical or otherwise

You can buy Mozart chocolates, rum-filled Mozart bon-bons, Mozart pens, Mozart crayons, Mozart cufflinks, Mozart watches, Mozart goblets, Mozart bookends, Mozart paperweights and on, and on, and on

He seems to carry the Salzburg economy almost entirely on his musical shoulders The city's fathers and mothers are not complaining since, as their most famous son (ever), Mozart brings in millions of tourists from all over the world

His big eyes, framed by the famous curly hair tied in a chic pony tail, are everywhere His sonatas twinkle out of guilded windows, his statue stands supreme in you guessed it -- the Mozart Square

Every corner has a claim on Mozart and if you had any doubt whether Salzburg loves the man, you simply have to visit the Mozart Foundation which tenderly collects every word written on the musician Mozart societies around the world send in donations, documents, displays to be included in the collection



Marketing Mozart with chocolates

The only rival to Mozart in Salzburg is the *Sound of Music* tour which takes you to all the sites where the legendary film was shot You can relive the trials and joys of the Georg von Trapp family and see the famous gazebo where the love scene was filmed or visit the Rocky Riding School where the family sang its farewell song

The international hit still manages to get people all tender and teary-eyed with its real-life story of seven children who lost their mother and who then became attached to their governess The rolling hills and the snow capped Alps around Salzburg provided the backdrop for the film

But Mozart remains the reigning deity of the city and demands attention by his sheer omnipresence That Mozart was a rare genius, a child prodigy, a great composer is beyond doubt But to bump into him constantly in a crowded tourist centre of Europe can be a little unnerving



Mozart Square

Mozart gave his first public performance at the tender age of seven having composed his first piece of music already at four. He travelled with his father to various courts and concerts, capturing the hearts of music lovers. He wrote extensive letters describing the flavour of different cities. Some 180 letters by Mozart are in the library dedicated to his memory

THERE A MOZART

But as all pilgrims to Salzburg, we too visited Getreidegasse 9 — advertised as the birthplace of all birth places (Jerusalem beware!) After crossing one more Mozart memorabilia outlet strategically placed near the entrance, we emptied our pockets at the ticket counter since nothing in Austria is cheap be it fast food or food for thought

After paying the price of a pair of jeans on sale, we entered the building, our toes freezing from the cold April showers and seeking the warmth of a Mozart home. A compelling reason for visiting the museum had been to escape the unseemly weather. But, the building was not heated.

We were immediately transported back in time. The freshly-painted yellow building with white windows stands three stories high in Austria's most famous shopping street.

Getreidegasse is indeed a pretty street with its wrought-iron shop signs painted in gold. You can get lost in a maze of inner courtyards and small lanes if you gaze too long at Cartier watches or Palmers lingerie.

But no one can miss the landmark site since it is inscribed in huge letters as *Mozarts Geburtshaus* or birthplace.

It is here that Mozart was born in all his curly cuddliness to Leopold Mozart and his wife on January 27, 1756. Mozart's father was a well-known musician in his own right and he began training his children at an early age.

Mozart gave his first public performance at the tender age of seven having composed his first piece of music already at four. He travelled with his father to various courts and concerts, capturing the hearts of music lovers. He wrote extensive letters describing the flavour of different cities. Some 180 letters by Mozart are in the library dedicated to his memory.

The house where the genius was born is a regular middleclass apartment with four rooms of moderate size. Nothing fancy or ornate. Today, it houses a museum of Mozart's instruments, paintings and handwritten musical scores. His viola and violin are displayed as are his piano and clavichord — an instrument that looks like a half piano. You can see Mozart's visage on ivory, on paper, in relief, in stucco, in sketch, in oil.

His tobacco pouch rests alongside a string purse made by some lady of leisure. Mother of pearl buttons plucked from his trademark coats lie on a tray above a few strands of hair displayed under glass. A question mark follows the announcement, 'Mozart's hair'.

The diehard devotees gaze at the hair, nearly feeling the texture of his genius. A floor below are photographs and replicas of sets for Mozart's operas from around the world.



A view of Getreidegasse

Sets from *Don Giovanni* were on display at the time from performances in Dresden, Prague, New York, Vienna, Paris and other famous places. In some, the dark, sinister side of Don Juan came out, while in others, the elegance of high life.

A short slide presentation traced Mozart's early life (Salzburg wants to highlight only the years spent there and not the great years in Vienna) and how he enjoyed appreciative audiences. His wife Constance remarried after Mozart's early death at the age of 35 — but their two sons never married.

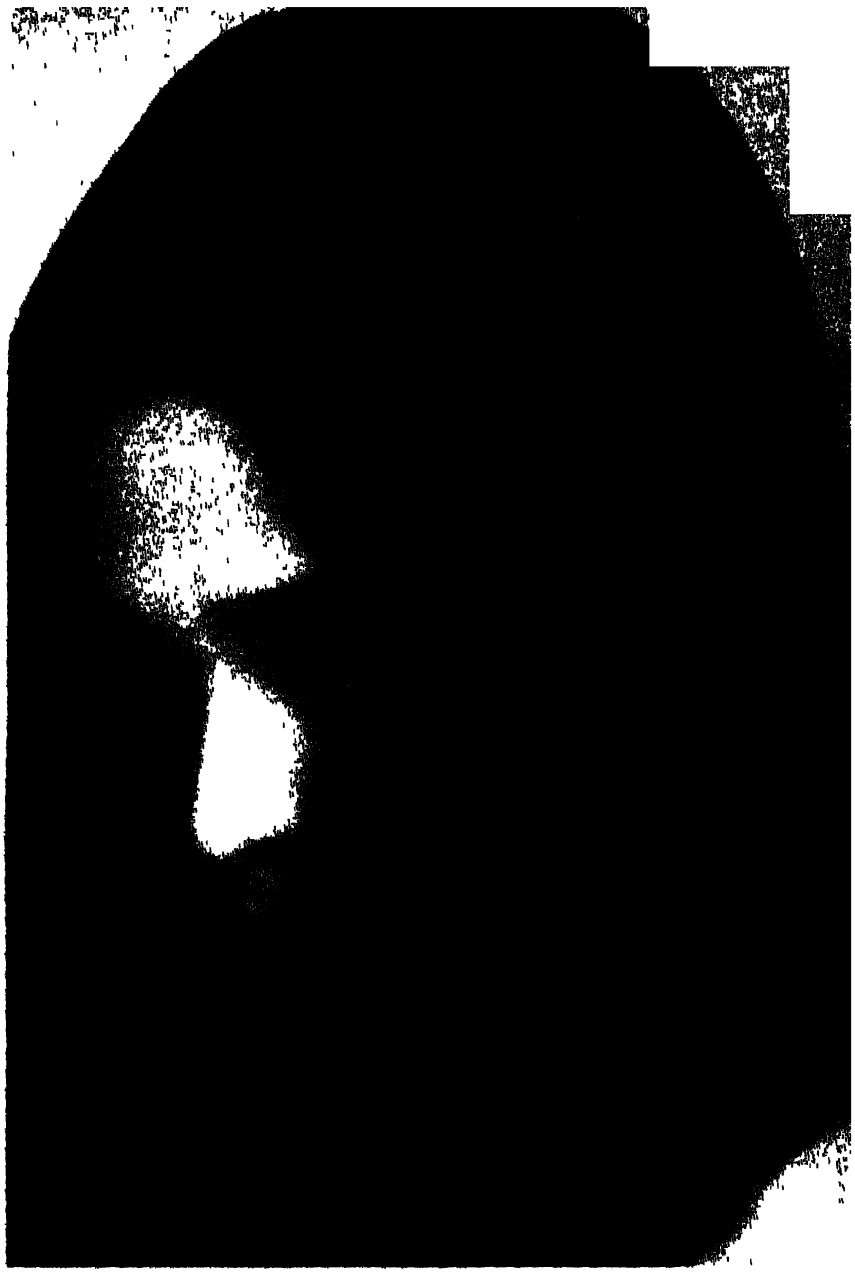
A floor further down was the Mozart Cafe — the umpteenth one in town, but we resisted the temptation to spring for another expensive Austrian experience, smarting, as we were, from earlier treats and their Cartier-like prices.

He was there on the octagonal red and golden case beckoning with all his charm. We succumbed and bowed to the box and bought one marvelling at the marketing of Mozart

But as we walked to the car we could not escape the *Echte Salzburg Mozartkugel* or the "genuine Salzburg Mozart round" — lovingly described as a "ball of marzipan rolled in nougat cream and dipped in bittersweet chocolate".

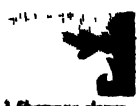
He was there on the octagonal red and golden case beckoning with all his charm. We succumbed and bowed to the box and bought one marvelling at the marketing of Mozart.

Our shampoo and conditioner don't work together. But isn't that the secret of beautiful hair?





Two-step action.



1 Shampoo cleans, conditioner holds back.



2 Conditioner acts on cleaned surface.

Unlike ordinary shampoos with conditioners, Satin Rinse Shampoo Plus Conditioner has a unique two-step action. First the shampoo works, while the conditioner holds back.

Only after the shampoo has finished cleaning, does the conditioner take over. This is of prime importance, as conditioners don't work on oily, dirty hair.

Because our conditioner acts on a totally clean surface, it does a more thorough job. Leaving your hair satin-smooth, shiny and beautiful.

And it's no secret beautiful hair makes heads turn.

In 4 variants for normal, dry, oily and undernourished hair.

SATIN RINSE

SHAMPOO PLUS CONDITIONER

LAKMÉ

TWO-STEP ACTION. FOR SATIN-SMOOTH HAIR

FIRST PERSON

SANJIV GOENKA, *34, is already the vice-chairman of RPG Enterprises, one of India's fastest growing industrial houses with an annual turnover of more than Rs 4,000 crore. An ex-Xaverian from Calcutta, this illustrious business magnate became the youngest-ever president of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and is also the former chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industries (eastern region) where he played a pivotal role in its centenary celebrations concluded a few months back.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
I am not yet experienced enough to know the secrets of happiness But this much I know, that happiness is not an external commodity It has to come from within
What is your greatest fear?
That I am not performing what is expected of me by my well-wishers
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My father, R P Goenka
What do you dislike most in others?
Too much selfishness
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My inability to match my own expectations.
What is your most precious possession?



The love and affection of my family
What objects do you always carry?
Balaji's photograph
What makes you most depressed?
People whom I trust letting me down
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My vanishing hair

How would you like to be remembered?

An ordinary entrepreneur who is always surrounded by exceptional managers

What is your favourite journey?

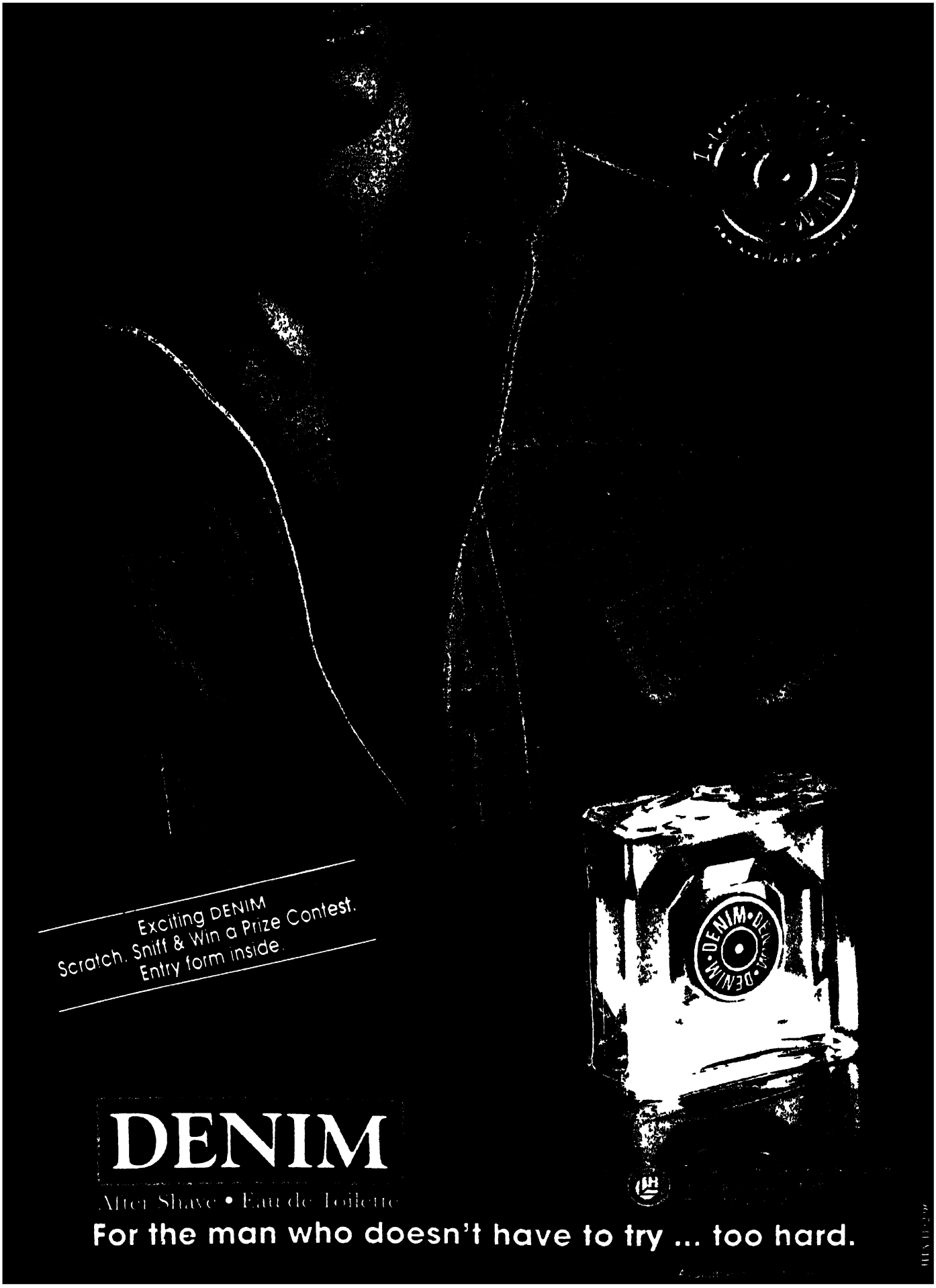
A trip to Kodaikanal

What is your favourite word?
I am not sure I have *a* favourite word
What is your favourite journey?
A trip to Kodaikanal
What is your favourite dream?
Successful completion of a major project well ahead of schedule
What is your nightmare?
Being let down by people I trust
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
My daughters — Vasundhara and Avarna
What is your source of sustenance?
Success
On what occasions do you lie?
When sugar-coating the bitter truth

What is your source of sustenance?

Success

is unavoidable
What is your greatest regret?
Why am I not content with six hours of sleep like my father I need eight hours
What has been your happiest moment?
The birth of our first child
What brings tears to your eyes?
When love is reciprocated
How do you relax?
Watching Hindi films on video
What do you envy most in others?
Their capability to do better than I
How would you like to be remembered?
An ordinary entrepreneur who is always surrounded by exceptional managers
How would you like to die?
To pass away in sleep


Exciting DENIM
Scratch, Sniff & Win a Prize Contest.
Entry form inside.
DENIM
After Shave • Eau de Toilette
For the man who doesn't have to try ... too hard.

ROUND - THE - YEAR

COOL



SPRINGFIELD. A WIDE RANGE OF BLENDS IN WOOL, SILK/LINEN AND RIE IN SUBTLE DESIGNS AND TROPICAL SHADES.

Raymond

SINCE 1924

The Telegraph

11 JUNE 1995

POST MORTEM

Taxing Time

■ The cover story, 'Driven by Fear' (May 7) shows that making a living in America can be tough. And dangerous, too

New York has traditionally been a crime-prone city and Asians, a minority community there, obviously fall prey to either racial discrimination or acts of crime

Good money could be a motivating force attracting immigrants to the taxi industry, but it is certainly no compensation for the dangers involved

'I would have been better off in Bombay," laments an Asian cabbie. Perhaps, but there would have been other hurdles to cross in Bombay Besides, crime is on the rise everywhere, including Bombay

Tarit Basu,
Calcutta

Knocked Out

■ Mike Tyson and Sunjay Dutt's stories are that of two famous personalities ruining their career and life ('What the Jail can do to a Man', April 23).

Tyson, who had knocked out many an opponent in his life to be the champ, is now himself out of the boxing ring Maybe he will



Prashant Arora

Sunjay Dutt: Arms and the man

make a grand comeback one day But his crime will never be erased from public consciousness.

In the other case, reel life hero, Sunjay, was stamped with the image of a *khalnayak* in real life, rightly or wrongly we are yet to know

Can they be called victims of circumstances?

Panchanana Baskey,
Baripada (Orissa)

■ The cover story tries to project Sunjay as an innocent babe. His "childish impulsiveness" had landed himself in a spot once, the story stresses

Sunjay was more than a mature adult and should have realised the pitfalls of possessing an AK-56

Debanjan Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ The idea of judicial punishment is to reform a human being, not to ruin his career. But in the case of Tyson and Sunjay their careers appear to have been prematurely terminated

Sanjib Dutta,
Calcutta

Seeing Stars

■ The best column in the Magazine is Inner Eye. Initially, I had no faith in astrology But after going through Bejan Daruwalla's weekly forecasts, I think I have developed some belief in the planets' influence on ordinary mortals like us

Priyatu Mandal,
Calcutta

■ I am told that a new zodiac sign has come into existence. Why doesn't Bejan Daruwalla include this in his Inner Eye column?

Tania Chakrabarty,
Kharagpur

Double Seshan

■ T N. Seshan has undoubtedly ushered in a great many changes in our electoral system but there have been occasions when he has overstepped his authority and behaved like a dictator ('Tu Cheez Badi Hai Mast Mast', May 7)

Now he acts as our moral guardian warning us about the ill effects of watching Bollywood films.

Seshan should not forget that he attends functions like the *Filmfare* awards Didn't he present Madhuri Dixit with the Best Actress Award?

Someone who hobnobs with filmstars should not be complaining of Bombay and television corrupting the youth

Anindya Dasgupta,
Srirampur (W B)

■ The constant beaming of television programmes has completely ruined the youth What is most lamentable is that television is killing the reading habits of everyone, more so the children — be it newspapers, serious journals, magazines or even bestsellers

Sunil Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ T N Seshan's book, *The Degeneration of India*, priced at Rs 299, will be a luxury. How many of us can afford to buy that book at this price?

Mir Afsar Ali,
Calcutta

INSIDE



Courtesy Ensemble

PAGE 4

TARUN TAHILIANI has shot into international fame with billionaire Sir James Goldsmith's daughter, Jemima, selecting him to craft her trousseau. But does this break mean anything at all for the Indian designers?

PAGE 26

FEATURING SOME Tarun Tahiliani creations

A design from Monapali

SECTIONS

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18 RUSKIN BOND
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 FOCUS
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Creations by Tarun Tahiliani, photograph courtesy Ensemble





Cut and THRUST

Next week Jemima, alias Haiqua, will be donning Tarun Tahiliani's designs for her marriage with Imran Khan What does this break mean for the Indian label in the international market? ***Amit Roy*** *and* ***Suman Bhuchar*** *talk to fashion industry experts in London and give the lowdown*

WHEN ISABELLA BLOW, A CONTRIBUTING EDITor of *Vogue*, went to a fashion show at the Dorchester Hotel in London in autumn last year, she met an "incredible designer".

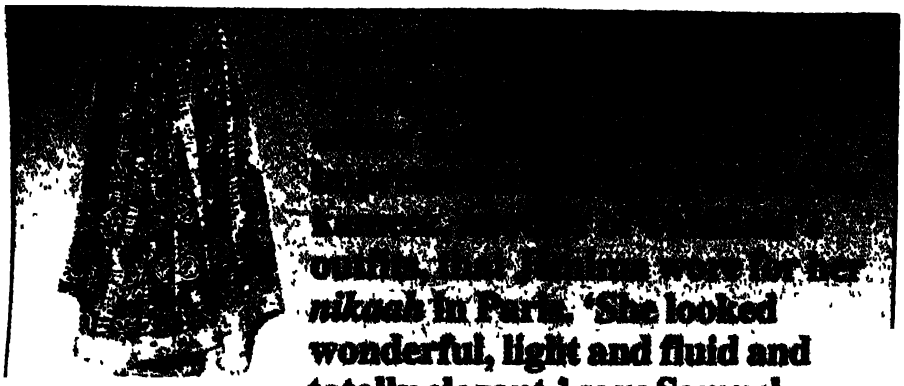
His name?

It does not trip easily off her tongue, but finally it comes: "Tarun Tahiliani"

Blow considered putting him in *Vogue*, the Western world's fashion Bible, but decided against it.

"He is a bit too Eastern," she explains. "But if I went to India I could sort him out."

It is kind of Blow to offer, but Tahiliani might not need her help anymore. He has landed the job that has put the noses of many top designers out of joint. When Imran Khan marries Jemima Goldsmith at Richmond registry office on June 20 in the social event of the year —and before an army of photographers—the bride will be wearing a cream salwar kameez



nikaah in Paris. 'She looked wonderful, light and fluid and totally elegant,' says Samuel

created by Tahiliani

Shameem Mithaiwala, a Bombay student from the London College of Fashion, reckons that the Indian designer is about to take the West by storm

"It is a brilliant opportunity," she enthuses "It will be a totally Asian look and it will take away the breath of English society"

Perhaps this judgment is a trifle immature According to *The Daily Telegraph*'s fashion editor, Kathryn Samuel, "Tahiliani is not yet a big name in international terms, but it is a beginning"

British fashion editors are a hypercritical lot, but Samuel was impressed with the chiffon salwar kameez — another of Tahiliani's outfits — that Jemima wore for her *nikaah* in Paris "She looked wonderful — light and fluid and totally elegant," says Samuel

So just how much do Western designers owe to the subcontinent?

Mohammed Tariq, a Pakistani designer in Britain who sells under the 'Mask' label, says that Asians have injected colour into Western lives — literally "Until 20 years ago, most Western people did not have a clue about colours Menswear was all black, blue or grey — now you get people wearing red blazers"

Lisa Armstrong, *Vogue*'s associate editor, agrees· "Indian fabrics and colours are tremendously in vogue"

Any Indian who walks past clothes shops in Oxford Street or Knightsbridge will immediately recognise that Western designers have borrowed heavily from India Everything from fabrics to colours, embroidery, tie dyes and clothes, specially the kurta, waistcoat, the Lucknowi pyjama and the Nehru jacket, have been stolen from India But credit is seldom given

For example, Jean Paul Gaultier's churidar-type tight trousers, Nehru-style jackets and loose shirts clearly have Indian influences Among others who have been inspired by India are Romeo Giogli, an Italian, and Draes Van Noten, a Paris-based Belgian

Valentino's chiffons, heavily embroidered with sequins, have a touch of the sari The British designer Zandra Rhodes was so taken with the sari that she went to India and produced her own designs In 1987, she showed off hand-beaded saris from Madras at a fashion show in Olympia, London

Her clothes also enhanced the beauty of scantily clothed models who were photographed in India for Unipart's 1995 calendar Her 1995

LEGGY DIANA IN A TAHILIANI?

For Tarun Tahiliani to be bracketed with the likes of Giorgio Armani, Yves St Laurent, Emanuel Ungaro, Karl Lagerfeld, Gianfranco Ferre and Gianni Versace, he needs someone like Princess Diana to wear his clothes

Diana is Britain's and probably the world's most sought after clotheshorse Her patronage is worth millions to her favoured designers

Her wedding dress was designed by David and Elizabeth Emmanuel, and she is known to have worn Bruce Oldfield, Jeff Banks, Zandra Rhodes, Jean Muir, Catherine Walker and Donna Karan

Since her separation from Prince





A Tarun Tahiliani fashion show in London

Charles, she has cut down spending on clothes to £90,000 a year If she were paid to endorse products, it is reckoned her sponsorship would earn her £250,000 from Ray-Ban glasses, £250,000 from Reebok trainers. £150,000 from Lacoste (for wearing their tennis skirts), and £250,000 from Head ski suits.

When she sports thin silk dresses, she chooses Damart thermolactyl thermal underwear.

She prizes a shawl given to her on her Indian trip in 1990 by Amjad Ali Khan In 1991, she wore jodhpurs for a formal portrait taken by Earl of Snowdon with her husband and two sons.

Her style mentor has been Anna Harvey, deputy editor at *Vogue* A fashion editor says: "She loves to show off her legs in glossy tights and high heels."

On a recent Caribbean holiday, she got into trouble for wearing a figure-hugging white top without a bra. It provoked Jane Moore, fashion editor of the *Sun* to observe: "Going braless is not fitting behaviour for royalty "

But column-inches in newspapers is what celebrities and their fashion designers want.

One of the most controversial designers is Gianni Versace, who designed a revealing dress, held together with large safety pins, for the actress Elizabeth Hurley. His critics say his designs verge on the tarty.

But he has revealed that when he was a little boy, his mother took him past a brothel· "From behind her fingers, I could see the most beautiful, incredible magical women."

In marked contrast, Tahiliani's upbringing, even if he went to Doon, has been quite proper.

A.R. and S.B.

Her [Diana's] style mentor has been Anna Harvey, deputy editor at *Vogue*. A fashion editor says: 'She loves to show off her legs in glossy tights and high heels'

spring/summer collection has an "over the top, multi-coloured Madras check, chiffon wedding dress with lime green panniers and trailing purple net train"

At a fashion show in May, 1995, she used brilliant colours in stunning printed chiffons and silks "Zandra has taken the classic garments for the Western woman," says her office

It adds that she uses "tunics in classic shapes" with "trousers in the Eastern tradition" These outfits are "teamed with a magnificent capsule collection of hand embroidered scarves and stoles (dupattas)"

One designer who miscalculated was Gianni Versace who put an extract from the Koran into the pattern of a bustier worn by the supermodel Claudia Schiffer Some Muslims exploded in anger and the bewildered designer received a death threat

Selina Blow, a part-Sri Lankan, part-English designer in London, says that thanks to India, Western clothes have become "more glamorous, flamboyant and vivid" She adds "The Nehru jacket has been copied by Donna Karan and Georgio Armani "

One company which imports a big proportion of its clothes — mainly cotton garments of ethnic design — from

[redacted] Monsoon, founded by an Englishman, Peter Simon. His middle name is Monsoon (he later changed it to Michael).

This year, the Indian look is less in evidence than previously, according to fashion experts Even so, the big department stores stock Indian-looking lines

The spring and summer look at Marks and Spencers includes long blouses with side slits which resemble the kameez Simpsons, in Piccadilly staged a three-week India season this summer and showed off such India-inspired garments as elaborately-patterned dupattas and shawls to be worn with Asian-style jackets and palazzo pants



Zandra Rhodes. Swept by the sari



Ramola Bachchan: In a Tahiliani outfit

Before Tahiliani's name first croppe-de up, the one Indian designer who had attracted media attention was Asha Sarabhai, who retails through a shop called Egg in Knightsbridge She was endorsed by the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, Lady Helen Windsor She wore a Sarabhai creation at the wedding of Princess Margaret's daughter, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones. It was an adapted kurta and churidar, with a shawl draped dramatically over her shoulder

Sarabhai's Cambridge contemporary, Deborah Swallow, head of the India-section at the Victoria & Albert Museum, believes the Ahmedabad-based designer has "achieved something really unique in bridging the gap between Indian and Western cultural traditions" "Westerners tend only to care about how clothing looks Asha cares about the feel as well "

While Sarabhai has been building a British following, well-heeled Indian women in the UK have gone for Western designers with the Eastern touch Ramola Bachchan, the society hostess, points out that among Western designers who appeal to Indian women are Versace, Armani, Escada, Valentino and Yves St Laurent

Catherine Walker, who is expected to make some wedding outfits for Jemima, is "a bit too British" for Indian women, Ramola Bachchan says She adds "Indian taste is a bit more flamboyant "

She has always liked Tahiliani and wore his outfits at three successive high-profile Indian functions in London including his Dorchester extravaganza last year

The event, which launched Tahiliani's look, was organised partly by Rohini Khosla, sister of the late Rohit Khosla, who died just as he was about to make it big on the Western fashion scene Rohini created the right atmosphere at the show by attention to detail

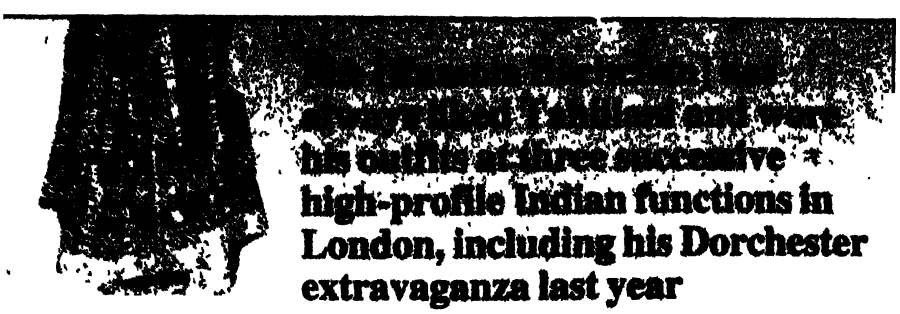
Models imported from India included Mehr Jesia, who often works for Tahiliani The music included a track, *Chalte chalte* from *Pakeezah*

Rohini, who recalls that "Tarun's show was a huge success", says that there is a growing market for Indian designers But if they are to make the vital breakthrough in the West, she adds, "more good quality shows are needed"

She points out that the Japanese succeeded only when their designers introduced the international look, and suggests that Indians should club together to promote their interests

She asserts, "The Western woman will not want a salwar-kameez. If you have a beautiful jacket by Tarun, fabulous crinkled pants by Abu-Sandeep, a lycra top by Rina Dhaka, it could be the right ensemble for a Western woman "

She hopes that *Vogue* will soon highlight the work of Tahiliani and other



[redacted] his outfits at three successive high-profile Indian functions in London, including his Dorchester extravaganza last year

[redacted]

[redacted] Indian clothes are reserved for formal Asian occasions — weddings, religious functions and family parties.

At 16, Priya Mavjee, who is about to sit for her GCSE school exams, almost never wears Indian clothes. "I like the English-type casual look and get my clothes from Gap and French Connection."

Actress Shaheen Khan, 34, loves Agnes and Romeo Giogli, "but I cannot afford them." She says: "I wear leggings from Harvey Nichols."

PR person Bushra Ahmed, 32, sister of Shami Ahmed, the name behind the Joe Bloggs label, wears [redacted] "Jean Paul Gaultier for the evening."

Model Vandana Vij, 22, and nearly 5' 10" tall, says she likes either very long or very short skirts by Jane Norman. "I get my Indian clothes from Silver Tulip and Bridal Galleria in Delhi."

One 24-year-old student who spends £100 a month on "looking good" is Balvinder Jalaf. "I shop at Jigsaw and Kookai and get my jeans from Valentino."

Tina Patel, 24, who is studying business management, patronises Next and Miss Selfridge. "Most of my Indian wardrobe comes from Variety Silk House in Wembley. Young Indian women are wearing saris these days — it is usually plain with a pattern around the [redacted] and whistles." [redacted] she wears only occasionally, are bought from South Extension in Delhi.

Filmmaker Shakila Maan, 35, who admits being "a fashion victim", goes for the country look of Racing Green. For ordinary wear, she wears Chino trousers. "My Indian clothes are stitched by my sister. I like Lucknowi pyjamas, *sherwanis*, Sixties-style fitted *salwar-kameezes*. I look at Indian movies like *Silsila* and *Mehboob Ki Mehndi* for my styles."

A.R. and S.B.

Indian designers

British journalists, who are hungry for every scrap on the Imran wedding romance, have started targetting Tahiliani

Making Jemima's wedding outfit will get him more publicity than he could ever have hoped for But to compete with the big stars of the Western world, his clothes have to be worn by supermodels on the catwalk that matter

Lisa Armstrong of *Vogue* identifies the battles that lie ahead for Tarun Tahiliani "To get really known in the fashion world, you need to show in the four international cities — Paris, Milan, New York and London "

And what does the Indian fashion circle itself feel about the Big Break? ***Shameem Akthar*** *and* ***Samita Bhatia*** *get the feel of things*

The bride of the year, Jemima Goldsmith, may want the Bombay's czar of fashion, Tarun Tahiliani, to design her wedding wardrobe, but the city's *beau monde* continues to be its irreverent self

And like an insatiable lover in unflagging pursuit of multi-partners, this jet-setting, trend-making crowd experiments with many designers, many modes.

So, there is no one statement on vogue that emerges from this fashion capital of the nation.

While one Tahiliani makes the world sit up in eager anticipation and one Hemant Trivedi wows Miss World judges with his Aishwarya Rai gowns, fashion watchers will sadly tell you that as long as Indian buyers (the inspiration behind the creations) dither between the West and the East the internationalisation of Indian designs will take some time to come

For instance, while editor-social talent-seeker Maureen Wadia slips in and out of sarees or power suits to match the animated pace of her many interests, the queen of the champagne circuit, Shobha De, pledges eternal faith to her closet of ethnic clothes

Fashion writer Meher Castellino writes off frothy zardozi as *passe*, while averring that the West was still very much in, specially in India But Bollywood's true-love designer, Xerxes Bhathena, vows that though the West was best as far as the disco haunting richie rich kids were concerned, understated ethnic clothes emphasised chic for the older lot, who were finding out that they do not have to be Westernised to look cultured.

But then pop queens, sizzling Sharon Prabhakar and alluring Alisha Chinai, root for body-hugging Western lines, and would scout abroad for the right fabric and the right cut

And the city's fashion trinity — boutiques Glitterati, Ensemble and Sheetal — declare that the East does meet the West comfortably on the designers' drawing board Conflicting pointers for those slavishly waiting on the fringes to follow their demi-gods



What about the competition from Pierre Cardin and other foreign outlets which have started sprouting in the major metros here? 'Cardin, who is he?' asks loyal-Indian Bollywood designer Xerxes Bhathena

e world of elan.

And for those who want to know if India was becoming marked as a shoppers' stop on the international map of fashion.

'Bombay Girl' Chinai, for instance, though swooning over model Milind Soman in her latest video for being 'Made in India', prefers the Western cut If she were taller, perhaps, she may not have minded the drapes of the Indian dress But her petiteness, she explained, put paid to this choice

When she does opt for the 'Made in India' look she picks up an Ensemble label Or a Shahab Durazi These two masters of the thread give even Indian clothes a tailored look which Chinai points out is essential for her small frame

But her ultimate favourite will always remain the late Rohit Khosla He gave her the come-hither look that this Indian Madonna hankers after

Bhathena would agree with Chinai's temporary switchover to the 'Made in India' tag He would not comment on whether the West was opting for Indian clothes But definitely more Indians were

He sings paeans to the Lucknowi range of Sandeep Khosla And the Tahiliani collection two months ago, which underscored the Indian look "To a certain point the young kids may think that ethnic is old fashioned for the clubs and discotheques But when it comes to socialite evenings, the big get-togethers and major parties, it is the Indian look which is considered glamorous"

The new-breed designer pack's exquisite cuts get widely splashed in the press The photographs are cutout as models and their designs get recycled by everybody who wants the glam look which, enthuses fashion photographer Atul Kasbekar, was best exemplified in a Shahab Durazi (for the structure) and a Rohit Bal (for the flow) ensemble

"This media craze lets 'the' look reach everywhere and everyone This has resulted in the revival of Indian clothes which," Bhathena predicts, "are very much here to stay"

Though Western clothes are neither down nor out, they will pose no competition to the *desiwallah* What about the competition from Pierre Cardin and other foreign outlets which have started sprouting in the major metros here? "Cardin, who is he?" asks loyal-Indian Bhathena

Seema Kakkar of the elite Glitterati boutique would subscribe to this



From the Bhairavi Jaikishan collection at Glitterati

India view "The craze for Indian clothes has always been there, but today the Western style allows translation into Indian designs These in turn are becoming more Westernised by turning more stylised More emphasis is placed on the cut, the body and the shape And then there is more consciousness for environmental-friendly fabrics and colours, as in the West"

This shopping paradise for the cash-rich NRIs had a summer collection, ranging from Rs 2,000 to Rs 60,000 (yes, for one dress!), cater to this borrowed-from-the-West eco chumminess Long signing colours like deep pink and bridal reds are out The ecru (which is a favourite off-white shade abroad), beige, whites and lavenders have taken over

Black has been the only constant to survive this subtle assault on preferences, observes Kakkar

The first casualty to internationalisation of Indian designs has been embroidery Heavy embroidery is suspected to be overkill

Today, in Bombay embroidery seems over only vital stitches while the dress for the day is essentially basic, elegant This does not mean that skimpy dresses are in, avers Kakkar Elegance in India is yet to borrow from the show-skin Western mode

Fashion writer Castellino will be the first to dismiss the notion of Indian designs exploding on the international fashion arena She agrees with Kakkar that Indian designs were getting more Westernised in look

The heavy zari work is now *passe*, even for weddings which till now demand ornate, stifling drapes smothered in embroidery Castellino observes that more and more chic brides are choosing to spend their D-Days in a no-fuss, no-zari dress which is almost like a long gown that retains only its basic shape Jackets (also Western), gowns for evening wear, one-piece short dresses with simple lines and no work is the in thing in India, as it is abroad

Sharon Prabhakar agrees that Indian designs were 'too heavy' even for Indian taste And have to get simpler before they could set afire the catwalks abroad She is the lycra freak and so shops only in the West for outfits that mould her power exercised, toned figure Formal wear is lycra Crush proof and crunchy enough to be fit into a handbag

Prabhakar could be writing an ad for lycra But it was the only fabric which was simple and set off a well-maintained shape "I would drown in the Indian dress," she moans, explaining that for five years she had not been tempted by even the best designer here to pick up an Indian dress And owns only one zari suit by Ritu's which has long served its use

So, unless Indian designers turn to more bodylines, health freaks like Prabhakar will look to the West And the West, which is even more fanatical about figure 10, will take more time before it turns East

And when trendy women like Maureen Wadia straddle both the worlds, to choose the best between the two "If I am running around working I find that trousers are practical and comfortable But for formal wear, I like a saree"

So, is the Indian designer going international? He will, if he finds a median And the search for that has just begun

While the Asha Bhosle-owned boutique Anja San (only the elite can pro-

nounce that!) sticks to Western styles for its exclusively male wear (designed by Reza Sharifi), fashion stops like Ensemble and Jordache's '30 K-The Store' continue to flirt with both styles

Says an Ensemble hand, "Tarun experiments with a broad range" Which includes bridals (even today mostly ethnic, like frothily-embroidered sarees or the richly-sequinned lehnga-cholis) which cost Rs 1 lakh onwards, and Westernised clothes made to order, starting from a minimum of Rs 8,000

Jordache has a lot of denim and lot of Western suits But its wide panel of designers comprising Harsh Agarwal, Geetu, Mallavika Agarwal, Divya Ratanlal and brands Pace, Pye and Biriz Mode continue to retain their ethnic roots with the salwar-kameez which cost from Rs 1,000 to Rs 20,000, Chetana Gopinath, manager of 30-K, says that though nostalgia struck NRIs preferred Indian clothes, the sales were divided 50-50 between the West-East styles

But in the past one and half year, she has noticed, among the Indian buyers, a definite shift towards ethnicity

Shobha De should be happy She is, among being anti-many things, also anti-fashion She likes to make her wardrobe decisions herself And if fashion muses like her remain steady to the Indian dress, maybe the fashion genius here will finally find that will-o-wisp median between the East and West



Courtesy J J Valaya

A design by J.J. Valaya and (inset) the designer

Recently, Dubai was agog at the prospect of a fashion show that promised Rohit Bal and J J. Valaya's collections on the ramp. Back home, the high-flying designers were taken aback at this bit of information for, as it happened, the organisers had obviously made bogus claims to attract the crowds Neither Bal nor Valaya were scheduled to display their lines in Dubai at that time

A clarification was issued, but a point was driven home. Valaya was pleased as punch to learn that top Indian designers like himself did have admirers overseas "We may not have made a major impact in the international fashion scene but there is a fan following."

JJ has made forays abroad and has a strong following in UAE retailing in stores in Dubai, Kuwait, Bahrain and London while "South Africa is showing signs of opening up now."

Today, JJ feels, the Indian designer has touched the highest point in Indian high fashion Muses he "There remains one very important thing for us to do now and that is to sell our labels abroad in a major way"

Ritu Kumar is a designer who enjoys the distinction of having dressed Sushmita Sen, Aishwarya Rai and now Manpreet Brar As the winners sashayed down the ramps attired in her creations, Kumar got rave notices from an international audience Says Kumar. "The Indian designer is making a dent in a definite way within the parameters of the Indian market abroad."

She adds: "Designers are making their presence felt very gradually, not in a sense of offering international brands any competition in *haute couture* but as a country that wears different clothing"

Most designers concur that our fashion industry, being just eight years old, is still in its infancy However, the strides made in these eight years, estimates J J Valaya, is equivalent to what Paris and Italy would have been able to achieve in 50 years!

"Currently what we designers are taking abroad are essentially Indian designs and offshoots of Indian clothes," says JJ "Breaking into the American or European market is at the moment an uphill task We will need a

strong financial backing besides we ourselves will have to make certain that what we send out is the best"

Our designers focus on specialised embroidery, but not really on the body structure The emphasis is more on the embellishments rather than the body David Abraham is, perhaps, the only one who is really going places abroad (Though Bina Ramani does not like to talk about it, she has had Hillary Clinton buying from her collections).

The world is obviously not short on designers and it is to an extent a shrinking market which continues to be inundated with new breeds of designers all the time Industry observers feel that in this scenario our own designers will be noticed provided they come up with new and different designs and styles that can be bought for great prices

JJ adds, "It is not fair to compare ourselves with mega international labels as that common platform has yet to be created."

Pierre Cardin Fashions came into the country with a bang for India is a high focus market for international brands to sell their lines. According to Anuradha Ruhil, managing partner, Pierre Cardin Fashions India, Indian

WHO WEARS WHOSE

Here's what the Indian celebs like to wear:

Shabana Azmi, *actress and activist.* I have no pet designer label. I do not follow fashion and believe that no 'designer ensemble' can match the sari in sheer elegance.

However, when I travel abroad for specific functions (specially professional premieres, awards), I try and arrive at an 'international' rather than a purely ethnic look.

Ritu Kumar put together all my clothes for the retrospectives of my films at the prestigious Smithsonian Institution and American Film Institute in Washington, the Pacific Cinematheque in Vancouver and the Winnipeg Cinematheque at Winnipeg.

Kumar's clothes were a huge success — because they were expensive without being ostentatious, classy without being ornate. I would not exchange her leather jackets (specially the 'tree of life' piece) for any designer label in the world! Also, she is great fun to be with.

Mehr Jessia, *model:* I used to like Rohit Khosla's work very much. Now I like Tarun Tahiliani — both for the same reason They used to pamper me. I used to feel spoilt by them. They used to make me feel like a queen. Whenever I visited his studio, Rohit used to gift outfits to me. Tarun also does the same thing. Yesterday he was going to London with a new collection and he just gave me an outfit I like. Both knew what I wanted. I never had to tell them about my tastes.

Meher Castellino, *former Miss India and fashion writer:* I like Pawan Aswani, Wendell Rodrigues and Hester Maxwell clothes. Very simple lines and extremely long-lasting.



Nafisa Ali in a Bina Ramani design

And their designs give scope for mix and match of different outfits. I like that since I can wear these clothes in different ways.

Sharon Prabhakar, *pop star:* For the stage I like Sunoo Dawar's clothes because I trust her with what I want. When it is something flamboyant and filmy I choose Kavita Bhathena and Manish Malhotra.

Maureen Wadia, *editor of fashion supermodel discoverer:* I like Pallavi Jaikishen because she knows Indian garments very well

Bina Ramani, *designer, agony aunt and socialite:* I wear a lot of my own clothes as I am most comfortable in them. I have a European build — tall, long-legged and long waisted. That's just the right kind of body for Western wear.

The designers I prefer are Abu and Sandeep from Bombay who are among the few who understand the body structure. But they are too expensive

Meera and Muzaffar Ali's designs and classic cuts are also among my favourites.

Earlier I preferred bright jewel tones, now I've moved to neutral colours, earth shades — cream, beige, khaki. I love the antique look and can spend upto Rs 30,000 on a jacket if I like it enough. For it will increase in value for me, and I view it as an investment. I think I'm a practical buyer.

Shobha De, *columnist and best-selling author:* I am strictly anti-fashion. I go to the neighbourhood *darzi* when I want something done.

Alisha Chinai, *pop star:* I love Shahab Durazi because he is the hot favourite now. And, of course, Tarun Tahiliani because he is not [illegible]. Rohit's favourite was Ritu, who is unfortunately [illegible]. He gave dresses that [illegible] style that I just love.

[illegible] Pawan Singh, *film and TV director and VJ:* I prefer middle-of-the-[illegible] clothes. So my designer is [illegible] Malhotra who is actually a [illegible] designer. His clothes suit my [illegible] — a little classic and not too [illegible].

[illegible] Gupta, *former model and [illegible]:* I'm not into designers

designers are "terrific" but should restrict themselves to the Indian market and cater to Indian women alone.

Says Ruhil, "How can they be expected to make a dent in the French fashion circles? In Europe nobody knows who a Rohit Bal or a Suneet Varma is. If at all they are known, it is within the Indian circles alone We don't hear of them and they have absolutely no presence in these markets"

After having done well for herself at Galleries Lafayette in Paris, Ritu Kumar intends to move on In a bid to make her mark more strongly in the overseas markets she is soon to set up shop in Europe, the pulse of *haute couture.*

According to her again, Asha Sarabhai was, perhaps, the only designer to have struck oil abroad "She's very upmarket and hers is a very international look which does exceedingly well through her store in London" Another name that really sells abroad is Anokhi, which has four outlets in London, "but they are into a different line altogether," says Kumar

The designers admit there is very little textile designing happening in India Argues Kumar, who is among



Kavita Khanna



Mehr Jesia



Shobha De



Shabana Azmi



Archana Puran Singh

clothes in a big way. I neither have the time nor the energy to go shopping for the heavy stuff. Besides I admit that I do spend a lot of money on clothes.

You'll always find me in different styles — trousers, long shirts, skirts, jackets and blazers. Benetton, Lacoste and Mischief are my favourites, Kirit Mode is where I shop the most. The garments are easily available, the quality is excellent and I can order what I like. The other designers, too, take orders for specific designs, but they charge a fortune for them.

I don't look out for designer clothes. I quite like Tarun Tahiliani designs which are wearable even 10 years later They're not gimmicky but classic, they fit wonderfully and the workmanship is excellent. If not him, I check out the J.J Valaya styles.

Kavita Khanna, *wife of Vinod Khanna, businesswoman and socialite:* During my pregnancy (she has just delivered) I wore a lot of Manisha Jaisingh outfits. I like Naren Kumar's clothes, too. I like these designers because they don't have a set style, Each collection is different from the previous one. My taste varies depending on my mood. I do not stick to one designer.

Nadira Ali, *former 'Water Baby', Miss India, model and actress:* I never follow any trend and am, perhaps, the most unfashionable person going.

The lengths of my kurtas never change, my sloppy style never changes, my faded clothes never change (they are the most comfortable and therefore impossible to discard). As a matter of fact, some have even commented on my 'threadbare outlook'.

I'm most comfortable in a pair of jeans and T-shirt, for I can go anywhere in them and they're always in fashion (Even if it fades it's in fashion!) I love to take a look at designerwear, but not buy it. I have probably bought designer clothes just twice or thrice.

As a matter of principle I never buy clothes that are very expensive. However the designer whose clothes I really like is J J. Valaya. His clothes have a sense of style, they're sober yet grand.

Of late I'm into cotton saris which I find very cool in this summer heat. The saris I wear are inexpensive, in pale colours with small borders that are the only embellishment. Even if a sari crushes, the pleats hide the creases. I bought all my heavy sarees when I was in Madras — those that I will eventually pass on to my children.

the few who've been designing her own textiles since years, "Styling takes all of 48 hours, but what of designing textiles and creating your own stamp? Where is our new look and identity?" she asks "Why can't we too create something like silk-wool-linen blended trousers that are so popular in the West?"

And it does not end there. Designers wonder how they could ever hope to compete with the Italians in the cut and styling of suits JJ sees a major problem "They are far ahead of us in technology An imported sewing machine can cost upto Rs 30,000 while the Indian machine costs just Rs 2,000 "

Where creating a jacket involves state-of-the-art technology and a long procedure, designers find themselves ill-equipped to match the quality of international labels



According to Anuradha Ruhil, managing partner, Pierre Cardin Fashions India, Indian designers are 'terrific'...but, she says, 'How can in the French fashion circles? In Europe nobody knows who a Rohit Bal or a Suneet Varma is'

Ruhil adds, "The ready-to-wear Pierre Cardin designs in India are completely monitored from Paris And the only way in which our designers can make a mark abroad is by spending more time there and learning new techniques from world renowned designers "

Fashion, a huge industry abroad has, to top it all, been grossly sidelined in India Designers today are looking forward to the government or the corporate sector stepping forward to help promote Indian fashion abroad

'She is a dream person to dress'

BY TARUN TAHILIANI

From my point of view, being asked by Jemima to do her bridalwear was all in a day's work I really do not know whether this is a big break, but yes, I am excited about it

She is a dream person to dress, incredibly good-looking and has a fantastic figure She is one bride who does not believe in bejewelling herself just for the sake of it

The Indian designer has not arrived on the international fashion scene, but Indian designs are generating some degree of interest in the Western world I've noticed that our styles and silhouettes are getting popular abroad, but not the designers themselves

The designers are not creating a longing for Indian designer-wear nor being able to capture the imagination of the West. They might be noticed, but nobody is raving about them

Some names do stand out like Alpana Bawa and Hemant Sagar, but then, neither is really an Indian designer Alpana is based in New York while Hemant works out of Paris The only Indian designer who has done well for herself abroad is Asha Sarabhai

In America, London or Paris I have not seen the Indian designer as a sought-after person at all

I have not seen Indian designers make any considerable impact on the Western fashion world Why would an Englishwoman, who is comfortable in a Christian Dior or YSL outfit, look out for an Indian designer's creations? Indian designers are definitely not household names abroad

One of the major reasons that Indian designers are non-entities in the world of international *haute couture* is the government's neglect of the Indian fashion industry There is no encouragement or support from the government while abroad, fashion is considered big business.

The Festivals of India, held in different parts of the world with regularity, do nothing for the country's flourishing fashion industry All we end up doing is promoting the villages in India or better still *pani puri*! Though the festivals do help to generate an interest in our country it is not exactly a very modern picture of India that emerges.

There is a paucity of advanced technology, too We are not equipped to design Western wear. Though our export market is huge, we have not made a dent in the hard-core fashion arena abroad. Exports and *haute couture* are two totally different ball games

Indian designers will have to make themselves far more visible abroad than they currently are We will have to flood the stores abroad to be noticed and will have to organise many more shows. Getting their collections on the catwalks is the one big way in which we can make our presence felt

The only mega event last year that left many gasping was the high-profile fashion show in China But then China is not a relevant market ■



The Festivals of India, held in different parts of the world with regularity, do nothing for the country's flourishing fashion industry. All we end up doing is promoting the villages in India or better still *pani puri*!

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



The full moon makes you exceptionally vocal and dramatic, says Ganesha Neighbours and foreigners will take an active interest in your affairs Correspondence, calls, contacts, in short, communication triggers progress and assignments and trips A week to show your true colours

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Once again finances and figures help you to be happy and that is what all of us seek in our individual ways Buying, selling and distribution will be more than ordinarily useful June 16-17 is where the action really is Do not wear your heart on your sleeve

Gemini

May 21 -June 20



Venus in your sign from June 11 favours writers, musicians, actors jewellers and those dealing in fancy products and fashions Others too will have a renewed surge of confidence and elation Obviously, that in turn, will help them to succeed It is all about mind over matter

Cancer

June 21—July 20



You will have to work with a will now, not giving any quarters or even concessions Tough decisions will have to be taken Restlessness and expenditure will have to be curbed Get set to travel or move or shift Expect visitors and relatives to descend on you Try to be diplomatic

Leo

July 21—August 21



A good week to ask for favours get work done, work well and play swell Group activities will be very productive and more importantly enjoyable Your heart will beat to a faster tempo Very possibly a few hassles in leadership are likely to happen Make good use of your humour

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Time to give your best shot as enemies will be active and out to harm you Changes in work and partnerships are foretold You will be under considerable pressure to perform and make good It would be wise to take time off to read swim go for a walk or relax in any way you choose

Libra

September 23– October 22



Health needs safeguarding now The travel urge will be exceptionally powerful and sharp Visitors will pour in and you will have to deal with them Many Librans might be forced to change plans go in for a compromise and adjust to the ideas of others This is a week of taut nerves

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



You will have to take a firm grip on finances and career as matters could get out of hand To further complicate it, health is suspect The silver lining is you will cope splendidly, be compensated for your trouble and strike a deal or two in the bargain June 11, 12 and 16 are quite favourable

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



The full moon is conducive to partnerships and contacts A journey with a stop-over is quite likely You will have to move fast because much remains to be accomplished and time is your enemy Parents and in-laws will cause a few problems

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



Job and health once again take top priority Be careful in your choice of words and do not rush into anything blindly It would be best to have a healthy attitude, not give in to swings of mood, and quietly and assiduously work out a plan June 14 16 will be crucial

Aquarius

January 20– February 18



You cannot be too careful in matters of the heart Hobbies, creative writings research, music and electronics are the slots which require your undivided attention Many of you will be in the thick of events and publicity Therefore you will be working at a frantic pace and tempo

Pisces

February 19—March 20



There could be a falling out or a difference of opinion with loved ones, family members and elders Given charm these can be minimised Pisceans will have to give special attention to the house, surroundings and the general public because these are the turbulent zones

I R T H D A Y S

June 11: Moon-Pluto conjunction leads to gains, a slice of luck and promotion or better prospects for Geminis, says Ganesha. Your work will be appreciated.

June 12: Moon conjuncts Jupiter making you ambitious and generous, kind and forgiving. In job/business/profession, expect an upswing.

June 13: The full moon could result in accidents and worries and so it would be best to be prudent and wary. It all depends upon the decisions you make.

June 14: Moon-Saturn trine ——— you ——— daughter, birth of children, a house or ——— in tantrums, lively and very definitely excellent career prospects.

June 15: Sun-Saturn square indicates obstacles. But given will, prayers and determination, this square can work positively. Do not be afraid.

June 16: Moon-trine Mercury-Venus makes for a happier you and happiness is what we all seek. Those in sales, teaching, arts, research, communication do extremely well. ——— more than business. The going could be good and easy and that is a big point in your favour.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
IC-741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 6
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
[illegible]					
PF-705	0730	2 4 6, 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
[illegible]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1, 2, 3, 6 7	IC-722	1250	1 2 3 6 7
[illegible]					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
[illegible]					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
[illegible]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W-212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI-309	2035	6	IC 274	1830	daily
AI-681	2350	1			
[illegible]					
IC-263	0700	daily	S2-025	0810	1 2 3, 4 5 6
S2-026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI 682	0950	1
IC-812	1700	1 3 5	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1730	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3, 5
S2-006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC-264	2210	daily
[illegible]					
PF-737	0730	3 5	D2-181	1620	1 5 7
D2-181	1135	1 5 7	D2-183	1620	2, 4 6
D2-183	1135	2, 4, 6	IC 702	1630	1 4 6, 7
4S-816	1205	2, 4, 6	4S 815	1635	1 2, 3
4S-812	1205	1, 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC-701	1240	1, 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
[illegible]					
IC-257	1140	2, 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
[illegible]					
IC-703	0610	1, 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF-706	1510	2 4 6, 7
PF 705	0730	2, 4 6 7	D2-181	1620	1 5 7
PF-735	0730	1	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	IC 230	1620	daily
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	4S-811	1635	2 4, 6
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC-229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	1045	1 3 5	S2-024	1525	1 3, 5
IC 777	1615	3, 5, 7	IC-778	2115	3 5, 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2, 4, 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3, 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC-257	1520	2 4
JORHAT					
IC-213	0910	4 7	IC-213	1315	4 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2005	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1, 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	1, 2, 4 5 6 7
D2-172	1740	1 2 4 5 6 7	IC-766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1615	2, 4 6	IC 770	2120	2, 4, 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4, 7	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	IC-249	1805	2, 4 7
IC-812	1700	1 3 5	IC-811	2055	1 3, 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC-285	0640	3 5 7	IC-286	1100	2, 4, 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4, 7	IC-249	1805	2, 4, 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF-706	1510	2 4, 6, 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3, 5, 7	IC-256	1250	3, 5, 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC-254	1040	1
			IC-254	1250	2, 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	4 7	IC-213	1315	4, 7
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
VARANASI					
S2-016	1555	1 3, 5	S2-015	1015	1, 3, 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1, 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3, 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1

INTERNATIONAL

[illegible]					
KL-876	0345	7	KL-875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 4 5 7	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
TG 314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI 308	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5 7	RO 075	1055	5 7
[illegible]					
IC 225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG 697	1655	2 5
[illegible]					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
IC 747	1115	1 3 5	IC 748	1455	1 3 5
RA 214	1815	1 4	RA 213	1715	1 4
LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA 143	1525	3 7
[illegible]					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARO					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
[illegible]					
SQ-415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure		Howrah	Arrival	
Up	Time		Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 35	**Bombay Mail** v a Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** v a Caya Varanas Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** v a Patna Dep Mon Tues Fr & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fr & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fr & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** v a Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tr Wkly Dep Tues Fr & Sat Ar Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 45	**Udyan Abha Tootan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3039	21 00	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	**Mithila Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3026
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fr Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6 50	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
		Sealdah		
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express** Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun	6 35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Jaipur Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gaur Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 45	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure		Howrah	Arrival	
Up	Time		Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 50	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 15	2859
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 10	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 00	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sunday Arr Saturday	19 40	7004
7003D	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Tues & Fr Arr Mon & Thurs	1940	7004D
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sun Arr Sun	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8011	6 15	**Ispat Express**	22 05	8012
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** v a Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 25	8410
2821	6 05	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	21 30	2822
8079	23 20	**Tirupati Express**	4 15	8080
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 00	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 25	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (v a Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

MOTHER HILL

It is hard to realise that I've been here all these years Twenty-five summers, monsoons, winters and Himalayan springs (there is no spring in the plains because, when I look back to the time of my first coming here, it does seem like yesterday)

That probably sums it all up Time passes, and yet it doesn't pass, people come and go, the mountains remain Mountains are permanent things They are stubborn, they refuse to move. You can blast holes out of them for their mineral wealth, strip them of their trees and foliage, or dam their streams and divert their currents, or make tunnels and roads and bridges, but no matter how hard they try, humans cannot actually get rid of their mountains That's what I like about them, they are here to stay

I like to think tha I have become a part of this mountain, this particular range, and that by living here for so long, I am able to claim a relationship to the trees, wild flowers, even the rocks that are an integral part of it.

Yesterday, at twilight, when I passed beneath a canopy of oak leaves, I felt that I was a part of the forest I put out my hand and touched the bark of an old tree, and as I turned away, its leaves brushed against my face as if to acknowledge me

I like to think that I have become a part of this mountain, this particular range, and that by living here for so long, I am able to claim a relationship to the trees, wild flowers, even the rocks that are an integral part of it

One day, I thought, if we trouble these great creatures too much, and hack away at them and destroy their young they will simply uproot themselves and march away, whole forests on the move — over the next range and the next, far from the haunts of man I have seen many forests and green places dwindle and disappear Now there is an outcry It is suddenly fashionable to be an environmentalist That's all right Perhaps, it is not too late to save the little that is left They could start by curbing the property developers who have been spreading their tentacles far and wide

The sea has been celebrated by many great writers Conrad, Melville, Stevenson, Masefield, but I cannot think of anyone comparable for whom the mountains have been a recurring theme I must turn to the Taoist poets from old China to find a true feeling for mountains

Kipling does occasionally look to the hills, but the Himalayas do not appear to have given rise to any memorable Indian literature, at least not in modern times

By and large, writers have to stay in the plains to make a living Hill people have their work cut out trying to wrest a livelihood from their thin, calcinated soil And as for mountaineers, they climb their peaks and move on in search of other peaks They do not take up residence in the mountains

But to me, as a writer, mountains have been kind They were kind from



'Who goes to the Hills, goes to his Mother.' So wrote Kipling, and he seldom wrote truer words. For living in the hills was like living in the bosom of a strong, sometimes proud, but always a comforting mother. And every time I went away, the homecoming would be tender and precious. It became increasingly difficult for me to go away



the beginning, when I left a job in Delhi and rented a small cottage on the outskirts of the hill-station Today, most hill-stations are rich men's playgrounds, but years ago they were places where people of modest means would live quite cheaply There were few cars and everyone walked about

The cottage was on the edge of oak and maple forest and I spent eight or nine years in it, most of them happy, writing stories, essays, poems, books for children It was only after I came to live in the hills that I began writing for children I think this had something to do with Prem's children He and his wife had taken on the job of looking after the house and all practical matters (I remain helpless with fuses, clogged cisterns, leaking gas cylinders, ruptured water pipes, tin roofs that blow away when there is a storm, and the do-it-yourself world of small-town India)

They made it possible for me to write Their sons, Rakesh and Mukesh, and daughter Savitri grew up in Maplewood Cottage and then in other houses when we moved

Naturally, I grew attached to them and became a part of the family, an adopted grandfather For Rakesh I wrote a story about a cherry tree that had difficulty in growing up; for Mukesh, who liked upheavals, I wrote a story about an earthquake and put him in it, and for Savitri I wrote rhymes

One seldom ran short of materials There was a stream at the bottom of the hill and this gave me many subjects in the way of small (occasionally large) animals, wild flowers, birds, insects, ferns The nearby villages and their good-natured people were of absorbing interest So were the old houses and old families of the Landour and Mussoorie hill-stations There were walks into the mountains and along the pilgrim trails and sometimes I slept at a roadside teashop or a village school

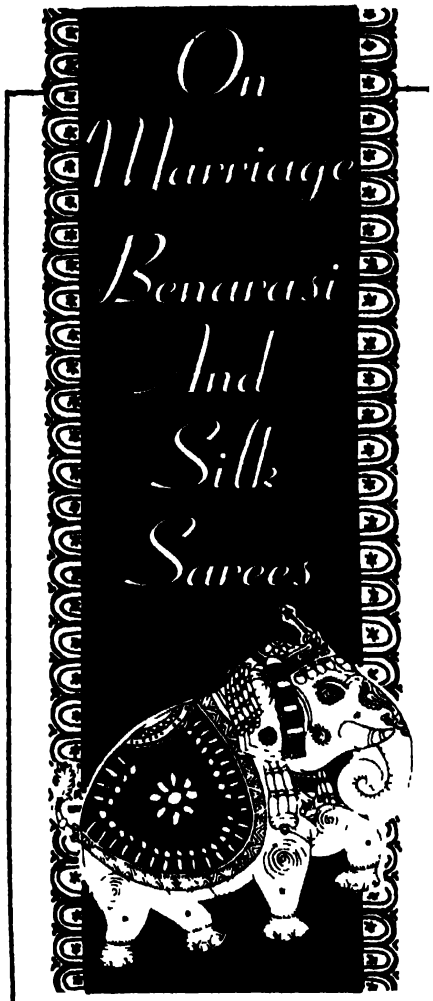
'Who goes to the Hills, goes to his Mother ' So wrote Kipling, and he seldom wrote truer words For living in the hills was like living in the bosom of a strong, sometimes proud, but always a comforting mother And every time I went away, the homecoming would be tender and precious It became increasingly difficult for me to go away

It has not always been happiness and light There were times when money ran out Freelancing can be daunting at times, and I never make enough to buy a house like almost everyone else I know. Editorial doors sometimes close, but when one door closes another has, for me, almost immediately, miraculously opened

I could perhaps have done a little better living in London, or in Canada like my brother or even in a city like Bombay But given the choice, I would not have done differently When you have received love from people and the freedom that only mountains can give, then you have come very near the borders of heaven

(Sanctuary Features)





Indian Silk House

COLLEGE STREET MARKET CALCUTTA



GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

ONE FOR THE ROAD

It takes two to make an accident Cyclists and drivers are natural partners in this process. In India, a socialistic pattern of blame is generally adopted — the driver in the big car is guilty

This is not always the case. A driver employed by the Hindi poet, Kunwar Narain, was once negotiating an attractive stretch of rural UP road Ahead of him he noticed a large man on an average cycle meandering along, engrossed in the music flowing from a transistor radio hanging over the handlebars

Just as the driver was about to overtake, the cyclist swerved carelessly into the middle of the road He was hit square on, slid up the bonnet, smashed his head on the windscreen and died

Soon others gathered, and then more and more There must have been 200 people. They all stared at the driver, then at the corpse. By now the driver was scared. As a means of escape, he suggested going to the police station The crowd solemnly agreed Off they marched

At the police station, the *thanedar* surprised the driver by asking him to sit down and offering him a glass of sugarcane juice. Then he and the senior members of the crowd whispered together in the doorway Finally, the mystery was explained The driver had run over one of the area's most wanted dacoits

Few accidents have such a silver lining Recent statistics from the US show that of some 1,000 cyclists killed on the roads each year there, 90 per cent die in collisions with motor vehicles That cyclists are at least partly at fault is also clear Male cyclists are over five times more likely to die on a bike than females, partly because they are also more likely to have alcohol in their veins — it is dangerous to drink and drive

In India, there are no such detailed figures available But we do know that some 60,000 people are killed on the roads each year, meaning that there must be between 600,000 and 1,200,000 seriously injured

These figures could be brought down if only pedestrians, cyclists and motorists could be separated and slowed down

It is official government policy to do so In the latest Road Safety Policy, all state governments have been requested to take special steps for 'traffic calming' It is a different matter that most road engineers do not yet know what traffic calming is.

Nor did I, until I sat down with Dinesh Mohan, one of the country's leading road safety experts, who is a member of the National Road Safety Council which drew up the latest policy 'Traffic calming' is a foreign concept His aim is to adapt and apply to Indian conditions for which he had first to observe Indian roads.

Through video recordings of traffic, he found that 'conflicts', like suddenly stopping or turning your car, do not necessarily mean accidents. Higher speed, on the other hand, definitely does That is logical, too If you are doing 65 kms an hour and hate a cyclist, in 85 per cent cases, the cyclist will die If you are doing 30 kms an hour, only 5 per cent will die

The research also showed that lane driving may be sane driving, but it is unnatural Indian roads are a perfect laboratory for observing the natural, unconfined motorist The natural motorist indulges in 'space sharing' which means jockeying for position and moving into whatever vacant space takes him forward For him, rules are there just to be broken And so education, on rules of the road, will never make them safe

Professor Mohan also found that on two or three lane roads, cyclists automatically gravitate to the kerb side lane As bicycles go much more slowly than cars, the net effect is to narrow the road From the point of view of the motorist, the lane is as useless as if it were planted with trees This *de facto* cycle lane is created even if there are only a few cyclists And the mix of mortar and non-mortar vehicles increases stress for both cyclists and drivers and also the risk of accidents

Dinesh Mohan argues that to calm traffic, separate cycle lanes are a must, preferably running on the outer side of bus stops to avoid bus/cycle collision They do not need to be as wide or as thickly surfaced as ordinary lanes, and therefore, are also cheaper. If footpaths are kept to the left of cycle lanes, this further keeps pedestrians from under the wheels of cars and buses

Many of his findings are confirmed by research in Europe, which is expecting a huge rise in car ownership over the next decade There, too, the conclusion has been reached that no one will obey rules unless they are forced to, and there are not enough policemen to make them

There 'traffic calming' means a sophisticated system of speed breakers to force drivers to slow down Europeans are also narrowing roads to force cars to keep in lanes Speed limiters are proposed to be fitted to all cars Last, but not least, are plans for cycle lanes spreading over whole cities The networks must be complete so that cyclists will be confident they can reach their destination by then

In Britain, a scheme for long-distance cycle lanes has just been sanctioned, to the joy of steering committees of safe cycling societies throughout the land

On the byways of India, there is still safe and civilised traffic where the cycle rules. Here the pace is slow, the air unpolluted and more people take proper, productive exercise In towns and cities, the picture is different Even the beautiful city of Chandigarh is becoming congested. There are reservations for jobs and places in educational institutions. What is now needed are reservations for the underprivileged on the roads

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

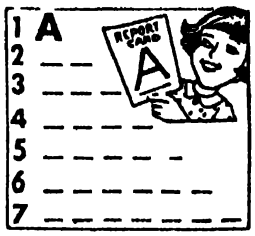
HAL KAUFMAN



TALLY HO! Our artist says there are 25 pumpkins in the you-pick-'em pumpkin patch above How many do you see?

FAN FARE! Add and subtract letters for a one-word close-game stadium cheer SUEDE minus SUE plus F plus TENSE minus T What is the word? Time 1 min

The word is "DEFENSE"



SCHOOL WORD STEP-OFF

ARE you up on words that pertain to school? Let's see Add one letter in each step and rearrange letters as needed to form new words Definitions

1 High Mark (A — already in place)
2 School is where it's — for learning
3 A cafeteria is a place to —
4 To — through the hall is a no-no
5 Another name for a student's car
6 Bring into being, as in art class
7 Homework checker

How quickly can you complete the test?

1 A 2 At 3 Eat 4 Tear 5 Crate 6 Create 7 Teacher

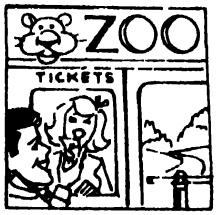
HEADS UP! Read this classic riddle carefully Then study the sign below As you'll discover, it's all about a trip to the zoo

"Tell me," I said to the uniformed guide "How many creatures have you inside?"

Said he, "When having the park turn around Over the gate a sign will be found

"From that sign, subtract a third of a third, and you will have a tally of beast, snake and bird " What is the total?

700, obtained by removing bottom third of



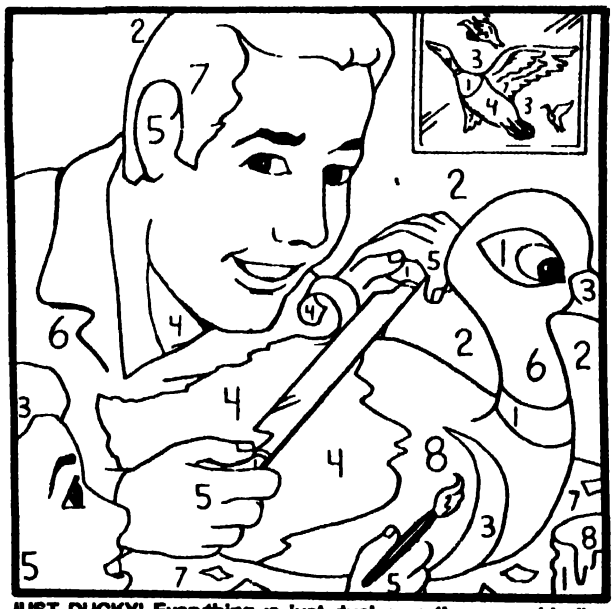
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Fence is different 2 Blouse is different 3 Shirttail is different 4 Sign is different 5 Ball is missing 6 Handle is different

FUNSPOT



JUST DUCKY! Everything is just ducky on the assembly line above Apply colors. 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

BALKIEST

- - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

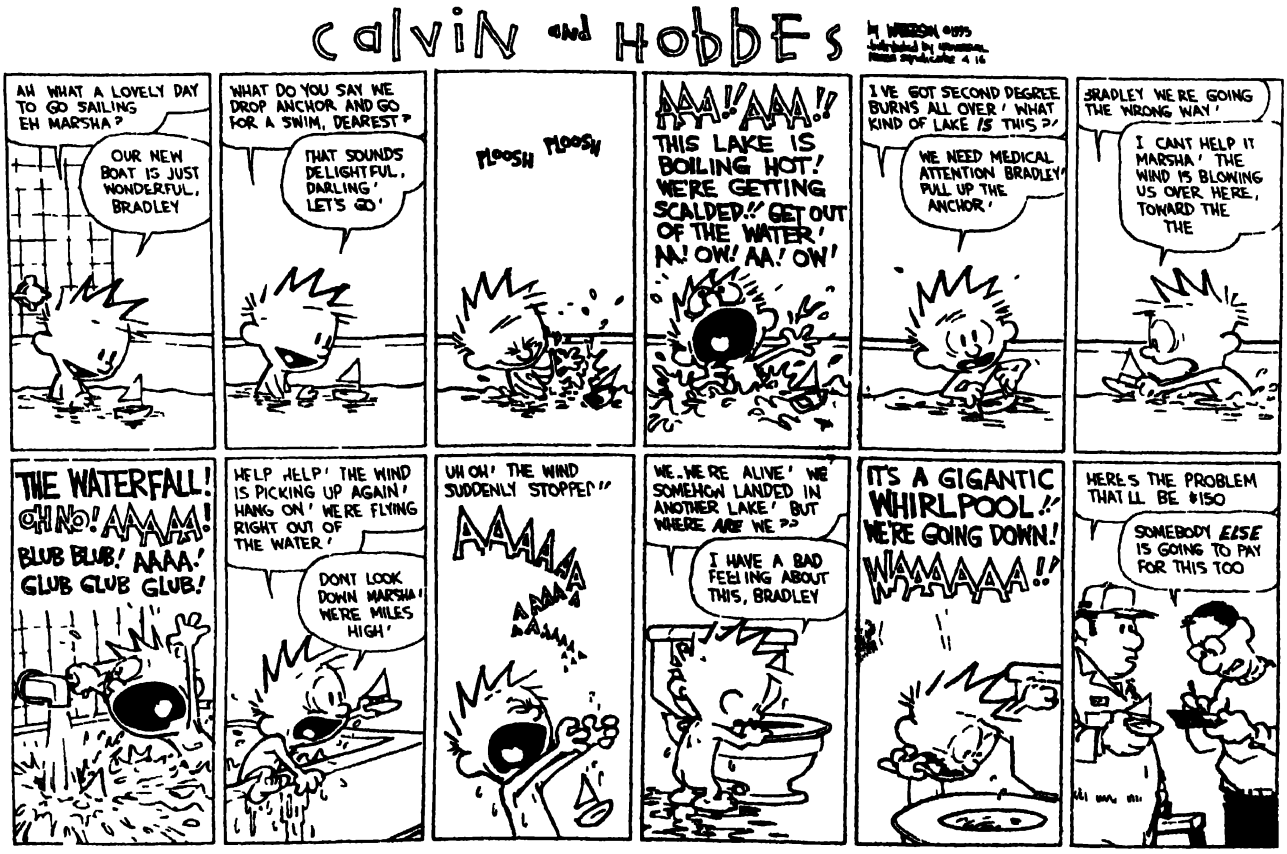
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome Beat silk

ARCHIE



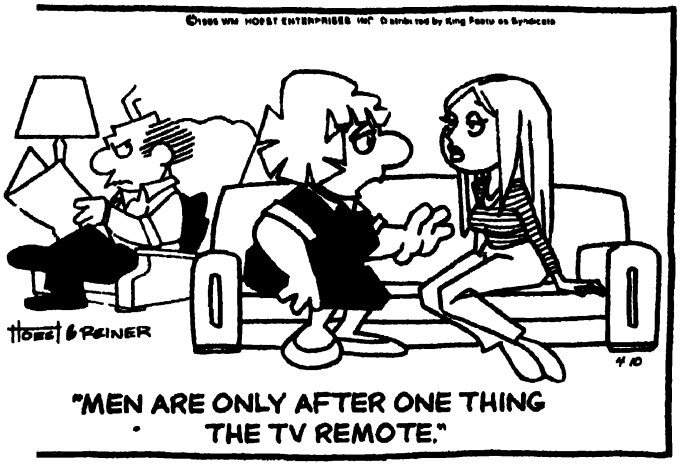
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON

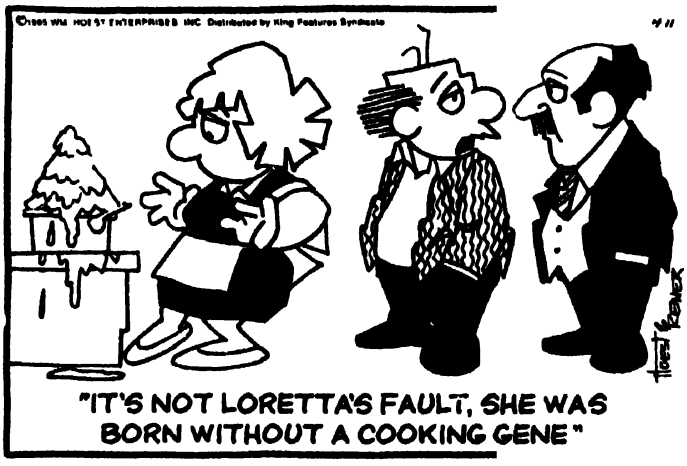


THE LOCKHORNS

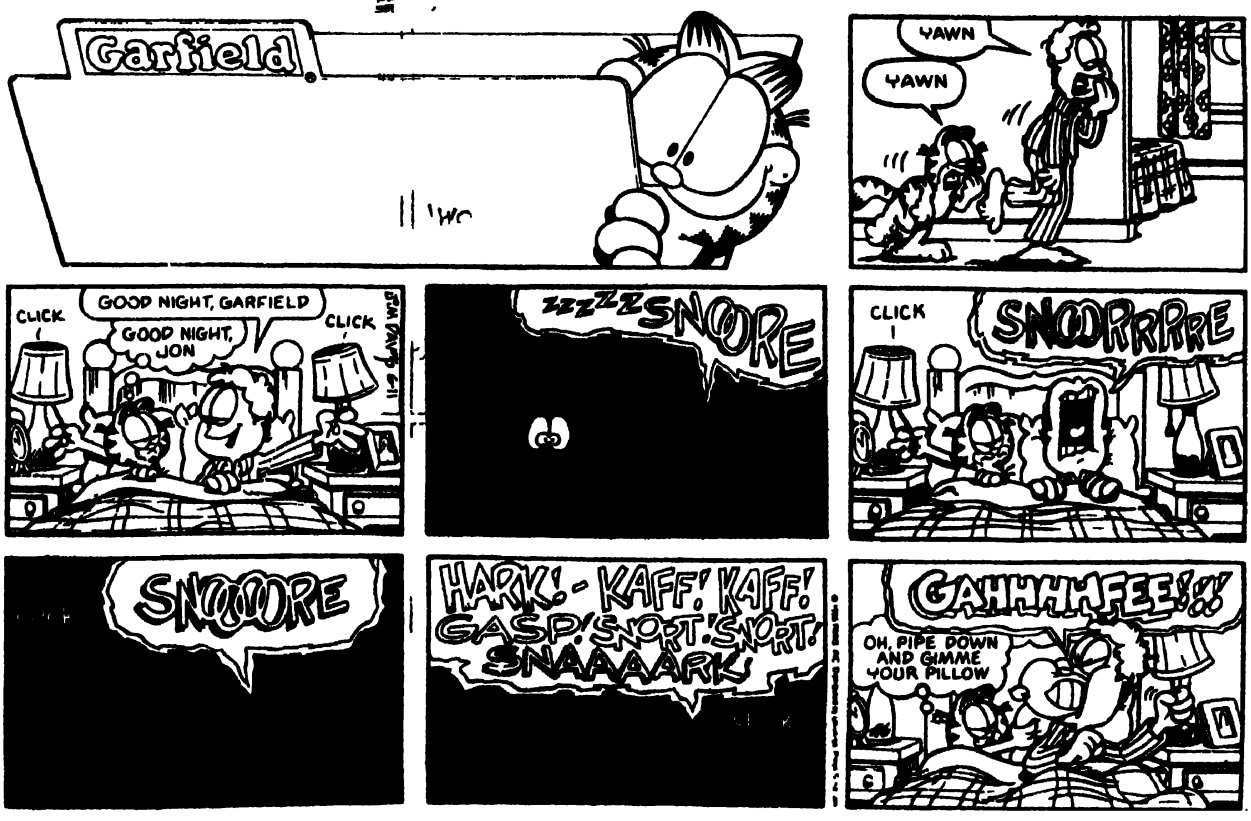






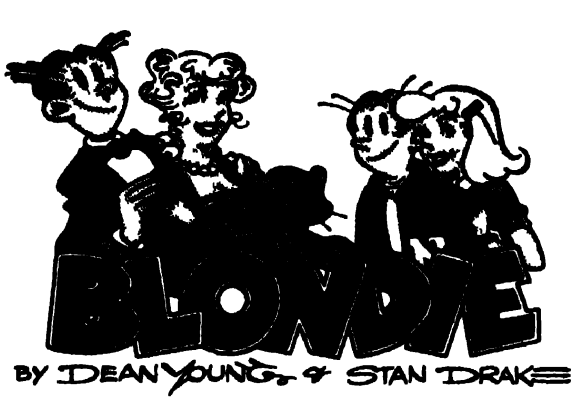


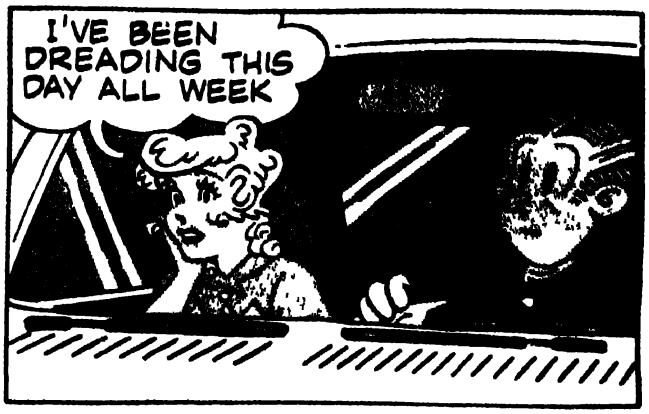
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP







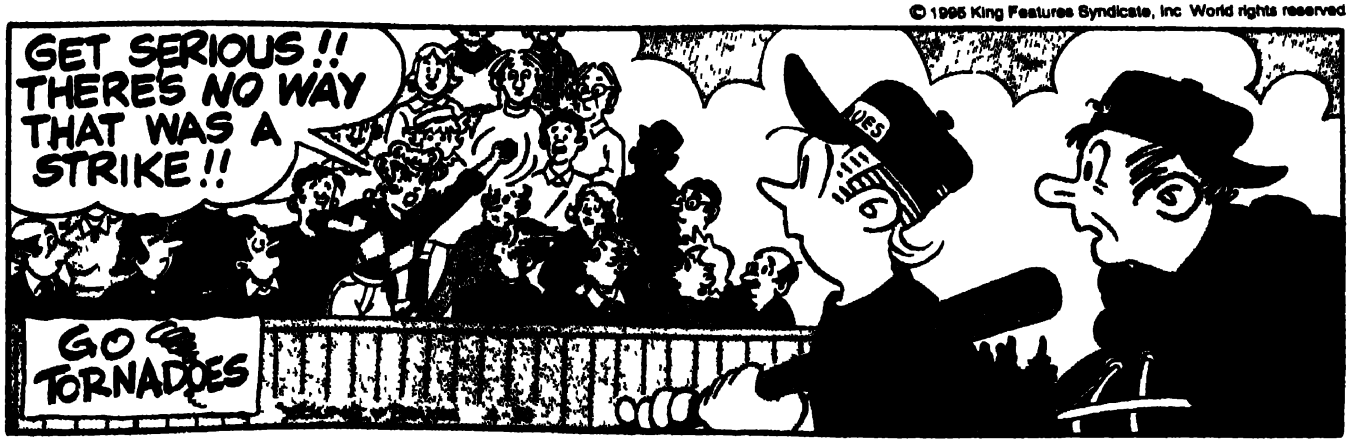






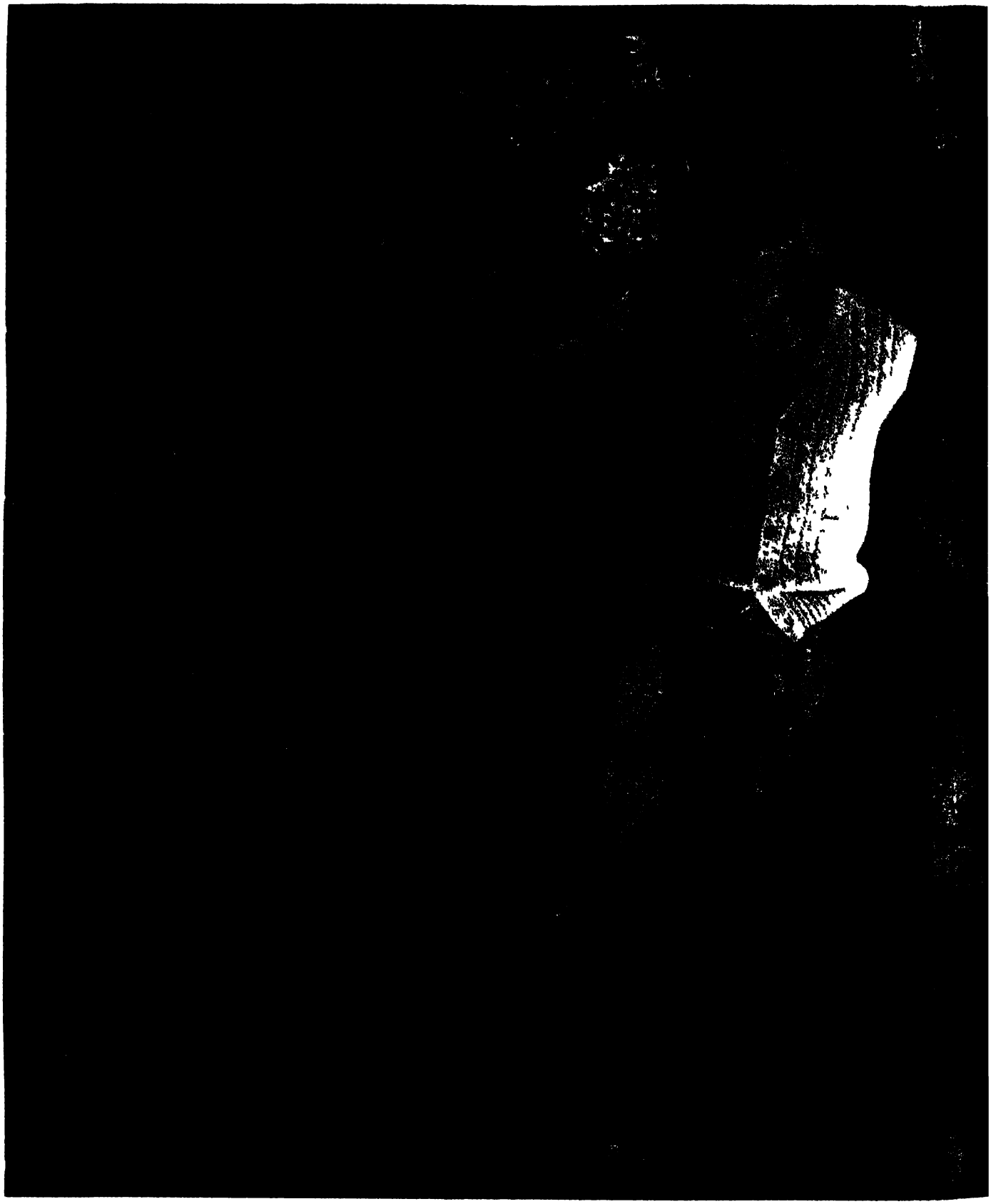


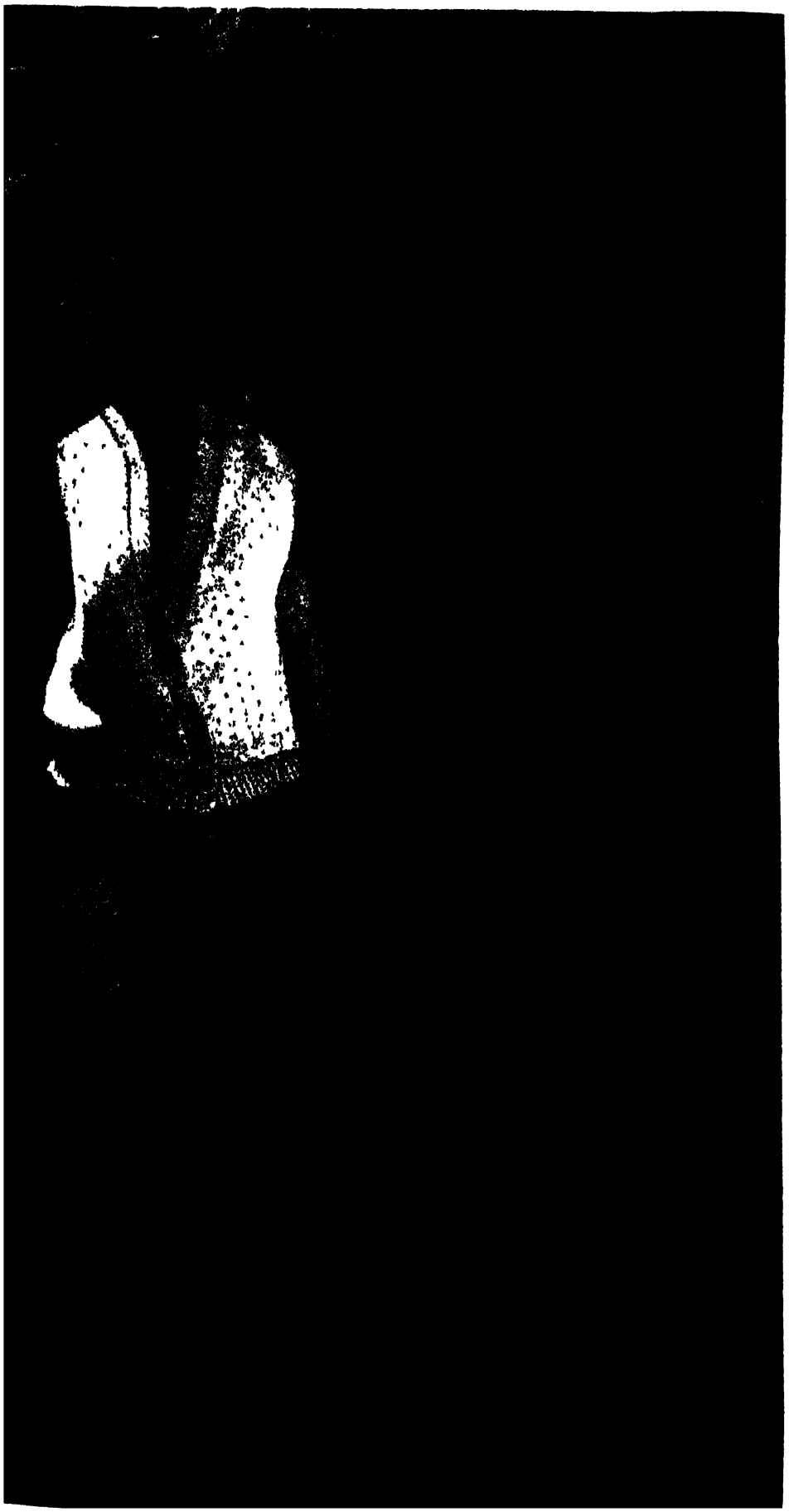
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After all, we invented it

Carrier Aircon Limited

MANPREET BRAR, 22, *and standing at 5'7", just missed her crowning glory at the Miss Universe contest this year by less than a mark. An MBA aspirant, this svelte lady likes to describe herself as 'humane', and would like to take up modelling as a career.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Contentment
What is your greatest fear?
Losing my family
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
The exposure I have got as an Army officer's daughter which included travelling all over the country All that I am today is an amalgamation of this exposure
What do you dislike most in others?
(Under her breath: So many things)
People who cannot keep their word
What do you dislike most in yourself?
I tend to vacillate



What do you dislike most on your appearance?

My feet

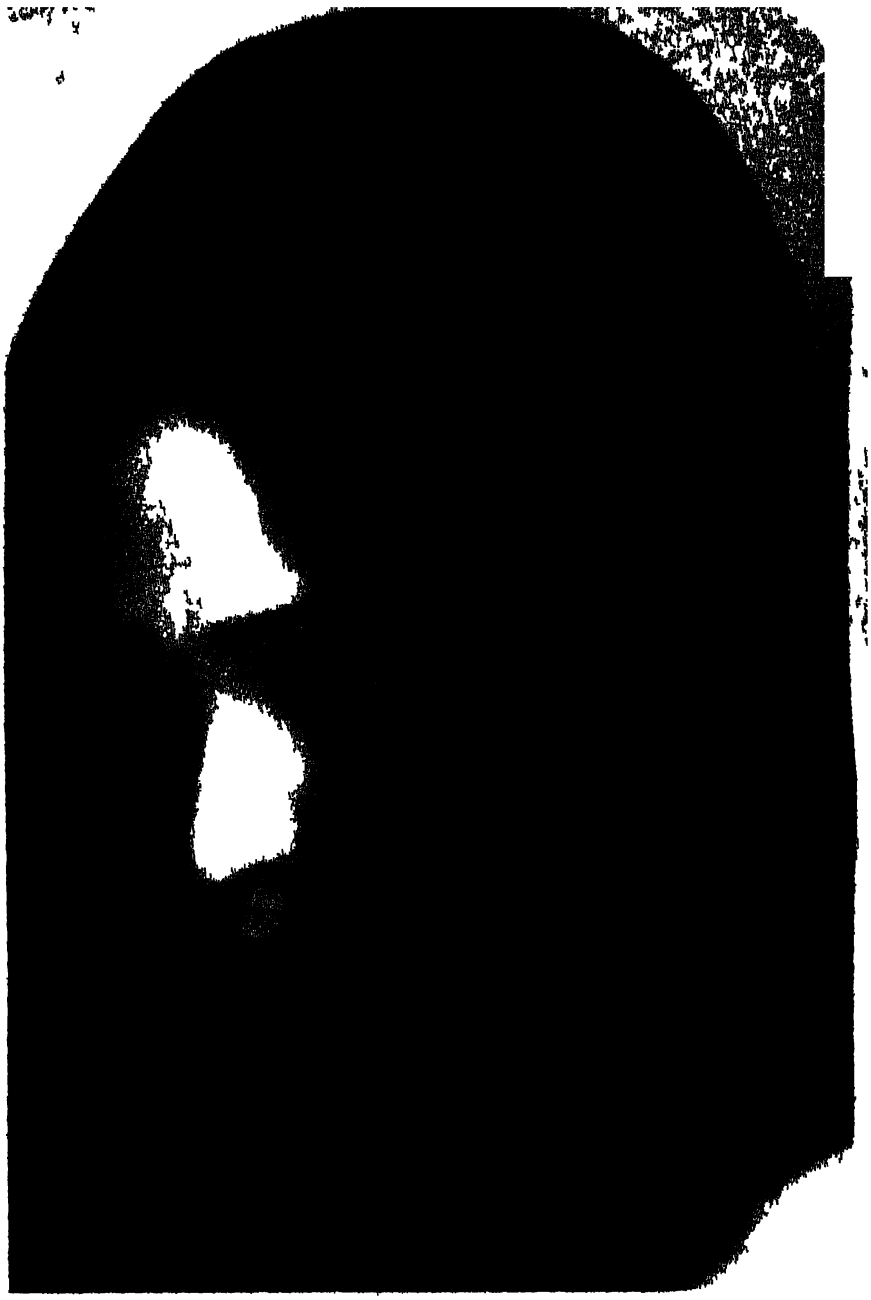
What is your most precious possession?
My freedom of thought
What objects do you always carry?
(I'll tell you what I don't carry) To be on the safe side I always carry enough money.
What makes you most depressed?
Uncertainty. When I cannot decide
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My feet
What is your favourite word?
Sorry; I think it is the most convenient word that came into existence in the English language
What is your favourite journey?
At 60,000' when we got caught in a blizzard at Sela Pass. The adventure could have made it to 'Drama in real life' in *Reader's Digest*
What is your favourite dream?
My dreams keep changing But what I want to accomplish is to keep busy all the time I only enjoy when I am up to my ears in work with little time to relax
What is your nightmare?
To be bored.
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Books. They keep me company when no one else is there.
What is your source of sustenance?
My thoughts
On what occasions do you lie?
If I tell you then you will always know when I am lying
What is your greatest regret?
Not having learnt to swim until a few months ago
What has been your happiest moment?
When I saw the pride in my parents' eyes at the Miss Universe pageant.
What brings tears to your eyes?
Lots of things. When I see able-bodied people begging on the road — that makes me think...
How do you relax?
No comment.
What do you envy most in others?
People with energy and zest for life.
How would you like to be remembered?
More than being loved, I would rather be respected and then loved and thus remembered.
How would you like to die?
It is something I have never thought of. When it comes, it comes. Death is something out of my control and there is little point in thinking about something I cannot control.

What has been your happiest moment?

When I saw the pride in my parents' eyes at the Miss Universe pageant

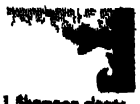
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2 Conditioner puts on cleaned surface

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Only after the shampoo has finished cleaning, does the conditioner take over This is of prime importance as conditioners don't work on oily dirty hair

Because our conditioner acts on a totally clean surface, it does a more thorough job Leaving your hair satin-smooth, shiny and beautiful

And it's no secret beautiful hair makes heads turn

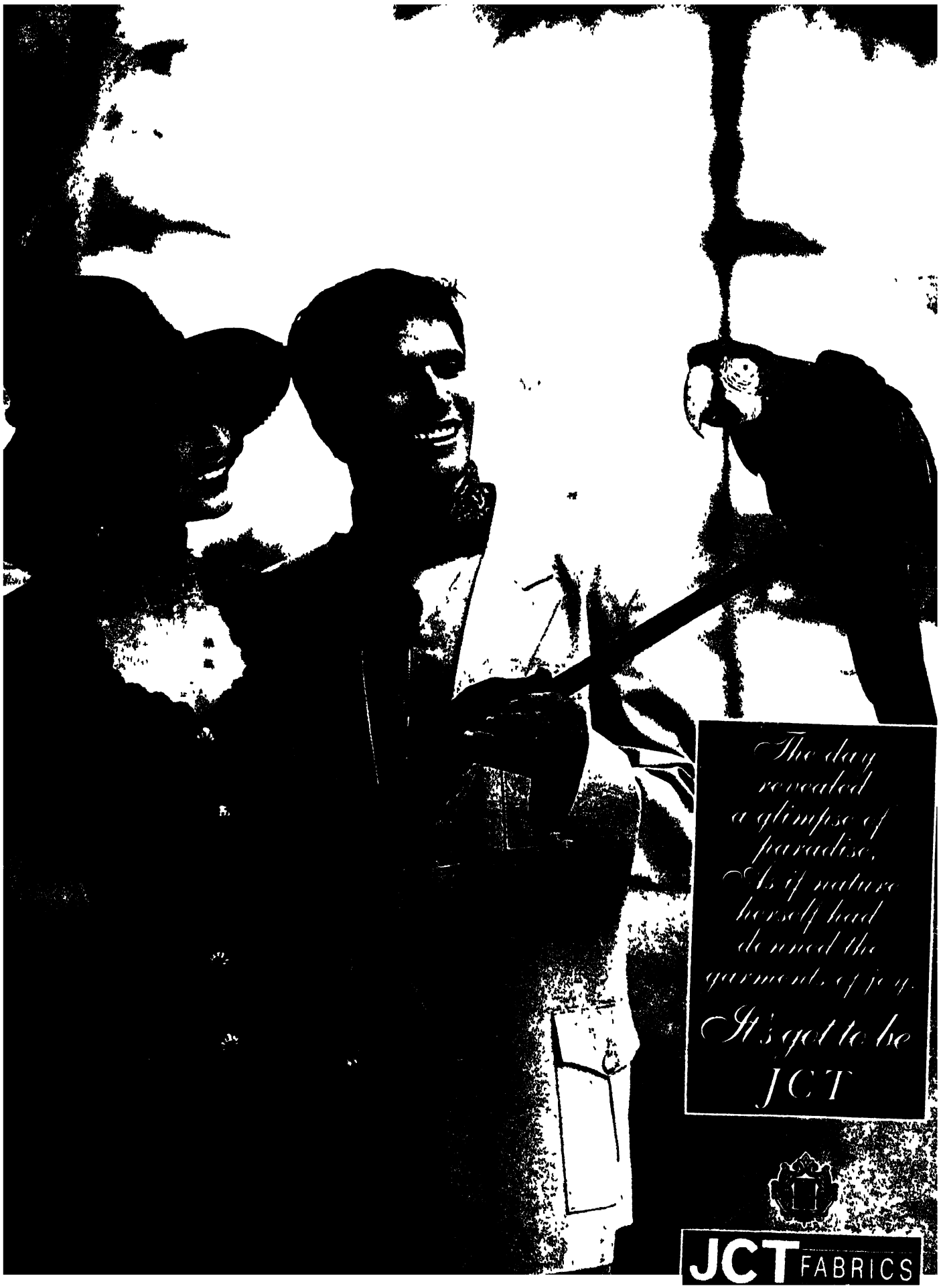
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It's got to be JCT
JCT FABRICS

The Telegraph

18 JUNE 1995

POST MORTEM

Red Terror

■ The Naxalite movement in India was not a principled fight for class annihilation, unlike the one in China ('After the Storm', May 14). It sought to impose its views on the people.

The peasants, although gaining an upper hand, came under the terror of the red party which still holds sway over the agrarian community in the state.

My mind travels back to the turbulent times of the Seventies when terror reigned supreme in Calcutta. There were so many killings; so much bloodshed.

I remember a youth mercilessly killing an aged woman for plastering cowdung cakes on the parapet of a house displaying a Mao Ze Dong slogan. The youth felt he had rightfully killed his "bourgeois mother".

A bunch of misguided youth destroyed public property and killed innocent people who did not conform to their ideals. So many statues of great personalities like Tagore, Vidyasagar and others were mindlessly beheaded. What for?

The movement, instead of ushering in a social change, ruined trade and industry and transferred power to the hands of some unscrupulous leaders who still rule the roast by adopting such tactics as killing and suppression.

Santosh Kumar Sharma,
Kharagpur



Calcutta in the turbulent Seventies

■ The Naxalite movement was actually an upshot of the communist movement wanting to achieve class annihilation. Romantic notions about revolution, struggle and communism prompted many a youth to join the movement.

But today with communism virtually disappearing from the face of the earth, the Naxalites are fast becoming a rare breed. Consequently, they are indulging in petty crimes like kidnapping and looting to make their presence felt, little realising that such acts are belying their lofty ideals.

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore

Immortal Verses

■ The cover story, 'Timeless' (March 12) brought back memories of a day nearly three decades ago when I was listening to Sahir Ludhianvi recite *Parchhaiyan* at a *mushaira* in Delhi

It was well past midnight and the audience was getting restless, when Sahir started reading out his 300-line poem.

The audience listened with rapt attention; there was no fatigue on their face. Sahir recited his lines stressing on peace and universal brotherhood.

The *mushaira* ended and the people went back home with everlasting memories of his verses.

Y.C. Sood,
Sahibabad (U.P.)

■ All of Sahir's compositions were masterpieces. Compare *Jaane woh kaise log they; Yeh raat, yeh chandni phir kahan; Tu Hindu banega ya Musalman banega, Saathi haath badhana* with modern lyrics like *Tu cheez badi hai mast mast* or *Choli ke peechhey kya hai*

Neera Patodia,
Calcutta

■ The cover story took me back to the vintage period of Hindi film lyricism. Sahir's range of emotions and thoughts were mind-boggling. Whatever has happened that lyricists nowadays cannot write anything except a few lurid lines?

Devraj Singh Kalsi,
Kanchrapara (W.B)

■ Sahir's lyrics transport us to the world of unalloyed romanticism Sensuous and pregnant with emotions, his lines remind us of John Keats. Indeed, Sahir is the poet of the century.

Reeyaz Ahmed,
Jhajha (Bihar)

INSIDE



Gautam Patole

Pupul Jayakar

PAGE 6

PUPUL JAYAKAR, India's cultural activist, has just wrapped up her latest book, *Fire in the Mind*, on her spiritual association with Krishnamurti.

PAGE 26

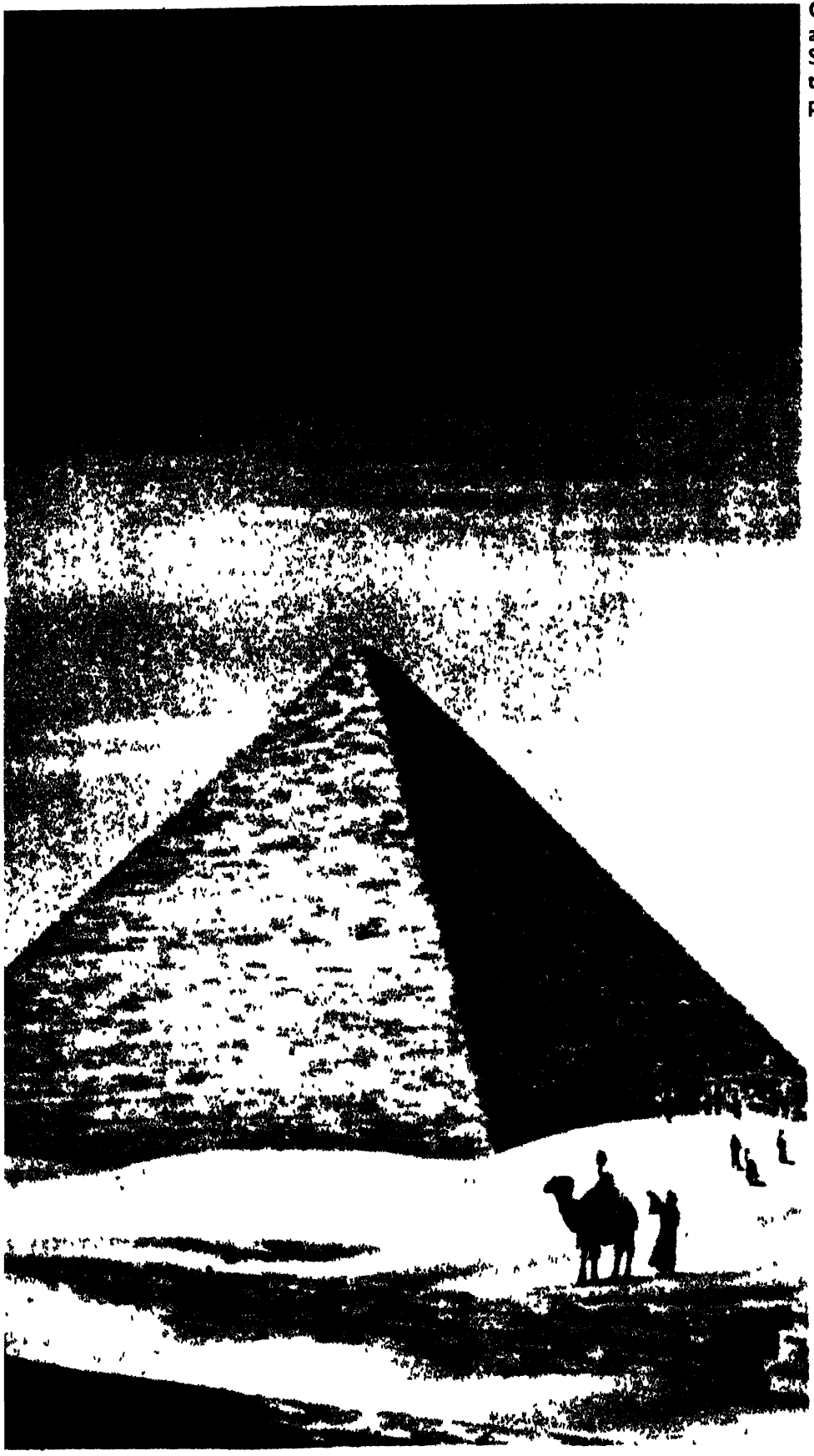
PRATIBHA PARMAR is Britain's first prominent Asian to "come out to herself".

SECTIONS

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18 RUSKIN BOND
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 FOCUS
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Gautam Patole





Carrier was the first air-conditioner to cross the Suez Canal Standing the test of time in the hottest parts of the world

Carrier

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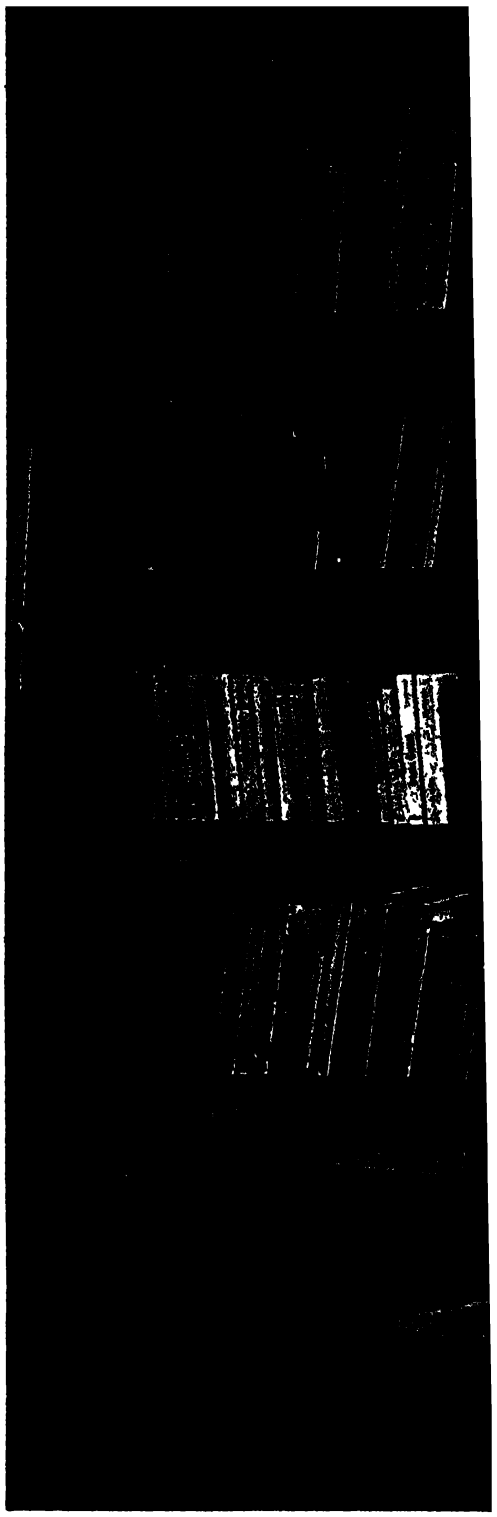
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COVER STORY

SEER MAGIC

Best known as India's 'cultural czarina' (a sobriquet she hates), Pupul Jayakar fulfils her dream of penning her dialogues with J Krishnamurti whose birth centenary is being celebrated this year ***Malini Nair*** *talks to the octogenarian about her commitment, her image and her days in Delhi*

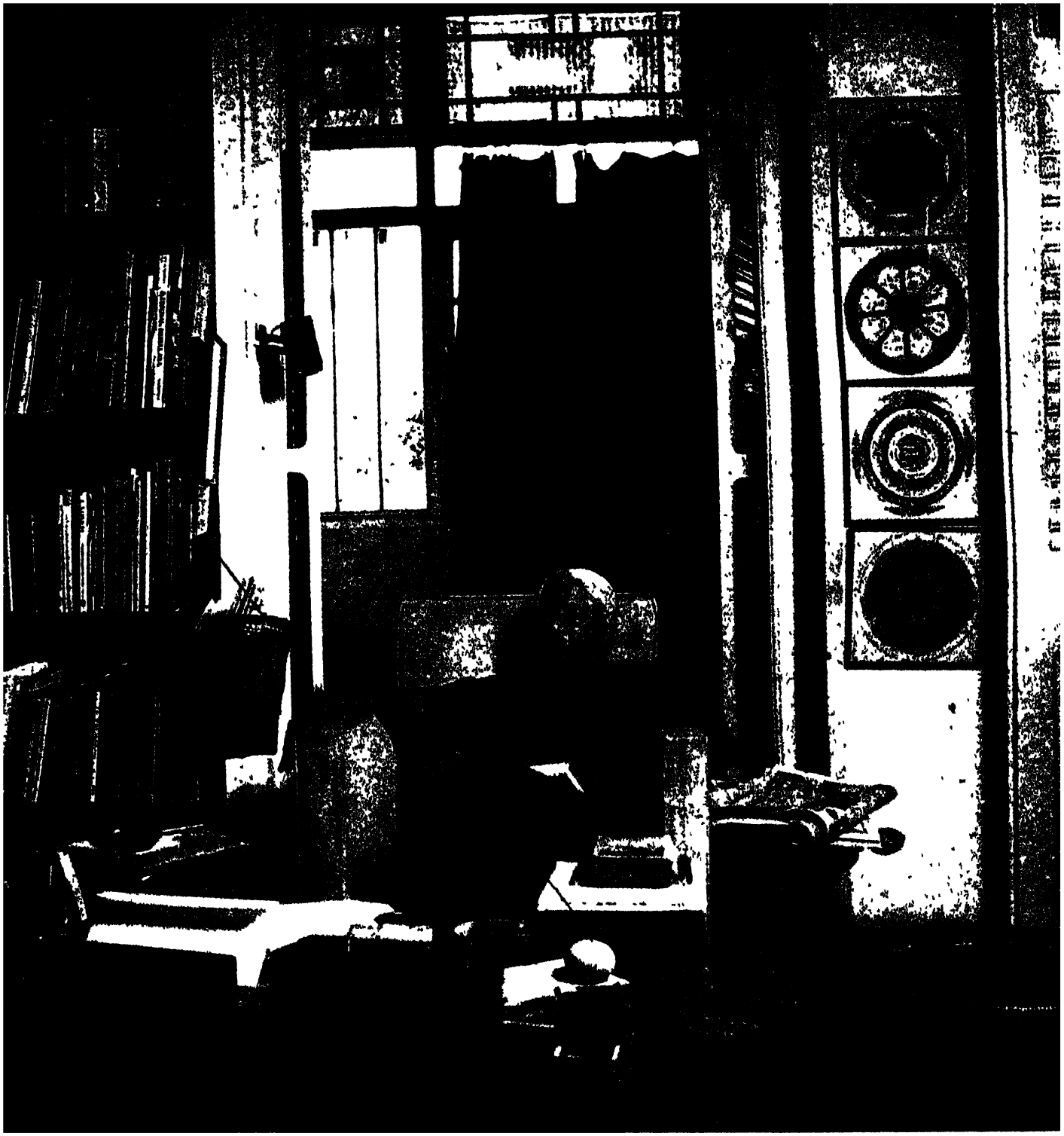
Photographs by Gautam Patole



Pupul Jayakar: In search of the unknown



J. Krishnamurti: Brain, mind, and emptiness



AN ASSORTMENT OF TAPES LIES STREWN AROUND PUPUL JAYAKAR'S COSY WORKING ROOM IN the dilapidated Himmat Niwas mansion at Walkeshwar. Caught in the spools are 40 years of her spiritual association with Jiddu Krishnamurti, the man who defied gurudom, but had troubled seekers flocking to him in droves.

Jayakar has just wrapped up her latest book, *Fire in the Mind*, a free-flowing collection of dialogues between Krishnamurti and his followers culled over several years The exercise has left her rather sapped, but the 80-year-old cultural activist has her hands full with more projects.

She is writing her memoirs and the pace at which it is moving is exasperating her "It



'What he [Krishnamurti] wanted us to find out was if it was possible to be free of leaders and gurus and yet lead a life full of compassion and concern. And compassion is not possible where there is ego'

seems to take its own time
I'll never finish it this way," she says, throwing up her hands A large ring, embossed with the famous sun motif that became the emblem of the controversial Festival of India series, flashes on a finger

Jayakar is dressed in her typical ensemble, a flaring orange handloom sari, black blouse and the large bindi

Fire in the Mind is her second book on Krishnamurti The first, his biography, was published nine years ago and sold in seven languages abroad It may have been a tortuous process, but putting together *Fire in the Mind* was the dream of a lifetime

"I specifically wanted to deal with the Krishnamurti dialogues For here is one person interacting with a group to investigate into the nature and depth of human consciousness, brain and mind — all subjects which scientists are now getting interested in," she says

"It is a fascinating quest— is it possible, through relentless questioning, to reach into the realm of the unknown and bring it to light?"

Jayakar met 'Krishnaji', as she cal the thinker, way back in 1948 What drew her to him was his insistence t there be no guru or disciple, that ea should be responsible for himself a therefore for the world "There is n talk of *nirvana*, but of self-inquiry," she points out

"What he wanted us to find out w if it was possible to be free of leader and gurus and yet lead a life full of compassion and concern And compassion is not possible wh re there ego"

It is precisely this horror of ego, s Jayakar, which kept her out of politi Soon after independence armed wi a Congress ticket for the Assembly election she was just about to step ir politics when she met Krishnamurti "It all dropped away afterwards," s recalls

"In politics, it is necessary to say ' am the best' and I need to negate all that is 'I' So I moved into the realm

'I listen to criticism. and correct myself'



culture and handicraft "

During her high-profile stint as the boss of the culture circuit, Jayakar pioneered and headed several institutions — All India Handicrafts Board, National Institute of Design, National Institute of Fashion Technology The list is almost unending Even today she heads Intach

She may have been synonymous for years with all that can be loosely termed as state-backed 'culture', but Jayakar loathes the sobriquet, 'cultural czarina'

"The person who coined that expression must be really stupid," she says dismissively "Nobody can really embody the whole culture of India, but one has certain skills that can be built upon at the grassroots level "

Pupul Jayakar is no longer at the centre of the culture scene in the Capital Others have taken charge, but she refuses to be provoked into being acerbic about it "Everywhere you build and you move on, get old Others replace you,' she says philosophically But when I look back, what I am today is the result of all that — my heritage, my meeting with Krishnamurti "

In her busy years in Delhi, pushing the cause of culture, she came in for flak on many fronts — her proximity to Indira Gandhi, the grandiose scale on which the Festivals of India were organised But if she was upset about it, she makes a good show of hiding her hurt

"I'm one of the most criticised people in India But I listen to all criticism If I find substance in it, I try and correct myself Otherwise Why burn myself out?" she asks rhetorically

Even in her later years, at the sagging end of her culture crusade, Jayakar spurned an offer to join politics "I felt it was like being put into a cage," she says "I wasn't prepared for it "

Most people know of Pupul Jayakar largely as a product of her association with Krishnamurti, but her childhood had been quite fascinatingly different Her father, Vinayak N Mehta, was an ICS officer in UP who was determined that none of his daughters (he had four of them) would be brought up any differently from his son

Three things were absolutely 'no' for the girls — they could not enter the kitchen, they could not sew and they could not knit

"The three things regarded as symbolic of Indian womanhood," she explains "Even today I cannot make tea even though I could do many other things," she says, laughing



'What I am today is the result of all that — my meeting with Krishnamurti'

'In politics, it is necessary to say "I am the best" and I need to negate all that is "I". So I moved into the realm of culture and handicraft'

Marriage brought her to Bombay and Himmat Niwas was where the couple first rented quarters The city was vastly different then Walkeshwar was full of woods then and from across the road where her mother lived a green vista opened up outside "I've seen it all — the slow destruction of this city," she says ruefully "But I can still see the odd tree when I look out of the window "

Far from the bustle of Delhi's corridors of power, Pupul leads a fairly quiet existence But she says she does not miss being centrestage "There was a time when Delhi offered the possibility of building up a great deal Some good did come out of it, the handloom industry came into its own and there was an explosion of Indian culture abroad," she remembers

As she goes back to her study to resume her work, Jayakar Pupul throws back a prophetic line at her many critics "It will be a number of years before people realise the magnitude of what took place in those years "

EXTRACT

THE PARADOX WITHIN

What is culture? The question is simple, the answer is just as profound

Excerpts from the dialogue Pupul Jayakar had with J Krishnamurti, investigating the meaning of culture

Pupul Jayakar (PJ) Krishnaji, there is a strange phenomenon in the world today where the East reaches out to the West to find sustenance, and the West reaches out to the East for, in inverted commas, 'wisdom' to fill some vacuum. My question is: Is there an Indian mind which may contain the same elements of sorrow, greed, anger, etc., as the Western mind but where the ground from which these spring is different?

J Krishnamurti (K): Are you asking whether Eastern thought, Eastern culture, the Eastern way of life, is different from that of the West?

PJ Well, obviously the Indian way of life is different from that of the West.

K It is.

PJ Yes, because the conditioning of the two are different. But, in a sense, they complement each other.

K In what way?

PJ In the sense that the East, or India, more specifically, lacks perhaps that precision of carrying an abstraction to concrete action.

K Are you saying that in India they live more in abstraction?

PJ Yes. They are not so concerned about action in the environment or with action as such.

K What would you say they are concerned with?

PJ Today, of course, there is a great change taking place. It's very difficult to say what the Indian mind is, because the Indian mind today is looking – at one level – for the same material comforts.



'I question whether thought is ever Eastern or Western'

In the West there was a discovery and a dialogue with nature. But the direction in which the West turned led to technology and all the great scientific truths. India also had a dialogue with nature and with the self, but the dialogues were in themselves of a different kind.

So, are you trying to say that the Eastern mind, the Indian mind, is more concerned with religious matters than the Western mind?

Extracted from *Time in the Mind: Dialogues with J Krishnamurti* ***by Pupul Jayakar, Penguin India, 1995, Rs 150***

K: It is looking for progress in the technological world, and applying it in daily life, and so on

PJ: Yes, progress in the technological world and consumerism have percolated very deeply into the Indian spirit

K: So, what ultimately is the difference betweeen Indian culture and Western culture?

PJ: Perhaps, in spite of this material overtone, there still is, in India, a certain insight into things because of a certain edge to the whole delving process itself In India, the delving process or inquiry goes into the field of the self, the within For centuries the Indian mind has been nurtured in this feeling Whereas, in the West, right from the time of the Greeks, there has always been a movement away — a movement towards the outer, the environment

K: I understand The other day I heard on the television a very well known Indian being interviewed He said that the technological world now in India is humanising the Indian mind I wonder what he meant by that Did he mean that instead of living in abstractions and theories with all the complexity of ideation and so on, the technological world is bringing the Indians down to earth?

PJ: And perhaps it is necessary to some extent

K Obviously it's necessary

PJ: So, if these two minds have a different essence

K: I question that very much I question whether thought is ever Eastern or Western You see, there is only thought It is not Eastern thought or Western thought The expression of thought may be different in India and in the West, but it is still a process of thought

PJ: But it is also not true that what the brain cells contain in the West, and what the centuries of knowledge and so-called wisdom have given to the brain cells in the East make them perceive differently?

K: I would like to question what you are saying, if I may I find that when I go to India there is much more materialism now than there used to be There is more concern with money, position, power and all that And of course there is over-population, and all the complexities of modern civilization Are you saying that the Indian mind has a tendency to an inward search much moreso than the mind of the West?

PJ: I would say so I would say that there is the inner environment and the outer environment, and that the outer environment is the concern of the West while the inner environment has been the concern of the East

K: Has been the concern, yes, *but it has been the concern of very, very few people*

PJ: But it is only those few who create culture

K: Yes Well, the Western world is much more concerned, as far as I can see — I may be mistaken — with worldly affairs

PJ: But what turned it in that direction?

K. Politics, economics, geographical location and climate

PJ. No, you see, if it was only the climate, then India, Mexico and Equatorial Africa would have had the same mind But they don't So, that's not the answer

K. No, of course not It's not only the climate You see, it is the whole so-



'The world is not so important as the understanding of the self

Isn't culture everything that the brain contains? **That is, would you say that culture is the training of the brain, the refinement of the brain and the expression of that refinement in action, in behaviour, in relationship, and also that it is a process of inquiry that leads to something totally untouched by thought? I would say that that is culture**

Yes. The swiftness with which the mind can start the inquiry is perhaps different in the West, where the inquiring and the great insights have been in a different direction.

In the West, you see, in religious matters, doubt, scepticism, questioning is absolutely denied. Faith is all important in the West. But in Indian religions, in Buddhism and so on, doubt, questioning and inquiry become all important

called religious way of life in the West which is very, very different from that of the East

PJ That's it That's what I am saying That somewhere along the line, they are people of one racial stock seemingly divided

K Divided, yes

PJ In the West there was a discovery and a dialogue with nature But the direction in which the West turned led to technology and all the great scientific truths India also had a dialogue with nature and with the self, but the dialogues were in themselves of a different kind

K So, are you trying to say that the Eastern mind, the Indian mind, is more concerned with religious matters than the Western mind?

PJ I am, yes

K Here, in the West, it's all rather superficial – though they think it's rather deep — and there, in India, the tradition, literature and everything says, "The world is not so important as the understanding of the self, the understanding of the universe, the understanding of the cosmos, the highest principle — *brahman*"

PJ Yes The swiftness with which the mind can start the inquiry is perhaps different in the West, where the inquiring and the great insights have been in a different direction

K. In the West, you see, in religious matters, doubt, scepticism, questioning is absolutely denied Faith is all important in the West But in Indian religions, in Buddhism and so on, doubt, questioning and inquiry become all important

PJ Today both the cultures are in a crisis

K Yes, both cultures are in a crisis Pupul would you say that it is not merely the cultures but the whole of human consciousness that is in a crisis?

PJ. Yes Well, would you distinguish human consciousness from culture?

K. No

PJ. In a sense they are the same

K Yes, basically they are the same, they are not different

PJ So, the crisis, at the very root, has made them search somewhere away from themselves They feel an inadequacy and so they turn to the other culture It's happening in both countries

K Yes, but you see Pupul, in their search from their materialistic out look, if I may use that word, the people of the West are being caught not only in all kinds of superstitions, romantic, occult ideas but also by these gurus who come over here (to the West, that is) What I want to find out is whether human consciousness — which is in a crisis — can not only resolve that crisis without war, without destroying humanity, but also whether human beings can ever go beyond their own limitation I don't know whether I am making myself clear

PJ. Sir, the outer and inner are like two mirror images of the directions in which man has moved The problem really is that if man has to survive, the two have to be

K The two have to live together

PJ. No, not just live together, but a human culture, which would contain both, must come into being

K. Yes, that's it Now, what do you mean by the word 'culture'?

PJ: Isn't culture everything that the brain contains?

K That is, would you say that culture is the training of the brain, the refinement of the brain and the expression of that refinement in action, in behaviour, in relationship, and also that it is a process of inquiry that leads to something totally untouched by thought? I would say that that is culture

PJ. Would you include inquiry in the field of culture?

K: Of course

PJ: Isn't culture a closed circuit?

K. You can make culture a closed circuit or you can break it and go beyond

PJ: But today culture, as it exists, is a closed circuit

K That's why I want to understand what you mean by the word 'culture'

PJ Culture, as we understand it today Krishnaji, is the sum of our perceptions, the way we look at things, our thoughts, our feelings, our attitudes, the operation of our senses

K Go on

PJ You can keep on adding to this

K. That is, religion, faith, belief, superstition

PJ. All the outer and the inner

K Yes

PJ Which keep on growing -- but growing within that contour It remains a contour And when you talk of a search, which is in no way connected with this, would you include it in the field of culture?

K Of course Would you say -- I'm just trying to clarify the matter — that the whole movement of culture is like a tide going out and coming in and that human endeavour is this process of going out and coming in without ever inquiring whether that process can ever stop? Do you understand? What I mean is that we act and react

PJ Yes

K That's human nature — like the ebb and flow of the tide I react and out of the reaction act, and from that action react It's back and forth

PJ. Yes

K Now, I m asking whether this reaction of reward and punishment can stop and take a totally different turn Our lives, our functions, our reactions are based on reward and punishment — both physically and psychologically Right?

PJ: Yes

K. And that's all we know — deeply There is this reaction of reward and the avoidance of punishment and so on — like the tide Now, I'm asking whether there is another sense of action which is not based on this action-reaction Do you understand what I am talking about?

PJ As this action-reaction is an impulse of the brain cells

As they [the senses] operate today, Krishna*ji* they seem to have one root — thought. The movement of the senses, as they operate, is the movement of thought.

That's all. Therefore it's limited. I'm inquiring, with a lot of hesitation and a certain amount of scepticism, whether the brain cells — which have evolved through thousands of years, experienced untold sorrow, loneliness, despair and tried to escape from its own fears through every form of 'religious' endeavour and all the rest of it — can ever, by themselves, change and bring about a mutation in themselves

K It's our conditioning

PJ And it's an impulse of the brain cells

K Yes, of course, of course

PJ It's the way the brain cells respond and the way they receive through the senses

K Our question really is What is culture?

PJ And we went into it

K A little bit

PJ Yes, a little bit It can be expanded much further but still it remains within the same

K Yes, it's in the same field

PJ Would you say then that culture is that which is contained in the brain cells?

K Of course

PJ Anything else?

K All our past memories

PJ Yes So if you take all that, is there anything else?

K I understand now This is a different question, because — we must be careful, very careful — if there is something else — if — then that something else can operate on the brain cells which are conditioned Right? *If* there is something in the brain, the activity of that something else can bring about a freedom from this narrow, limited culture But is there something else within the brain?

PJ But even physiologically they are saying, Krishna*ji*, that the operation of the brain cells today is a very, very minute portion of its capacity

K: I know that Why?

PJ Because conditioning limits it, and it has never been free of those processes which

K: Limit it Which means, thought is limited

PJ: Yes, it's put all its eggs in one basket

K: One basket, that's how I want to put it Thought is limited, and we are all functioning within that limitation Right? Experience, knowledge, memory and thought are limited forever

PJ What place have the senses and the perceptive processes in this?

K That brings another question, which is Can the senses operate without the interference of thought? Do you understand my question?

PJ: As they operate today, Krishna*ji* they seem to have one root — thought The movement of the senses, as they operate, is the movement of thought

K: That's all Therefore it's limited I'm inquiring, with a lot of hesitation and a certain amount of scepticism, whether the brain cells — which have evolved through thousands of years, experienced untold sorrow, loneliness, despair and tried to escape from its own fears through every form of 'religious' endeavour and all the rest of it — can ever, by themselves, change and bring about a mutation in themselves

PJ: But if they don't bring about a mutation in themselves

K: What would?

PJ and there is nothing else?

K Yes, I understand your question

PJ You see, this is the paradox Really, sir, it is a paradox

Brockwood Park, 24 June 1983



'The whole movement of culture is like a tide going out and coming in

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

THE ONLY RESORT

The most difficult thing about running a hotel must surely be putting up with the guests, the compulsion to be constantly polite

Anyone in the travel business knows how much holidaymakers complain The Butterfields, a husband and wife team, with broad Yorkshire accents and close-cropped hair, have been running railway tours around India for years

Theirs is about the only travel company for whom Itarsi is a big draw Many of their customers are fanatically committed to railways, but even they can complain about food or delays

A few winges from their clients even reach the Butterfields' booking centre in England — a village shop which would have closed down in the face of competition from supermarkets, but for a parallel trade in railway tourism

So the few months the Butterfields are not coupling and uncoupling their bogey from trains on Indian Railways, they are happy to retire to the peace of a small house in Kerala

Klaus Schleusner is another expatriate in the tourist trade who lives, but has not retired, in Kerala He has made his home his business

Klaus first came to India in 1971 From 1978 to 1985, he lived in Madras and taught German language and literature at the IIT there Now he's learning Malayalam and living a few kilometres down the coast from Kovalam He is vice president of the Kovalam Resorts Association, but is mortally opposed to what is actually happening to Kovalam beach

I found him dressed in a white *lungi* and *kurta*, supervising a team of local masons who were unmaking a natural rock-style swimming pool

The swimming pool is the most resortish feature of the Surya Samudra which is described in its brochure as a Bungalow Hotel and Ayurvedic Spa practising soft tourism

It began as a two-room octagonal house, with a steep conical tiled roof reminiscent of Kerala temple architecture This was the house Klaus built as his own home after scouring the coast for a spot that met his criteria — beautiful, near the sea and the airport and with good drinking water

In 1985 the idea of a hotel struck him He moved out and with one guest the hotel was full

But Klaus didn't want to build an ordinary resort His ideas were very much tinged with green So he and a German architect, who had spent years studying Indian architecture, began to look for traditional houses

Traditional arts are waning, and many of the state's old, solid-wooded houses are now barely recognisable from the outside Their owners, finding them unmodern and a problem to maintain are also selling them off as timber

Klaus bought a few old homes and brought them to the seaside, where his architect friend reassembling them, varnished them to protect them from the salt breezes, and adapted them to the needs of their future guests

This did not mean certain things which are generally considered essential for upmarket tourists

1 Air-conditioning None is provided If you ask, you can have a mosquito net and a pedestal fan Traditional architecture allows proper circulation

2 En suite bathrooms Traditional houses were not built with bathrooms To get round this problem, small rear courtyards were constructed and planted with banana plantains which grow next to the lavatory, tap and bucket

Soft tourism means working to promote local people of an area instead of harming them Generally, a quietly spoken, expert at being polite, Klaus is hard on mass tourism — the kind that's on the rampage in Kovalam

"Mass tourism destroys All the same businesses undercut each other And the Indian government is under no obligation to subsidise poor Europeans and give them a cheap holiday One person paying Rs 2,000 a night, brings the country just as much foreign exchange as 100 paying Rs 20 So why not have just the ones who can pay? That is what has saved Bhutan "

A room in a wooden house certainly doesn't come cheap by local standards — Rs 2 400 or Rs 2,700 a night In comparison, Rs 12 still buys a meal of rice, *papardam*, two *daals* plus *sambhar*, vegetable, curd and pickle at the local food establishment where many of the village men eat

Still, although the hibiscus-filled gardens of the resort are very much a separate world, at least local people do find employment there The man to benefit most is the *vaid* and masseur, who extracts his own oils from medicinal plants

An expert in his field, the resort has given him the opportunity to maximise his earnings and also teach Ayurveda in Germany Local people build, maintain and staff the complex One smiling local fisherman is the lifeguard, while others share the small beach with bathers

On one side soft tourism of this type has benefits The tourists attracted are on the whole sensitive Often, they have an abiding interest in India — one of the regular guests is a flautist who has written a book analysing Indian *raagas*

But the occasional boom of dynamite dropped from narrow log boats by fishermen blasting marine life from the sea is a reminder of the imbalances which exist on the coast The sea is over-fished and livings are harder to make than they once were

The Kovalam Resorts Association is considering petitioning the High Court to order the Kerala government to enforce the law and stop dynamiting This would save some marine life, but would not solve the problem If not mass tourism, then something else on a mass scale is needed to fulfil increasing aspirations

(*Sanctuary Features*)

INNER EYE — Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Focus shifts to house, property land building and construction announces Ganesha Interviews and appointments will be up your street While a home away from home is literally possible, you will have to weigh it in the balance as your future is at stake

Taurus

April 21 -May 20



Cut out the crap and get to the core of it because time is short and you will have much to do There are too many irons in the fire for your own good Do expect visitors, relatives strangers and foreigners to call come and even stay Home may need a facelift June 19-20 signifies action time

Gemini

May 21 - June 20



Group activity is definitely favoured and encouraged The more you circulate and communicate, the better for you Romance opens the window of your heart wide open and that is badly needed June 20 21 is for entertainment and amusement Your bank balance augments

Cancer

June 21 - July 20



It would be ideal to mix caution and agression imagination and practicality, because the going will be slightly tricky and uncertain It is absolutely certain that news from a distant land could be the deciding factor Travel stars are in the ascendant June 24 is exciting

Leo

July 21 - August 21



Time to sign contracts work in secrecy burnish your image, get on with the jetset, play a major role in films TV or real life and Leons are good at all three! Many Leons will be into meditation psychiatry, extra sensory perception and bizarre experiences Heavy expenses

Virgo

August 22 - September 22



Release of tensions makes this comparatively speaking, an easier week, and you jolly well deserve this break It will also help you paradoxically, to work at full speed Progress will be made Those in business and sales do well Take the help of friends and well wishers

Libra

September 23 - October 22



Venus, your ruling planet is superbly placed making you charismatic and therefore popular But expenses will mount and competition will be great So do not relax your guard Visits and trips are definitely a salient feature of the week Research and education make a fine duo

Scorpio

October 23 - November 22



This week is a preparation for coming into your own, gathering your forces, marshalling your resources, planning an all out attack or campaign The results will please you, but a wee bit Finances and loans form a major part of the week Buying/selling is indicated

Sagittarius

November 23 - December 20



Romance collaborations wedding bells, legal affairs and partnerships at all levels are the main features of this week Ganesha says, taxes investments, capital formation, buying and selling make one big unit for you A very emotional week

Capricorn

December 21 - January 19



While your round of sustained hard work continues you will be able to cope better now with fluid situations changing very frequently You will also tide over a health problem and that is good news indeed New contacts and associations are destined

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18



Your heart will beat to a distant drum and there is a possibility of a job hop or a raise You will have to go flat out in whatever you do That, in turn could have slight health repercussions In other words, time to mix business with pleasure Do not be oversensitive

Pisces

February 19 - March



There are two trends working almost simultaneously The previous direction of house, property, office renovation and decoration is one The other revolves round marriage, divorce separation, joint finances and legacies Obviously, all this should keep you on your toes

BIRTHDAYS

June 18: Hard work and quick decisions plus an alertness will be necessary to succeed, because Mercury conjuncts Venus, says Ganesha

June 19: The moon's last quarter makes you diplomatic and insightful You can expect help from people and that should turn the tables for you

June 20: Moon-Jupiter trine or happy formation leads to an emotional fulfilment and that means much money, journey and ceremony

June 21: Moon-Venus sextile leads to romance, children, and a taste for all beautiful things Your friends and supporters will be numerous

June 22: Moon-Sun sextile means money in the kitty, popularity and tremendous confidence and drive There will be a realisation of your dreams

June 23: Moon-trine Mars assures energy, leadership, enthusiasm Those connected with land, building, films, chemicals and the arts do exceedingly well

June 24: Moon-trine Neptune and Uranus is excellent augury for traders, research workers, farmers and chemists It does spell inspiration and exaltation

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7 day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0820	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1010	1 2 3 6 7	IC 722	1950	1 2 3 6 7
BANGALORE					
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1840	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	2035	6	IC 2[illegible]	1830	daily
AI 681	2350	1			
DELHI					
IC 264	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0950	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1730	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF-737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	IC 701	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1705	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 25[illegible]	1140	2 4	IC [illegible]	1510	2 4
GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
PF 735	0730	1	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	IC 230	1620	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
4S 816 & [illegible]	1705	2 4 6	4S 813 815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	[illegible]	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	1045	1 3 5	S2 024	1525	1 3 5
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	3 7	IC 213	1315	3 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2005	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	1 2 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1740	1 2 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	3 7	IC 213	1315	3 7
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0345	7	KL-875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
BANGKOK					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 4 5 7	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
TG 314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6
BUCHAREST					
RO 076	1950	5 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG 698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
DHAKA					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG 092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG 094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KATHMANDU					
RA 214	1030	4 7	RA 213	0945	4 7
IC 747	1115	1 3 5	IC 748	1455	1 3 5
LONDON					
BA 142	2050	3 7	BA 143	1525	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARO					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1950	5	AI 309	1925	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
3313	19 [illegible]	Delhi Kalka Mail	[illegible]0	3312
4005	13 20	Amritsar Mail	[illegible]	4006
3001	20 35	Bombay Mail [illegible]	1 00	3002
3381	0 05	Poorva (New Delhi) Express [illegible]	16 15	3382
		Dep Wed Thur, Sun		
		Arr Tue Wed & Sat		
3401	0 05	Poorva (New Delhi) Express [illegible]	16 15	3404
		Dep Mon Tue [illegible] & Sat		
		Arr Mon Tues Fri & Sun		
2301	16 30	Rajdhani Express via Gaya	10 15	2302
		Dep Mon Tue Wed Fri & Sat		
		Arr Mon Tue Thurs Fri & Sun		
3001	13 00	Rajdhani Express via Patna	12 50	3006
		Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat		
3074	23 00	Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express Tr Wkly	11 15	3074
		Dep Tue Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat		
5047	13 30	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express Dep & Arr Sun	1 40	5048
		Mon Wed & Fri		
3009	10 3	Doon Express [illegible] Chord	7 00	3010
3007	3	Udyan Abha Toofan Express via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 50	Amritsar Express	15 30	3050
3039	21 05	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5 20	3040
3019	16 05	Kathgodam Express	11 55	3020
3021	21 45	Mithila Express	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6 40	5660
3317	6 10	Black Diamond Express	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	Coalfield Express	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	Asansol Express	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	Danapur Express	5 50	3032
3025	23 00	North Bihar Express	11 45	3026
		Dep Wednesday, Arr Friday		
3071	22 30	Jamalpur Express	5 [illegible]	3072
3015	9 55	Santiniketan Express	1 40	3016
1159	15 25	Chambal (Gwalior) Express	6 50	1160
		Dep Fri [illegible] Arr Mon Tue & Wed		
1171	15 25	Shipra (Indore) Express	6 50	1172
		Dep Mon Tue [illegible] Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun		
3327	14 30	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express	6 50	1182
		Thursday Only		
		Sealdah		
3141	17 40	Teesta Torsa Express	6 35	3142
		Dep Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun		
		Arr Tue Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun		
3143	19 15	Darjeeling Mail	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	Jaipur Express via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	Kanchanjunga Express	10 35	5658
3153	12 00	Gour Express	15	3154
5663	20 00	Katihar Express	4 15	5664
3151	11 45	Jammu Tawi Express	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	Mughal Sarai Express via BG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18 20	Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express	10 25	3104
5185	12 40	Ganga Sagar (Chhapra) Express	1 25	5186
		Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat		

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	10 40	Madras Mail	6 50	6004
8007	19 [illegible]	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	8 10	8001
2560	1 30	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15 15	2859
8043	20 40	Ahmedabad Express	5 15	8043
8030	11 20	Kurla Express via Nagpur	16 30	8029
2841	14 10	Coromandal (Madras) Express	17 00	2842
		via Vijayawada		
7001	8 10	Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express	19 40	7004
		Dep Sunday, Arr Tuesday		
70040	8 10	Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express	0930	70040
		Dep Tue Fri & Arr Mon & Thu		
6511	1 35	Bangalore Express	13 45	6511
		Dep Sun		
		Arr Sun		
8011	17 10	Tata Steel Express	10 20	8011
8051	6 15	Ispat Express	2 05	8012
8005	20 55	Titlagarh Express	5 00	8006
8015	21 30	Ranchi Hatia Express	6 10	8016
890	22 10	Puri Express via Khurda	5 40	8008
8309	19 05	Jagannath (Puri) Express via Nimpura	8 25	8410
2811	1 05	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express	11 30	282
8059	23 20	Tirupati Express	4 15	8060
8045	11 45	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	15 00	8046
9017	16 15	Purulia Express	11 25	8018
		Dep Every Sunday,		
		Arr Every Sunday		
2421	16 10	Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah) Sunday only	16 10	
	11 55	New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah) Sunday only	10 35	2422
632	12 35	Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express Monday only	12 15	
	11 05	Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express [illegible]	11 35	6312
	14 30	Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express [illegible] Sunday only	15	6313
6314	22 30	Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express via Howrah & Jolarpettai Monday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Express via Vriddhachalam Cuttack & Howrah	13 35	6315
		Dep Tue & Fri Arr Wed & Sat		
6520	22 35	Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express via [illegible]	2 15	
	14 05	Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express via [illegible]	14 35	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

GEORGE AND RANJI

When I heard that my cousin George had again escaped from the mental asylum in a neighbouring town, I knew it wouldn't be long before he turned up at my doorstep It usually happens at the approach of the cricket season No problem, I thought I'll just bundle him into a train and take him back to the hospital

Cousin George had been there, off and on, for a few years He wasn't the violent type and was given a certain amount of freedom — with the result that he occasionally wandered off by himself, sometimes, to try and take in a Test match You see, George did not suffer from the delusion that he was Napolean or Ghengis Khan, he was convinced that he was the great Ranji, Prince of Cricketers, and that he had just been selected to captain India — quite forgetting that Ranji had actually played for England!

So when George turned up on my front step I wasn't surprised to find him carrying a cricket bat in one hand and a protective box in the other

'Aren't you ready?" he asked "The match starts at 11 "

"There's plenty of time," I said, recalling that the train left at 11 15 "Why don't you come in and relax while I get ready?" George sat down and asked for a glass of beer I brought him one and he promptly emptied it over a pot of ferns

"They look thirsty," he said I dressed hurriedly, anxious to get moving before he started practising his late-cuts on my cutglass decanter Then, lin-

'There's plenty of time,' I said, recalling that the train left at 11.15. 'Why don't you come in and relax while I get ready?' George sat down and asked for a glass of beer. I brought him one and he promptly emptied it over a pot of ferns. 'They look thirsty,' he said



The scooter driver slowed down and looked from cousin George to me and back again. George gave him a winning smile and looking in my direction, tapped his forehead significantly. The driver nodded in sympathy and kept straight for the Kotla

king arms, we walked to the gate and hailed an auto rickshaw

"Railway station," I whispered to the driver

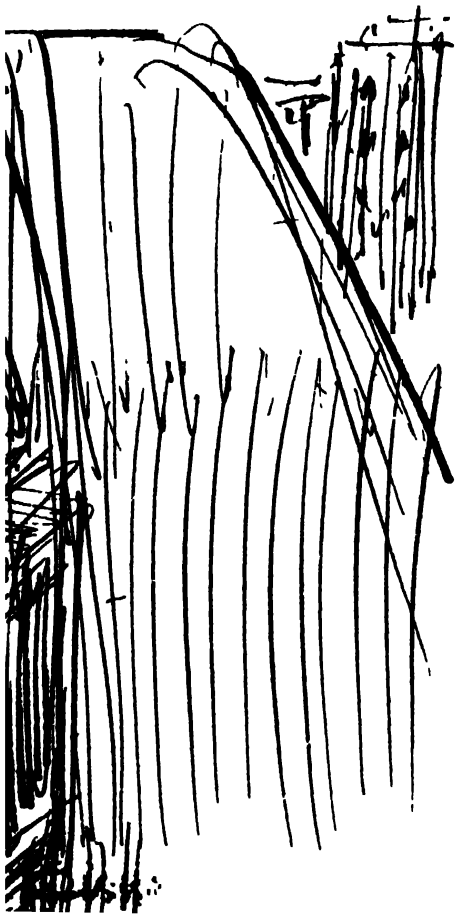
"Ferozeshah Kotla," said George in ringing tones, naming Delhi's famous cricket ground No matter, I thought, I'll straighten out the driver as we go along I bundled George into the rickshaw and we were soon heading in the direction of the Kotla

"Railway station," I said again, in tones that could not be denied

"Kotla," said cousin George, just as firmly

The scooter driver kept right on course for the cricket ground Apparently George had made a better impression on him

"Look," I said, tapping the driver on the shoulder "This is my cousin and he's not quite right in the head He's just escaped from a mental asylum and if I'm to get him back there tonight, we must catch the 11 15 train "



The scooter driver slowed down and looked from cousin George to me and back again George gave him a winning smile and looking in my direction, tapped his forehead significantly The driver nodded in sympathy and kept straight on for the Kotla

Well, I've always believed that the dividing line between sanity and insanity is a very thin one, but I had never realised it was quite so thin—too thin for my own comfort! Who was crazy, George, me or the driver?

We had almost reached the Kotla and I had no intention of watching over cousin George through a whole day's play He gets excited at cricket matches — which is strange considering how dull they can be On one occasion, he broke through the barriers and walked up to the wicket with his bat, determined to bat at No 3 (Ranji's favourite position, apparently) and assaulted an umpire who tried to escort him from the ground

I confirmed the driver's worst fears by jumping off the rickshaw as it slowed down, and making my getaway I've never been able to discover if cousin George had any money with him, or if the rickshaw driver got paid Rickshaw drivers are inclined at times to be violent, but then so are inmates of mental hospitals Anyway, George seems to have no memory of the incident

Three days later, I received word from the hospital that he had returned of his own accord, boasting that he had hit a century — so presumably, he had participated in the match in some form or another

All's well that ends well, or so I like to think Cousin George was not usually a violent man, but I have a funny feeling about the rickshaw driver I never saw him again in Delhi, and unless he had moved elsewhere, I'm afraid his disappearance might well be connected with cousin George's rickshaw ride After all, the Jamuna is very near the Kotla

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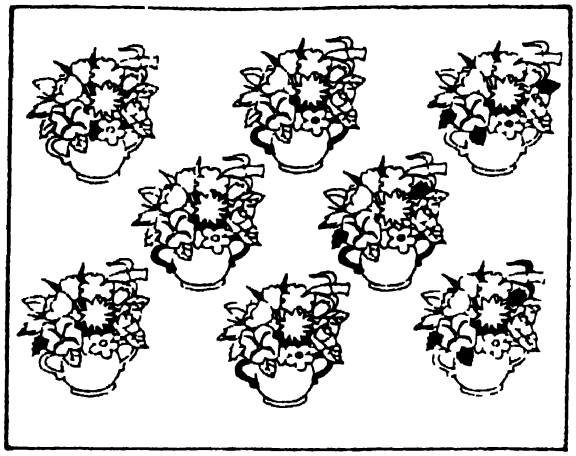
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ADMISSION OPEN

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAHA, TAHAN



FIND TWINS! Two of the eight bouquets above look enough alike to be twins. Which two? Study them all carefully.

OUCH POUCH! Question: Why do mother kangaroos dread rainy days? Answer: The yju sth ate itw hen the chi ldr enp lay ins ide. Rearrange letter spacing for answer to make sense (or nonsense).

They just hate it when the children play inside.



DAY-BY-DAY STEPWORDS

THERE'S a new DAY for each step of the way in this progressive word exercise with each DAY word one letter longer than its predecessor.

Definitions:

1. **Mother's – , a special one for Mom, of course (in place)**
2. **Crucial day in World War II**
3. **Here-and-now day**
4. **IGH day**
5. **Another name for a vacation day**
6. **Annual cake, card and present day**
7. **Gone but not forgot ten past day**

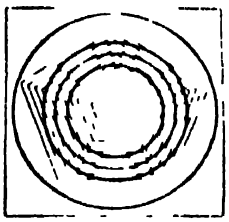
How quickly can you fill in answers?

(answers: 1 This, 2 May, 3 Today, 4 Night, 5 Holiday, 6 Birthday, 7 Yesterday)

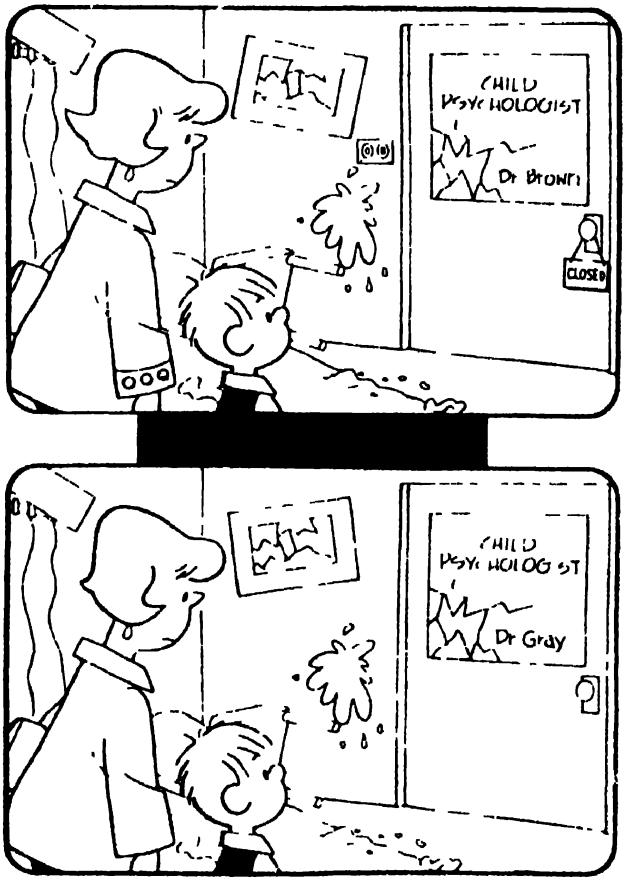
SEE WHAT! Optical illusions play tricks on your eyes as in the example below. Those are not heat waves you see hovering over the pentagon. They are distortions of perfect circles superimposed upon the diagram's pentagonal lines.

If you entertain doubts cut out the diagram, stick a pin through center and give the figure a whirl.

Alakazham! what do you see? It's an amusing optical study.



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Difference: 1 Hair is different 2 Cuff is missing 3 Picture is moved 4 Switch is in sing 5 Name is different 6 Sign is missing

FUNSPOT



GREAT DAY! Give Mom a big hug on her special day. Add the following colors by number: 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Dk blue 5—Flesh tones 6—Green 7—Dk gray 8—Black.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

DIAMETER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

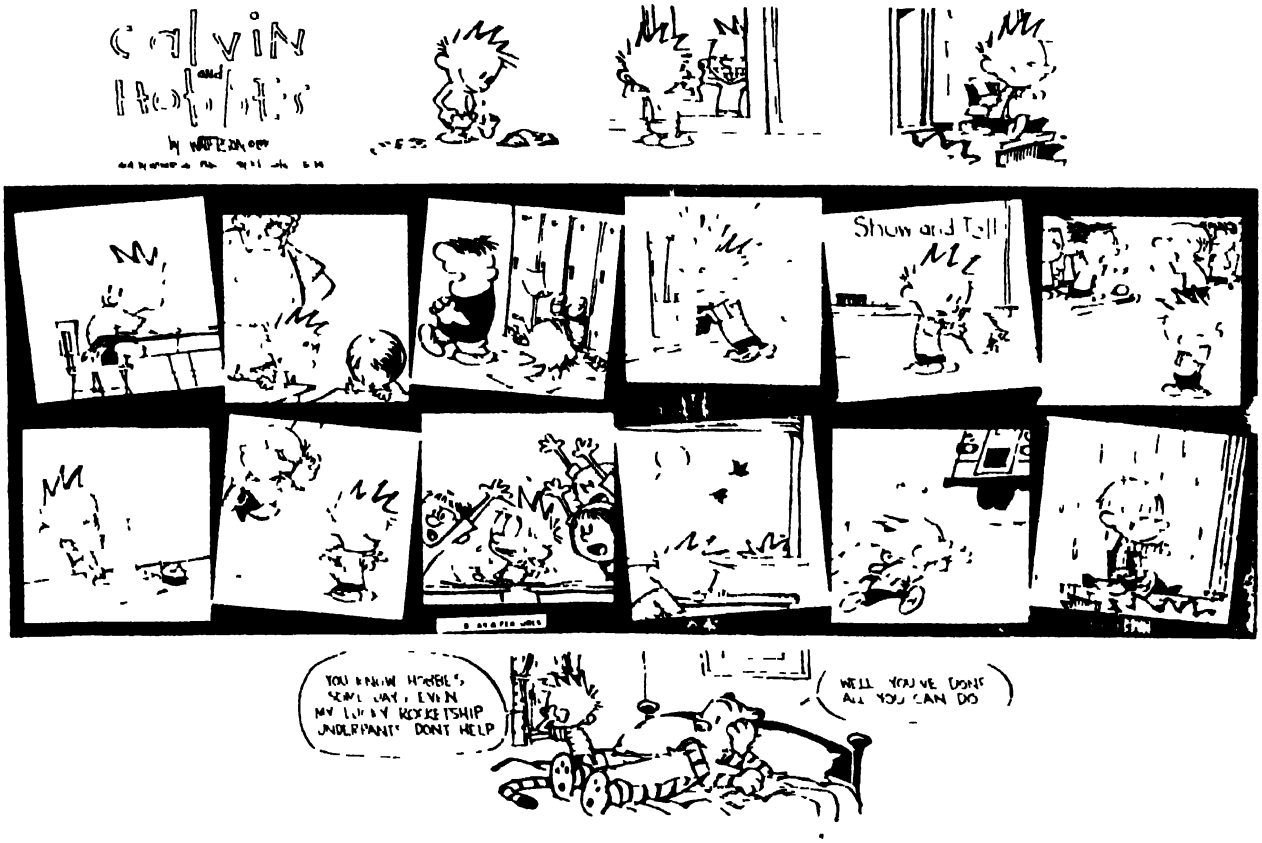
Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible: two-some, ride, roam

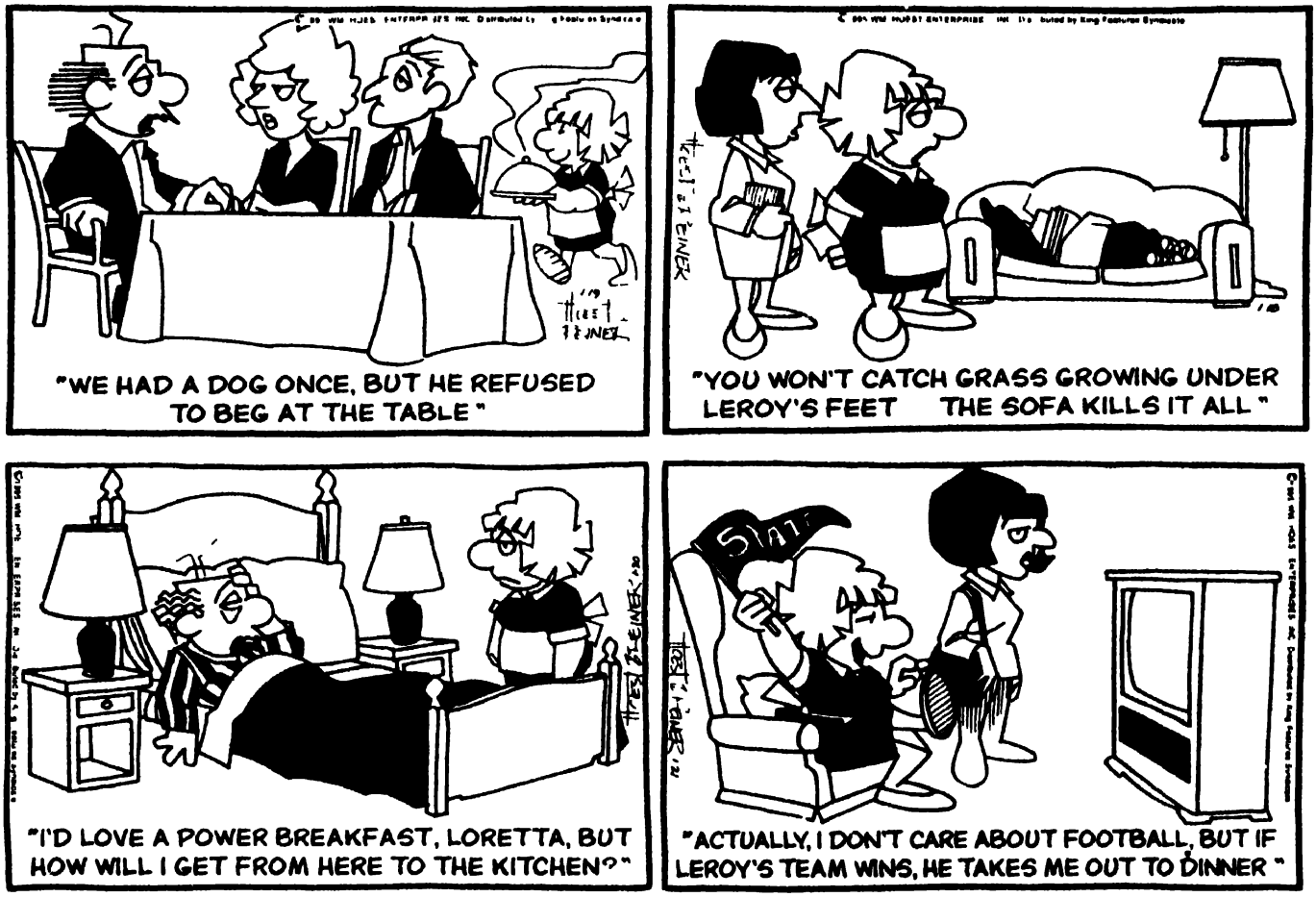
ARCHIE



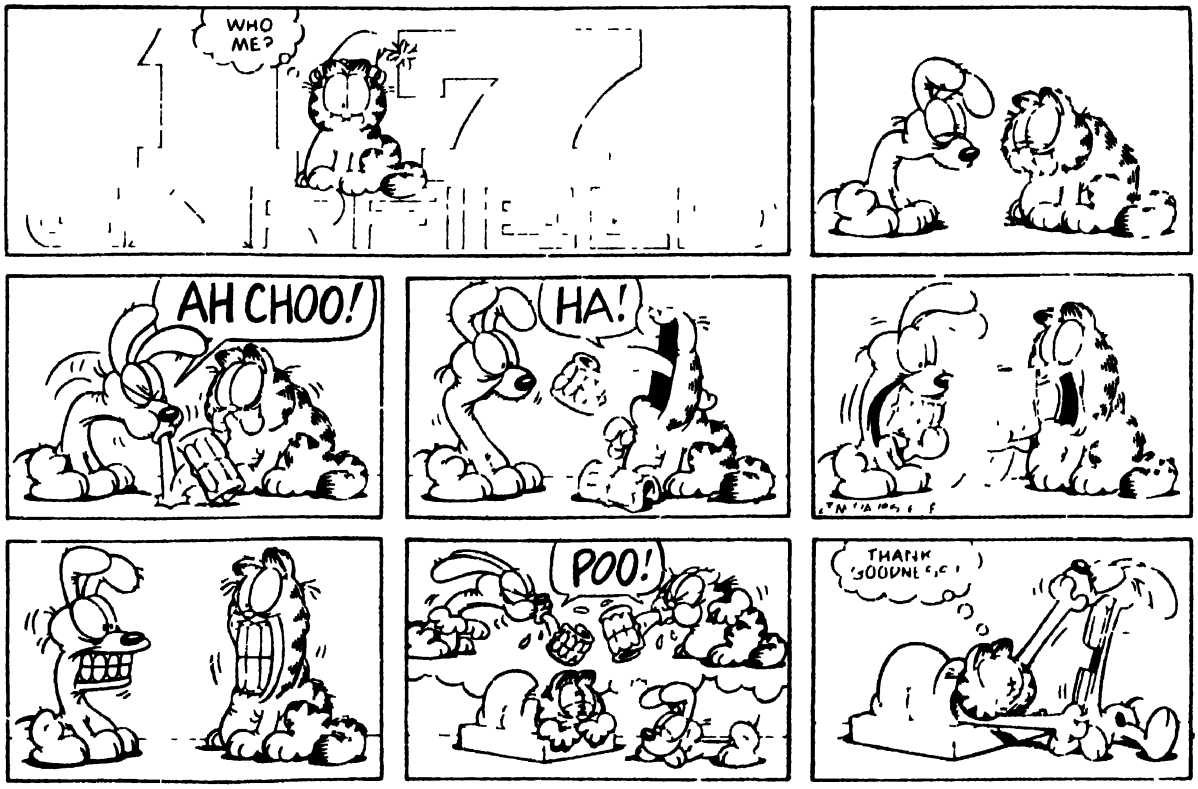
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

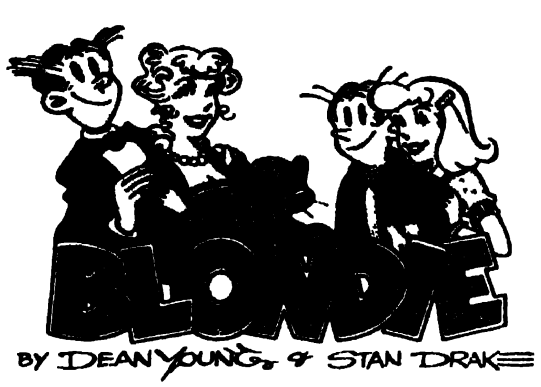


GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

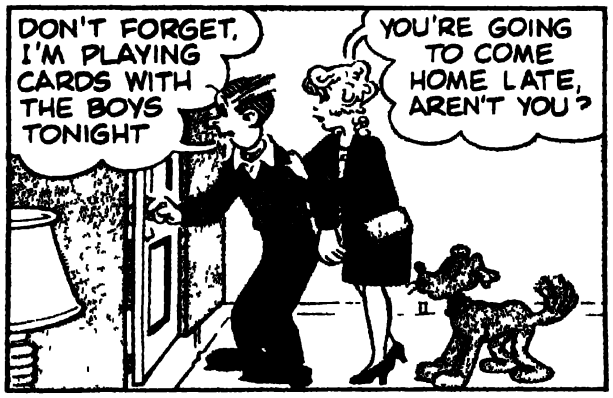


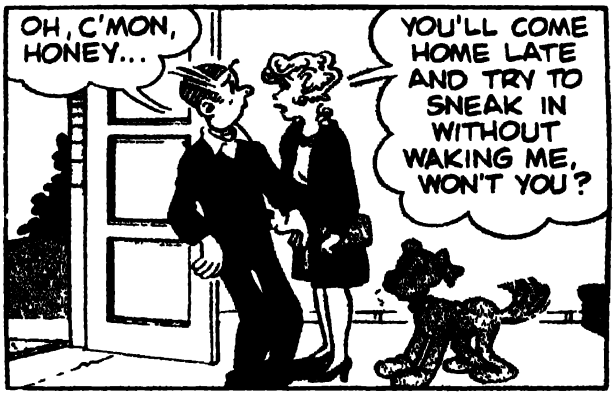
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

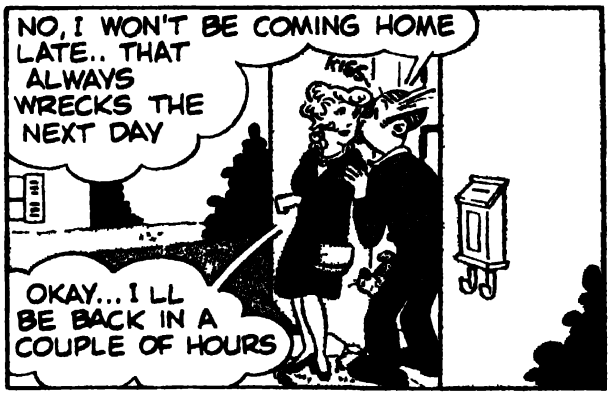


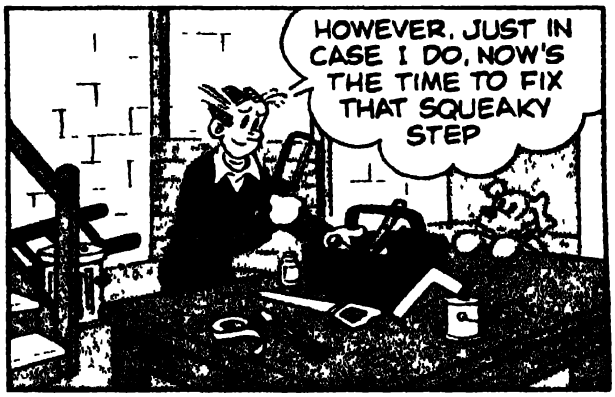

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

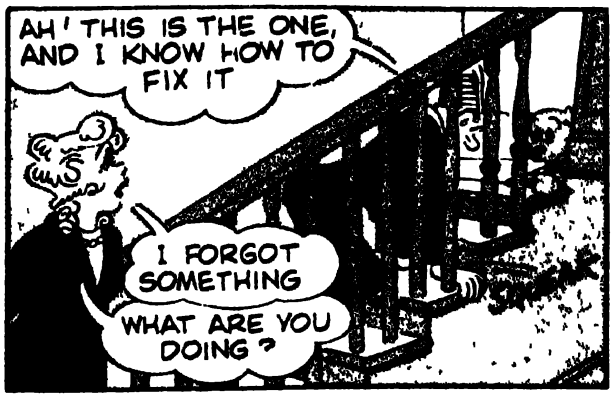

I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE

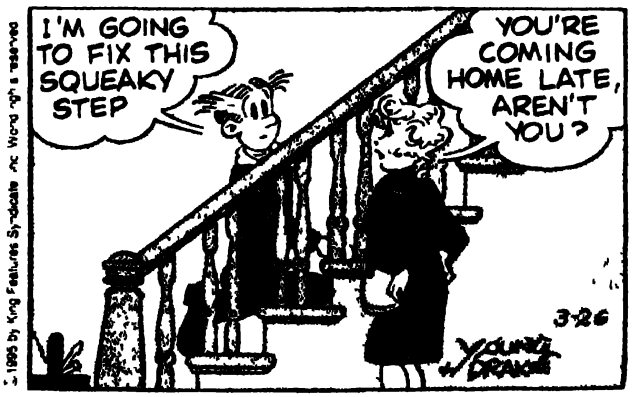

DON'T FORGET, I'M PLAYING CARDS WITH THE BOYS TONIGHT
YOU'RE GOING TO COME HOME LATE, AREN'T YOU?


OH, C'MON, HONEY...
YOU'LL COME HOME LATE AND TRY TO SNEAK IN WITHOUT WAKING ME, WON'T YOU?


NO, I WON'T BE COMING HOME LATE.. THAT ALWAYS WRECKS THE NEXT DAY
KISS!
OKAY... I LL BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS


HOWEVER, JUST IN CASE I DO, NOW'S THE TIME TO FIX THAT SQUEAKY STEP


AH! THIS IS THE ONE, AND I KNOW HOW TO FIX IT
I FORGOT SOMETHING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


I'M GOING TO FIX THIS SQUEAKY STEP
YOU'RE COMING HOME LATE, AREN'T YOU?
3-26
Young Drake
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FOCUS

LADIES' LADY



A talented film director, Pratibha Parmar, is the first prominent Asian in Britain to come out of the closet ***Amit Roy*** *checks out her point of view*

Pratibha Parmar is a charming woman She laughs easily, talks in an attractive manner, and is a successful and talented film director

But any man — or woman, for that matter — who is drawn to her should be aware that she is Britain's most famous Asian lesbian

And she has an invitation from the United States to be the Grand Marshal at the 1995 San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender Pride Parade today This is the world's biggest annual gathering with up to 40,000 people attending and she considers this 'a great honour'

In her role as Grand Marshal, she will be the celebrity figurehead who will lead the march in an open convertible She is thought to be the first person from Britain to be asked

The invitation has highlighted her membership of a rare breed — the Asian woman willing to defy the strictures of a deeply conservative society to proclaim her sexuality

"Within the Asian community the word, lesbian, is not even uttered," explains Parmar, who is the only prominent Asian to have come out as a lesbian

She shares a trendy, open-plan house in London with Shaheen Haq, her partner of 13 years She points out that theirs "has been an open relationship for the last five years and we had had other relationships"

The difference in their religion does not make winning acceptance any easier "Many of us are ostracised by our families and communities, but I am not ashamed of who I am, Parmar adds "I am a lesbian and have been out for 15 years'

The invitation from the US pays tribute to her work "We and specially women, would not be where we are today without your ground-breaking films" In Britain, Parmar's documentaries have been broadcast regularly on Channel 4 She is best known for *Warrior Marks*, a documentary about the traditional, but horrific, African practice of female genital mutilation She is an even bigger name in the US where her films have been shown in theatres in 30 cities

Her latest work, *The Colour of Britain*, which argues passionately for Asian artistes to be treated as part of mainstream British culture, was shown on Channel 4 at nearly midnight on May 23

The time slot makes her angry because she feels putting on the programme so late marginalises the work of the artistes she had featured, including the sculptor, Anish Kapoor, the Turner Prize winner who has represented Britain at the Venice Biennal

"If he is not mainstream," she asks, "who is?"

In the Asian community, however, Parmar appears to enjoy only a small following of lesbian women who meet her in secret to tell her they are glad she has had the courage to come out They themselves cannot because they fear social ex-communication

Her mother, sister, two brothers and other relatives, believe that her lesbian lark has gone on long enough, and that really, like any other decent Asian girl, Pratibha should settle down with an eligible husband

Her mother recently raised an old

issue with her "You are 40 now God, are you ever going to get married?"

Her daughter laughed off the suggestion "You know I am not"

Unfortunately for her relatives, Parmar has been claimed by the international glitterati whose members — filmmakers, authors, activists — shuttle from seminar to seminar holding forth on the joys of being lesbian

In the 'arty' world in Britain, her lesbianism has long been accepted In fact, being a lesbian was probably a good career move But it was only five years ago that she publicly let slip the secret of her sexuality on a television programme The whispers very quickly spread through the Asian community, and Parmar's sister was tackled by her friends "They made my sister feel very embarrassed"

'We are not always wanting to talk about arranged marriages and abusive husbands. I want to challenge and change and make audiences think. I did not want to reproduce a lot of the Hollywood schlock'

Far from being cowed, Parmar made *Khush* -- she emphasises the word means ecstasy -- to 'celebrate' the sexuality of Asian gays and lesbians in Britain and in India It won awards at festivals in Paris, San Francisco and Madrid Another film, *Double the Trouble Twice the Fun*, presented by writer Firdaus Kanga, explored the experiences of disabled lesbian and gay men

From disgusted Asians, the reaction was outrage

"You are a disgrace to our community," was a typical response "How dare you? This does not exist in our community"

A still from *Khush*



Pratibha Parmar was born in Nairobi, Kenya, and came to Britain at 12 with her parents, who had typical East African backgrounds solid, respectable, religious Her father worked as a clerk while her mother found employment sewing in her sweet shop As a teenager, Pratibha had fancied boys The problem was that she fancied girls more "But it wasn't acceptable to voice that you felt that for women"

At 19, Pratibha broke free and went to Bradford University to specialise in sociology as part of a BA course in *Human Purposes and Communications* It was when she became involved in women's issues that she realised she was a lesbian Her father died nine years ago, without mentioning the L-word to his daughter "He knew, and I knew he knew," she says

"What feminism did was that it showed me that there were other sexualities Emotionlly the feelings had always been there, but I had never had the courage even to articulate them"

She gets angry when asked to consider even the possibility that sex with a man might be more enjoyable "A lot of lesbians have this kind of abuse that all you need is a good f from a man and then you will never want to be with a woman again That is incredibly homophobic and heterosexist I could say the same thing to a straight woman who has never had sex with another woman, until you have slept with a woman you really do not know what it is about But I will not because I think we should all have a choice"

She argues that equating sexuality with sexual pleasures diminishes the whole history of gays and lesbians "Sexuality is not just about who you sleep with and who you get sexual pleasure from I am not a lesbian because I prefer to sleep with women I am lesbian because I love women

My emotions are more with women "

She claims to receive a lot of letters from Asian women who cannot come out but who say they are happy, that they are not alone

She holds up a newsletter which records the suicide in Kerala of two women — a student and her tuition teacher — who took poison together

They had written love letters to each other They might not call themselves lesbians, but these two women were in love with each other Traditional south Indian society did not allow these two women to live together "

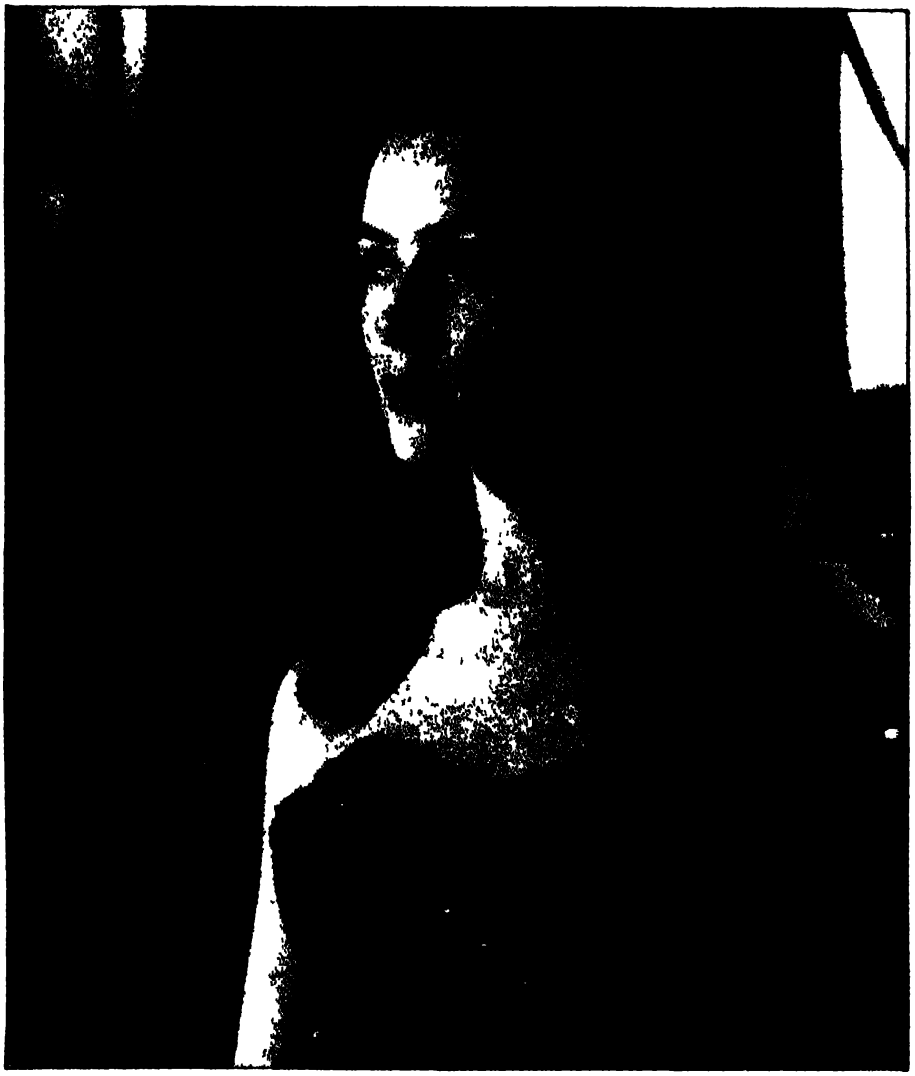
Not all her films have involved women's or lesbian issues She wants to do more drama "We are not always wanting to talk about arranged marriages and abusive husbands I want to challenge and change and make audiences think I did not want to reproduce a lot of the Hollywood schlock that we see "

Last year she directed a short drama for BBC TV a 20-minute 'ghost' story called *Memsahib Rita* It included such themes as mixed race identity, bereavement and racist violence and borrowed imaginatively from the genres of magical realism and thrillers



A poster from the film *A Place of Rage*

A still from *Memsahib Rita*



An early film was *Sari Red*, made to mark the murder of a young Asian woman by three racist youths on the streets of London in 1985 In *A Place of Rage*, she talked to Angela Davis, June Jordan and Alice Walker about the role of Black American women in the civil rights movement *Flesh and Paper* was a portrait of the Indian writer and poet, Sunil Namjoshi

For *Warrior Marks*, she travelled to Gambia and Senegal with Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Possessing the Secret of Joy* Partly as a result of her film Amnesty International is under pressure to declare 'the removal of a young girl's clitoris', and sometimes the inner and outer labia as well, a form of torture

The practice came about, says Parmer, because men wanted to control women's sexual pleasure

Despite her success, she reveals there is a sadness in her life because she cannot explain her deepest emotions to her 65-year-old mother who knows only limited English "One of the biggest tragedies I find for myself is that I cannot speak Gujarati very well As soon as we came to this country English became the language of communication for me "

She says, "To have any kind of sophisticated discussion about sexuality — and my sexuality in particular — I do not have a common language with her I have actually thought I will write this very long letter in English of all the things I want to say to her and get somebody to translate it into Gujarati "

She says the hardest thing for a lesbian is to acknowledge her own sexuality "The biggest coming out is when you come out to yourself " ■

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

Pret-A-Porter: The film is a savage satire on sartorial pretences — a world peopled with fashion designers, models, fashion editors and photographers.

With several strands woven into the plot with compelling force, the film at a certain level speaks of a strange love story about the newly widowed wife of a fashion moghul Olivier de Fontaine

Isabelle (Sophia Loren) is relieved when her husband chokes to death on a sandwich in the middle of a traffic jam in Paris

Her long-lost lover (Marcello Mastroianni) makes a dramatic comeback into her life Elsewhere, Tim Robbins and Julia Roberts play a couple of fagged-out scribes

And there is Kim Basinger who runs from pillar to post to interview every who's who in town

Singer actress Cher makes a brief appearance in the film whose comment that life is not about what you put on, but what you are, that does the sum-



ming up when models with nothing on walk the ramp

BOOKS

The Invisible Circus: **It is a tale of traumatic secrets, heartbreaks and revelations. Phoebe O'Connor adores her older sister, Faith . The latter is a reckless woman of the Sixties. Faith flees to Europe**



with her lover, Wolf, after her father's death and dies in Italy.

In order to unravel the mystery shrouding the death of her sister, Phoebe runs away to Amsterdam. Eight years is a long time. Yet Phoebe discovers her sister's life in an account of her death. The shabby drug pedlar tells Phoebe that the Sixties was not all love, freedom and ecstasy. "You love to live, but you die and die and die...like your sister."

Jennifer Egan has the ability to transport a mushy tale of love and betrayal to a finer plane of self-analysis and a sharp view of the times.

HEALTH

Cut out on Colas Are you a cola addict? Did you freak out on colas when you were a teenager? If your answer is, yes, you might as well step up your aerobics regimen and start on a balanced diet

A recent study suggests a corelation between heavy consumption of colas during adolescence and bone fractures in adult women

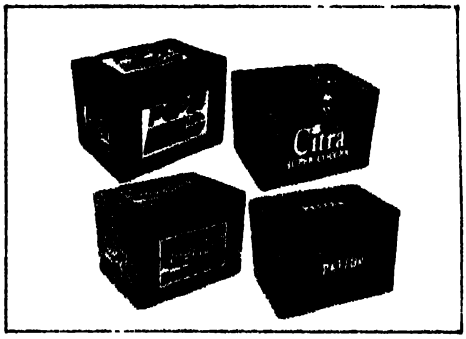
This is attributed to interference with calcium metabolism by the high phosphoric acid content of colas The connection is very strong among girls who consumed low levels of dairy products and other food rich in calcium

LIFESTYLE

Patton power: **It's a tank all right, but with a difference. These solid, insulated containers from the Patton export house plan to take the battle to the storage market here and abroad.**

In a nutshell, Patton is a large version of a typical flask, but specially insulated with PUF — the wonder material used in refrigeration industry.

Contrary to the bulk associated with the name, Patton boxes come in light, and in pretty colours. They are rust-proof, leak-prrof, unbreakable and neatly stackable.



They come in four sizes – 50 ltr, 75 ltr, 100 ltr and 225 ltr capacity. The 50-litre container is priced at Rs 1,200.

Smooth 'n' easy: **"Everybody's talking about the changing face of India." So Ash thought it was a good idea to "present something that will truly change the face of India ...at least that of half its population!"**



The angel-face launched the Philips electric shaver which has already sold 300 million pieces worldwide. Philips, having pioneered the most efficient dry electric shaving system — the Rotary action shaving system, has travelled a long way.

Philishave, as it is called, ensures a quick, non-messy shave and minimises nicks or cuts. It is equipped with a Trimmer for clipping moustache and sideburns.

Almost as trim as our Miss World, Philishave offers four models and the cheapest (a Two-headers Mains) costs Rs 1,195.

SONALI BENDRE, *the thing with the zing in Bollywood, began her career as a model in ad films like Fem Fairness Bleach, Tata Tea and Shilpa Bindi. But with looks that conform perfectly to the concept of an Indian film heroine, she soon hitched her star to the tinsel town bandwagon. Her first release was* **Aag,** *with Govinda and Shilpa Shetty, and the last release,* **The Don.** *And she did a 'double' by bagging the* **Screen** *and the* **Filmfare** *awards for the best new face of the year. Her early releases include* **Takkar, Gaddar, English Babu Desi Mem** *and* **Tarazu.**



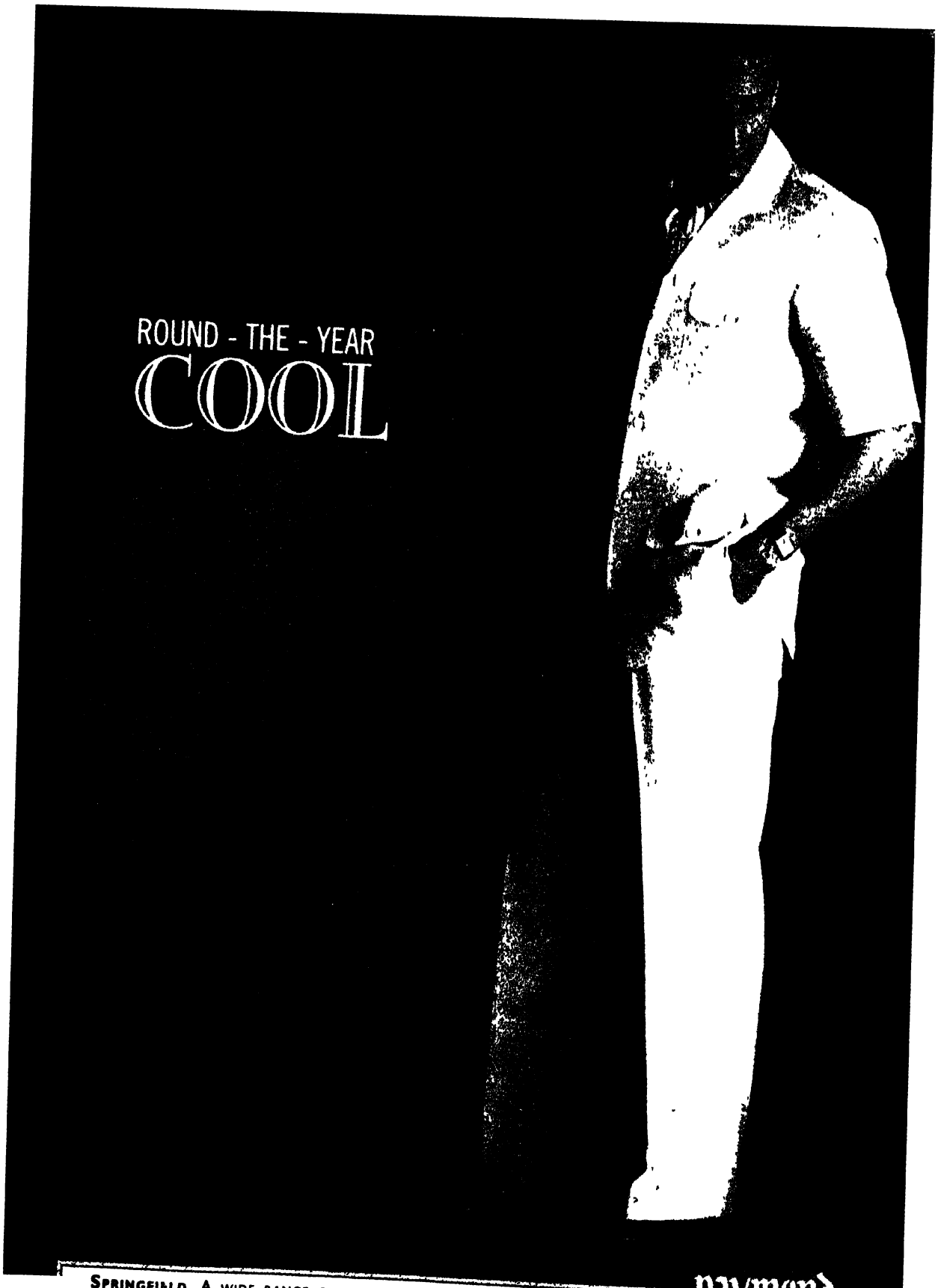
What is your idea of perfect happiness?
I have never experienced anything like perfect happiness because life is always alternating between the good and the bad.

What is your greatest fear?
Claustrophobia.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mother.
What do you dislike most in others?
Dishonesty
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My absent-mindedness.
What is your most precious possession?
My family, friends and also my soft toys.
What objects do you always carry?
My skin and bones.
What makes you most depressed?
It could be something simple, like tears in someone's eyes, but my depression never lasts longer than two hours.
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My feet.
What is your favourite word?
Nothing in particular.
What is your favourite journey?
Back home after 20 hours of work.
What is your favourite dream?
As a child I would dream of having a zoo with all sorts of animals roaming free in it.
What is your nightmare?
I am too optimistic to have a nightmare.
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
My work, at the moment.
What is your source of sustenance?
My love for my work.
On what occasions do you lie?
When I tell my parents I am coming home at such and such time to pacify them, though I know I will never make it.

What do you dislike most on your appearance?

My feet

What is your greatest regret?
None so far.
What has been your happiest moment?
Winning the *Screen* and *Filmfare* awards.
What brings tears to your eyes?
Could be just a book or a touching line said by someone. I also cry when I am happy.
How do you relax?
With my family, books and my nephew, Amogh.
What do you envy most in others?
Their presence of mind.
How would you like to be remembered?
Surely not as an absent-minded person.
How would you like to die?
As painlessly as possible, and I am definitely not in a hurry!

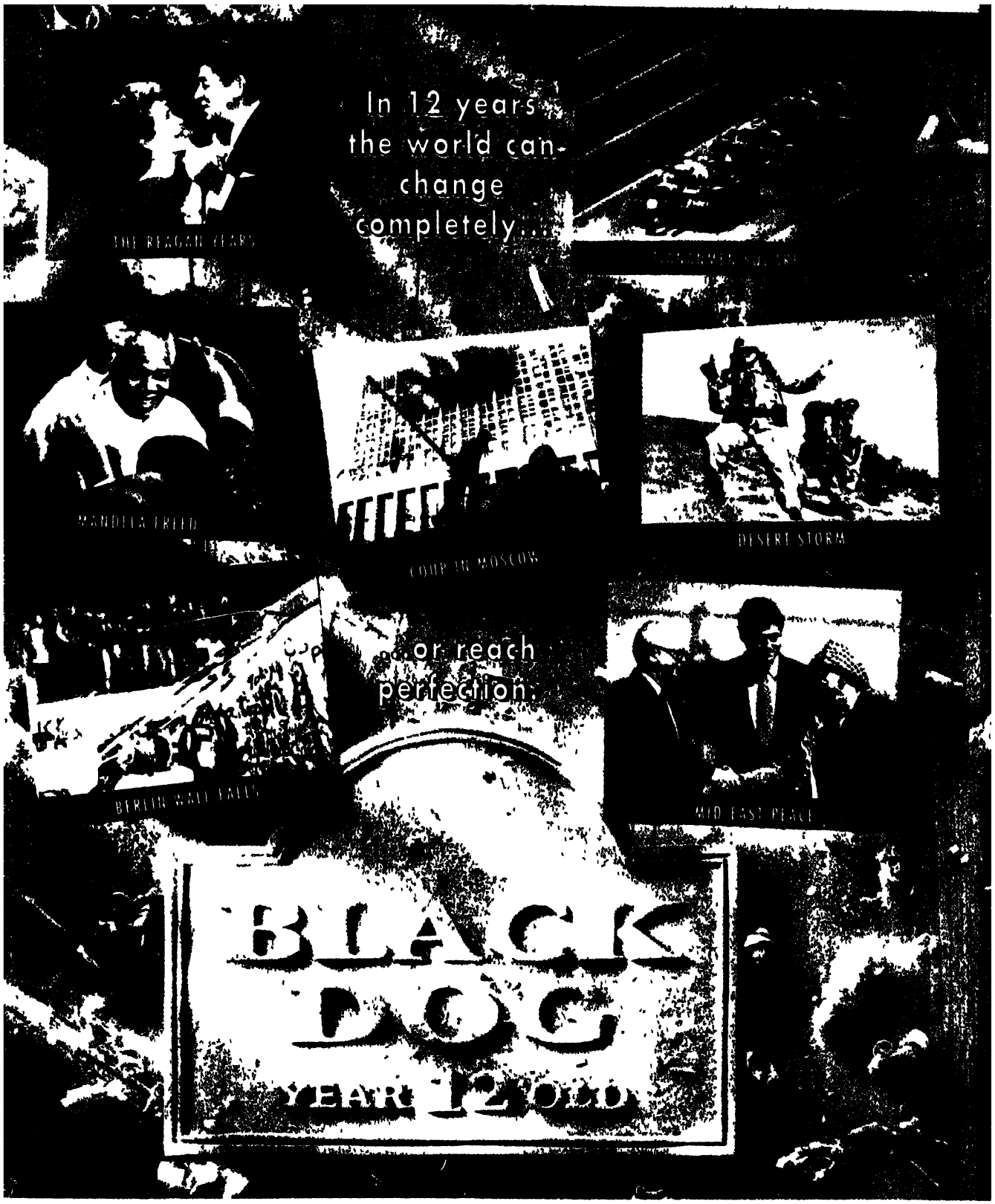


SPRINGFIELD. A WIDE RANGE OF BLENDS IN WOOL, SILK/LINEN AND POLYESTER, AVAILABLE IN SUBTLE DESIGNS AND TROPICAL SHADES IDEAL FOR SAFARIS AND LIGHTWEIGHT SUITS.

Raymond

SINCE 1924

SUITINGS FOR THE COMPLETE MAN



ıst how long is 12 years?

ong enough to see leaders rise and fall Borders ıdefine the world Witness history being rewritten .ll this, while in the heart of Scotland, Black Dog uietly matures to reach perfection For only in the fullness of time do the select natural ingredients of the Highlands work their magic with age-old distilling secrets Only after 12 years of aging gracefully does Black Dog acquire its smokey, mellow taste The rare taste of perfection

Rich. Rare. And 12 years old.

25 JUNE 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Get, Seth, Go!

■ The cover story highlighting Roshan Seth's big break in British theatre made interesting reading, but the accompanying pictures of Raquel Welch were somehow in bad taste ('Limelight', May 28)

Like Britain, India too has a theatre tradition And many in India prefer the stage to cinema; from the ugly movies running to packed houses, filled with violence and sex, theatre is a refreshing break

In fact, during the British rule India was a prominent theatre centre The tradition was kept alive in later years by such stalwarts as Girish Ghosh, Prithviraj Kapoor, Durga Khote, Uptal Dutt, Safdar Hashmi, to name a few

Hashmi, who popularised the genre of street plays as a medium of protest, and for creating social awareness, was unfortunately silenced forever But his plays could not be stopped Hashmi's widow carries on the unfinished work of her husband

In India the stage can be put to some very productive use — like spreading the good word around about family planning, sanitary and health care, agrarian problems and so on

Unlike Britain where theatre is just entertainment, in India it should also be educative.

Santosh Kumar Sharma,
Kharagpur



Rashbehari Das

Seth: *Naam karega* Roshan

■ As Indians we should be proud of Roshan Seth because he has really made it big in Britain having starred opposite none other than Hollywood's sex goddess Raquel Welch

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

■ The Nehru look-alike Roshan Seth finally makes headlines after a long struggle for recognition abroad But what was wrong with Bombay that the artiste in him hankered for appreciation elsewhere? Perhaps, money?

Subhashis Ray,
Rourkela

■ Roshan Seth and Raquel Welch sure mean fireworks He is such a flawless and natural actor, his ability to live up to a character — particularly someone as famous and revered as Nehru — makes him a great actor

In *Discovery of India* he did a splendid job paying attention to little details, including Nehru's mannerisms, and putting them on camera

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balsore (Orissa)

Nothing New

■ 'On the Run' (April 23) about the commuters of the Deccan Queen who have made this train their home of sorts — having breakfast, knitting, sleeping and playing cards while travelling — gave us no new insight

Sinchan Ghosh,
Kharagpur

INSIDE



Amit Dutta

PAGE 4

FROM CARRYBAGS to condoms no aspect of life has been left untouched by plastic, a man-made petrochemical-based substance that refuses to get recycled And the rate at which it is strangulating the earth is alarming

PAGE 26

HAS THE effort to return the rare thick-billed Arizonian parrots to the forests failed?

SECTIONS

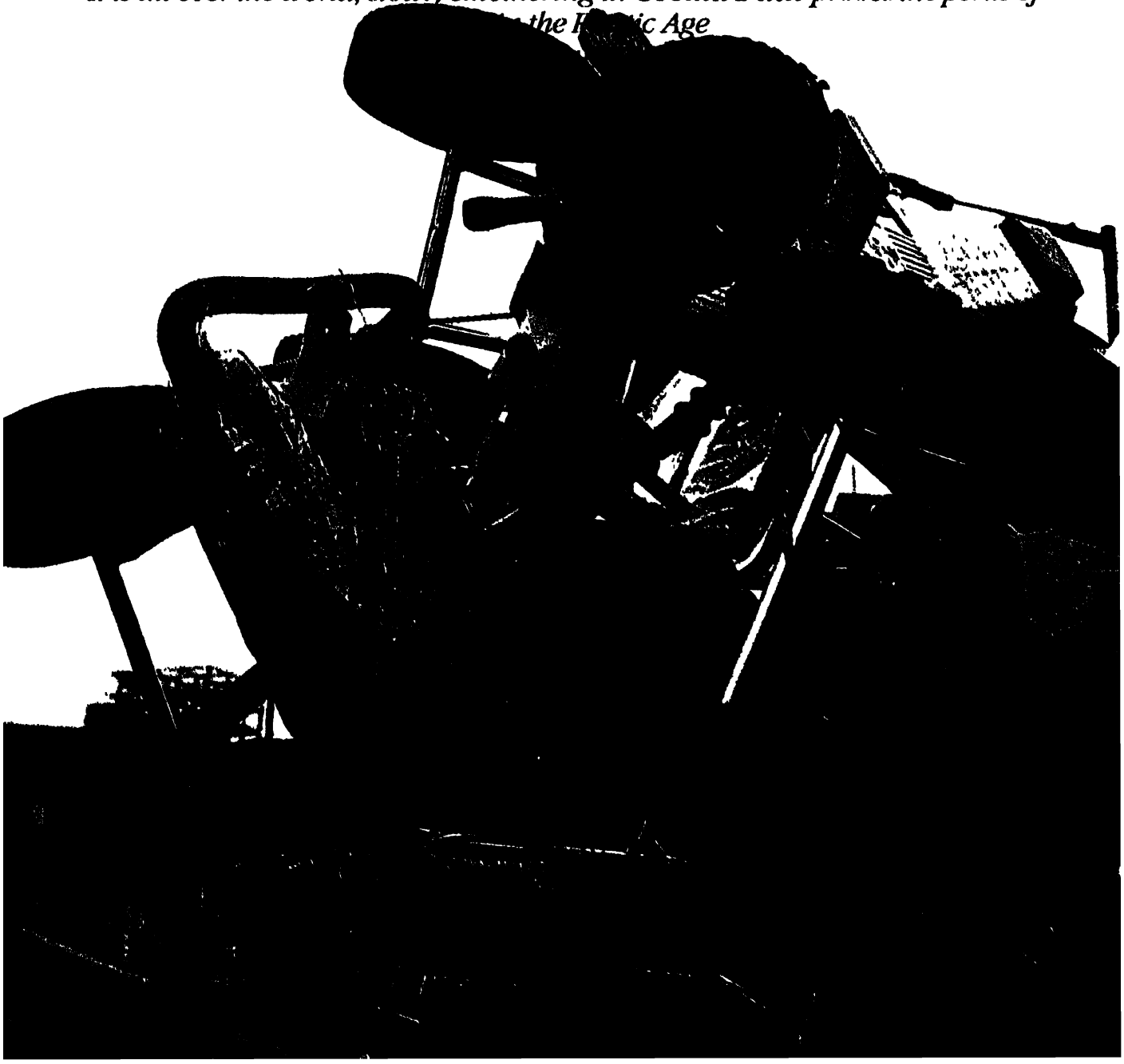
16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 FOCUS
28 PINUP
29 POETRY
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Vivek Das

COVER STORY

THE PLASTIC HOOD

It is all over the world, slowly smothering it. ***Seema Paul*** *probes the perils of the Plastic Age*



DECADES AGO, WE GRANDLY DISPLAYED PLASTIC MONEY PLANTS ON OUR WINDOW GRILLS and kept plastic flowers on top of the Murphy radio, and the radio was covered by a floral plastic sheet. But that sort of fashionable interior decoration became *passe* — even *gauche*, soon enough.

It was left for the old-fashioned LIGs to decorate their house thus, with the rest of the upwardly mobile world getting a lot more 'upmarket', or at least wannabe-upmarket. Even the rubber or plastic doormat with the legend, 'Welcome', painted on it was replaced by coir or thick cloth doormats

Apart from being aesthetically offensive, this trend served a very useful purpose plastic, for what it was worth, was quietly shown the door

Today, plastic art is making a comeback Hairpins and clips and combs, electrical boards and brackets, plugs and switches, water hoses and pipes, telephone and electrical wire encasings (specially since most of it is now 'concealed wiring') are very much in today

Plastic curtains and shower caps are a necessity in the bathrooms, commode seats,





bathing tubs, washbasins, mirror frames and tubelight shades are most often plastic. Soap boxes, shampoo sachets, waste bins, the new squeezy toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes, disposable shaving razors, refrigerators and washing machines and their parts, television and computer bodies are more or less the norm.

Plastic tubs for potted plants, plastic bucket seats in cinema halls, at airports and railway stations have now gained aesthetic acceptance. Not to speak of plastic cube-design stools sitting pretty in the drawing room or the teenager's room, not to speak of the irony of them being used now as garden furniture, replacing cane.

The vinyl discs may have been phased out, but what is one to do about the flood of audio cassettes--and with it, the cassette encasings and covers?

And about that great big painting hanging on your great big wall? With creative designs becoming more with-it, artist Laxman Shrestha notes that even some of the paints are derived from plastic and that there are artists who express themselves in plastic.

The famous sculptor, Amar Nath Sehgal, recommends that we try and educate the society about the perils of plastics. "It is so cheap to use plastics," he states, "The impermanence of this material makes it very unacceptable as a medium to me personally. It is ironic that even though the material is non-biodegradable, nothing made in plastic will last beyond a few generations in the form that one may give it. Iron and copper are any day preferable to an artist seeking permanence."

Sehgal's remarks should make all thinking individuals wonder if the pervasive use of plastics is not symptomatic of our society's wish to destroy itself and disintegrate without leaving a trace.

Architect Gautam Bhatia, who personally has great contempt for the material, states: "For some reason plastic has come to be associated with modernity, so much so that attempts at innovation in design also seem to be unfairly concentrating in this medium today."

Even the noted environmentalist, Maneka Gandhi, who is ever ready to condemn anything that causes the slightest of harm to human or planetary health, spares this material from her verbal lashings. "Some plastics, we have got to live with," she states, choosing to vent her wrath on *certain* usage of plastic!

So diverse are the uses of plastic that even the *Encyclopedia Brittanica* states



"It is difficult to imagine contemporary society without plastics." No aspect of life has been left untouched by the plastic revolution

The material was first developed in the United States in 1868, but it was only after the turn of the century that it was perfected in different varieties such as low and high density polyethylene

"Plastic is progress," states Dorai Raj, chief executive, All India Plastics Manufacturers Association (AIPMA), unabashedly

But, perhaps, Raj forgets that this 'progress" is cutting at the very roots of some healthy indigenous traditions Those of relying on natural products and recycling- traditions which the more aware sections of Western society, in fact, are now emulating

Gautam Bhatia's argument is credible Take a look at just the range of 'essential', easy-to use kitchen products that the market has been flooded with in the last decade The formidable range of unbreakables! Call it good advertising, hard-sell, or plain smart sense, each of these are now synonymous with a modern kitchen



Gone are the days when mothers recycled glass bottles and Dalda tins to store *dals* It is now the age of Pearl Pet and Sun Pet jars Also lost with the progress of time is the tradition of keeping *roti* wrapped in layers of *saafi* (as the cloth napkins were called), before being encased in a steel box We now have plastic casseroles Not only are the drums, buckets and mugs in the toilet plastic, the containers and jars on the kitchen shelf, are plastic, too And let us not forget the oils and other food products which now come in easy-to-carry, cost-saving plastic pouches

No longer visible is the 'glass' glass or steel glass at the public water cooler It has been replaced long since by disposable plastic glasses, which can be thrown into the dustbin after single use Not to speak of cold drink fountains where you can fill your plastic glass with a Pepsi and sashay up the stairs to the cinema hall or to your office desk or walk around with your guy/gal, plastic glass in hand

Check out your work desk Pen bodies, specially ballpoint pens, telephones, desk calendars, stationery clips, pen holders, spectacle frames as well as lenses, the mineral water bottles, maybe even the ashtray is plastic

Check out your child's room or study table His tricycle, the rulers and sharpeners and the pencil box, the table tennis balls and the football, even the youngster's cricket bat and ball now come in plastic

Look around you and see what has enveloped your life

In homes and in offices In kitchens and in bathrooms Look at any item and it has some plastic in it And most of these items, which were earlier made of different material like glass or metal, has been replaced by a more convenient, easy-to-carry, easy-to distribute, easy-to-dispose of, attractive looking, light and bright stuff Plastic



Ann Leonard of Greenpeace states, 'The production of plastic emits substantial amounts of toxic chemicals into air and water. Many of the toxic chemicals released in plastic production can cause cancer and congenital defects and damage the nervous system, blood, kidneys and immunity systems. These chemicals can also cause serious damage to ecosystems'

The running theme through these changes is the slow death of the tradition of recycling

The picture is not too unfamiliar considering the rate at which the globe is being choked by plastic, a man made petrochemical based substance which Mother Earth refuses to take back into her entrails

Plastic items can be produced rapidly, automatically and with a minimum of finishing operations Besides, they can be made into different objects of various shapes, colours and surface textures All this, and short-term convenience has made plastic a very popular material and one can safely predict that it will be the material of choice for even greater applications in the future

In India, the annual production of commodity plastics is 1 1 million tonnes (with 12 per cent of it being exported) Yet, experts state that the revolution in plastics has only just begun

And the industries lobby, comprising giants such as Nocil and Reliance, is gearing itself for even greater consumption levels "India has been witnessing a 14 per cent growth rate in plastics, compared to five to six per cent in the US and Germany," boasts Dorai Raj, "but unlike them India has not yet peaked We still have a long

way to go"

But explaining the dangers of plastic, Ann Leonard of the internationally known environmental group, Greenpeace, states, "The major chemicals used to make plastic resins pose serious risks to public health and safety. Many of the chemicals used in large volumes to produce plastics are highly toxic. Some chemicals, like benzene and vinylchloride, are known to cause cancer in humans, many tend to be gases and liquid hydrocarbons which readily vaporise and pollute the air. Many are inflammable and explosive. Even the plastic resins themselves are inflammable and have contributed to numerous chemical accidents."

And that is not all.

"The production of plastic," Leonard continues, "emits substantial amounts of toxic chemicals (for example, ethylene oxide, benzene and xylenes) into air and water. Many of the toxic chemicals released in plastic production can cause cancer and congenital defects and damage the nervous system, blood, kidneys and immunity systems. These chemicals can also cause serious damage to ecosystems."



Plastics indeed pose a sticky disposal problem for the world at large. You cannot burn it, you cannot bury it. Throwing it away clogs the arteries of the system. So, you just cannot get rid of it, once you have produced it

One of the most common and reprehensible use of plastics in the world, including India, is as packaging material.

The polythene bags came into our markets only as late as 1982. But they have given such a beating to our recycled newspaper bags that one hardly sees the latter now. Few, however, seem aware of the dangers the plastic carrybags pose.

Polythene bags have often caused the death of infants the world over. Babies love to cover their heads with polythene bags as part of their play, but cannot remove them from their head, and often die gasping for breath, since air will not pass through polythene. It is mandatory for such plastic bags to carry warnings about them being used as playthings for children.

Most plastic toys are also required to be made of — and carry statements to that effect - - non-toxic material.

The same is the fate of fish and other marine life, when polythene finds its way into the waters, as it often does. "At least a dozen of my cows at the VHP-run *gaushala* in Harewali, Delhi, have died after consuming vegetable peel, which was packed in polythene bags," rues Maneka Gandhi herself.

But, more important. Unlike paper, plastic and polythene, is non-biodegradable, which means it will not return to nature. So if you do not have a good system of garbage collection and disposal — and we in India do not have one — polythene will litter every place. Again, the irony is that in more conscious *mohallas* and *paras* garbage collection has become a systematic chore and people are expected to dump their daily garbage at a particular time in, you guessed it, polythene carrybags. Some area big daddies even go to the extent of supplying sets of 'garbage (polythene) bags' for the purpose!

Laments Maneka Gandhi, "There is no account of the acres of cultivable land that India may have lost since the advent of polythene bags because wherever they sit, nothing will grow."

You will find plastic having reached most of the tourist spots, whether beaches or hill stations, whether well visited or 'quiet getaways'. Artist Laxman Shreshtha found the plastic



bags even in the high reaches of the Himalayas in Nepal, where he had recently gone trekking in order to get one with nature!

Plastics indeed pose a sticky disposal problem for the world at large You cannot burn it, you cannot bury it Throwing it away clogs the arteries of the system So, you just cannot get rid of it, once you have produced it In fact, for the Western world it has already become a huge problem just as it threatens to become for India

The West does not know what to do with plastic waste, which their societies are churning out in huge quantities



What one is to do in a situation where disposable syringes have become an absolute, life-saving necessity, but are made of plastic, is the black question staring us in our face....

Since the option of burning plastics is ruled out due to the toxic gases they emit, and having exhausted their land fill sites, many of these countries are now resorting to international trickery

They are trying desperately to send huge amounts of plastic wastes into Third World countries, caring little for the harm they would do to *their* environments

Much of plastic waste, as other kind



PLASTIC AS ART

It was while working with tribals in Orissa recently that artist Manu Parekh was confronted with the reality of the plastic invasion "My medium at that point was clay When I asked my tribal friends for some water, they brought it in a plastic bucket! The total contrast of the two mediums — clay and plastic — struck me intensely in that moment I reacted very strongly "

Rationalising the villagers' fascination for plastic later, he felt that clay and clay pots were a reality for the poor villagers While plastic products, with their powerful advertisements on the idiot box, beckoned them to join the world of fantasy.

"In 10 years from now," visualises Parekh, "when plastics will have become the reality for the majority of Indians, maybe we will crave once again for the clay pots "

But must we as a nation have to go through the whole vicious cycle that the West already has, before we start to respect clay and shun plastic?

"No," says Parekh, "it need not be a *fait accompli*. I would much rather that we did not have to go through it "

Jehangir Sabavala also rues that the invasion of plastic is destroying our highly developed native traditions. "Plastic is such a hideous material," he says, "and it is such a shame that we are deluged with it now We are losing our own simple artefacts like the brass *lota* and clay *matka* under the plastic invasion."

Laxman Shreshtha's response to plastic is rooted in reality. "It is not very healthy for the environment and human beings," he confesses, "but on the other hand, it is a very useful and practical material."

Sculptor Amar Nath Sehgal finds plastic too cheap a medium. "Plastic radiates its own light and does not reflect it like bronze does, so it is not conducive to creating a full image. For any artist to use plastic is to fall into a cheap trap."

Sehgal carries his hatred for the medium into his daily life as well and refuses to have any plastic items in his house, whether it be chairs or plastic bottles. Except the tooth brush, for which there is no practical alternative.

BEING DUMPED WITH 'TECHNOJUNK'

While the consumption of plastic has skyrocketed in the developed countries, there is low demand for plastic scrap and residues within these countries. Coupled with the fact that there is a lack of feasible, safe means of recycling plastic, developed countries have started shipping tonnes of waste plastic to developing nations.

Once this waste arrives, some of it is melted down in makeshift reprocessing factories, some is dumped in landfill sites and the residue left is unusable and often hazardous waste.

When plastic is melted down, its chemical structure changes. Scientific indications are that this process may release cancer-causing gases such as benezene (source: *Earth Resources Centre, Greenpeace Laboratory, University of Exeter, UK*).

Workers in many Asian plastic reprocessing factories are exposed to toxic fumes from plastic melting operations and are given very little safety clothing or breathing apparatus to protect themselves.

India is among the countries that imports plastic officially, though a committee to monitor illegal dumping has been set up. The other plastic waste importing countries are-Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and China Indonesia banned plastic imports in 1992

The latest waste crisis in the world has been created by the booming computer industry, which uses substantial quantities of plastic Relying on information from the Chinese National Environment Protection Agency and the US Center for Investigative Reporting, Greenpeace states that the US is already sending thousands of tonnes of computer waste or 'technojunk' to Asia every year.

In 1993, more than 1,800 tonnes of this junk was sent to China, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

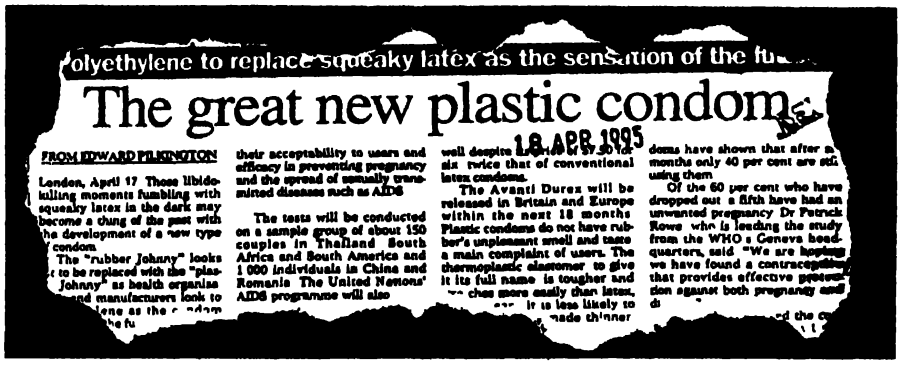
When this waste lands in China, workers strip the cables for copperwires and the remaining wastes are either burnt or stockpiled Burning of computer keyboards could produce brominated dioxins which have been linked by the US EPA to causing cancer, immunosuppression, developmental effects in children and sex changes in offspring.

Electronic scrap likethese computer wastes has been classified as hazardous by the German government, informs Greenpeace.

of waste, had been coming into India for a long time till some noises were made by the green lobby in the past year

The Ministry of Envii onment has since set up a working group which seeks to monitor this activity and prevent India from being used as a dumping ground for plastics!

But even if we shun the waste of Western society, our own growing middle class is 'consuming' plastics at such a rate that we have a huge and



olyethylene to replace squeaky latex as the sensation of the fu

The great new plastic condom

18 APR 1995

FROM EDWARD PILKINGTON

London, April 17 Those libido-killing moments fumbling with squeaky latex in the dark may become a thing of the past with the development of a new type condom.

The "rubber Johnny" looks to be replaced with the "plas- Johnny" as health organise and manufacturers look to lene as the c ndom he fu

their acceptability to users and efficacy in preventing pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS

The tests will be conducted on a sample group of about 150 couples in Thailand South Africa and South America and 1 000 individuals in China and Romania The United Nations' AIDS programme will also

well despite ... six twice that of conventional latex condoms.

The Avanti Durex will be released in Britain and Europe within the next 18 months Plastic condoms do not have rubber's unpleasant smell and taste a main complaint of users. The thermoplastic elastomer to give it its full name is tougher and ches more easily than latex, ... It is less likely to made thinner

doms have shown that after months only 40 per cent are still using them

Of the 60 per cent who have dropped out a fifth have had an unwanted pregnancy Dr Patrick Rowe who is leading the study from the WHO s Geneva headquarters, said "We are hoping we have found a contraceptive that provides effective protection against both pregnancy and di ... ed the



You will find plastic having reached most of the tourist spots, whether beaches or hill stations, whether well visited or 'quiet getaways'. Artist Laxman Shrestha found the plastic bags even in the high reaches of the Himalayas in Nepal, where he had recently gone trekking in order to get one with nature!

ominous problem at hand

Where do we begin to solve it?

Maneka Gandhi recommends that the Government of India should issue a notification banning the use of polythene shopping bags

But the government is unlikely to do this unless an effective lobby demands it Besides polythene bags, the single most visible symptom, there are other symptoms of the ailment

We will have to gradually convince ourselves to reduce the level of plastic usage Perhaps, wherever cheaper and environment-friendly alternatives are available, it must be made o happen

What one is to do in a situation where disposable syringes have become an absolute, life-saving necessity, but are made of plastic, is the black question staring us in our face

Diapers already come cleverly with plastic covers, so convenient now to carry baby around without messing up someone else's sofa or your own sari

A recent *Guardian* report says that 'the great new plastic condom', replacing latex, will be 'the sensation of the future' Very soon, we are sure, even coffins (easy to carry) and 'death beds' in electric crematoria (light on the shoulders of the mourners) will be made of plastic

Meanwhile, can we have those paper bags back, please? As Maneka Gandhi would say, *Achha hai* ■

INNER EYE — Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says this is the time to coo and woo, though disruptive influences are at work Also, the focus is sharp and clear on property, home, office, renovation, decoration and buying and selling You will be blessed with foreknowledge, gut feeling and intuition

Taurus

April 21—May 20



You will wed utility and beauty in just the right proportion and thus come out well on top of a situation Loans, funds and investments will be up your sleeve Children give delight and therefore the right time to plan a family The next year is also ideal for it

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Exile fatty foods and sweets from your diet because Mercury and Venus in your sign, according to Western astrology, give you a sweet tooth Initiative can be seized and that could help you to augment your income Expect happy findings and results

Cancer

June 21—July 20



You will seize opportunities, your timing will be just right and your attitude positive Expenses are bound to run high Your spouse could well be on a shopping spree Decisions regarding marriage, new ventures, children, their marriage, yours if eligible, are foretold

Leo

July 21—August 21



From love to perfection will be the course your destiny will take you and that you can bet will be pretty expensive, thanks to the sun's placing Joint finance loans, ventures which have a wide coverage, are fated Reconciliations are probable and good for you too

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Unlike your carping yells, you will be tolerant and rather forgiving and that in turn, will make you popular and loved Your undoubted sincerity will shine through Opposition will now be less and it should calm your nerves In short, the going should be easier and to your liking

Libra

September 23—October 22



Your capers manoeuvres and ploys will match those of the modern wonder sport para-skiing Those in journalism, arts, computers, management, cooking and public relations would make people jealous Collaborations and image-building are the extras for you

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



You could be at the helm of affairs and a favourable Mars encourages it Get set for glory Now is the time to cut loose A fine time to marry, enlist in clubs, socialise and sign deeds and documents and get set for collaborations and be all that you ever wanted to be In short, a time to score

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



The outdoors will take up a lot of your time this week You will have the 'tremulous eye of a startled doe" and that will help love gallop right into your heart There could be competition though Loans and funds are an outstanding feature of the next 27 days Work and play hard

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



You will care greatly for all living beings and will be most unusually demonstrative and affectionate You will merge entertainment and organisation, accounts and partying, most happily Strange, little known corners of your personality will emerge Health safeguards are essential

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



You will be the world's best liaison expert and that means tact and intelligence in unlimited measure There will be just enough challenge to test it Employed Aquarians prove their class and edge Love, children, research, communicative skills, spin a web for you

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Architects, horticulturists, surgeons, advertising executives, artists, editors, musicians and film stars show their true worth Changes on the home front are certain If expenses move up, it is only to be expected A time to be proud of yourself

BIRTHDAYS

June 25: Moon-Jupiter opposition means care in finances, specially investments and loans, announces Ganesha Secret activities take up your time

June 26: Moon conjuncts Mercury-Venus making you restless, highly motivated, absolutely alert to opportunities which will come your way

June 27: Saturn sextile Neptune means the conservatism of Saturn will be rounded and moulded by the imagination of Neptune and that should lead to a blend of chance and success

June 28: New moon sextile Mars makes you dashing and debonair, willing and able to take chances, ready to face the impossible

June 29: Moon-Saturn trine leads to consolidation and careful planning Those in trade, publicity, communication and tourism do well

June 30: Moon trine Jupiter means success and money, name and fame, less effort and gains Changes in your work are inevitable

July 1: Moon sextile Mercury suggests that traders, copywriters and media persons get the maximum advantage You will feel young at heart



THE SONG OF THE TREES

***Champak Chatterji** on his proximity to nature and love of life in all its greenery*

This was Shimla in the Fifties and I was all of 10 years old It was Puja time and all Bengalis from Summer Hill to Chhota Shimla had gathered at the Kalibari and on *Vijayadashami* came a mellifluous singer all the way from Calcutta who sang of mists and blue mountains

In this atmosphere, my cousin who was visiting, fell headlong in love She was a flighty young thing and since we could not discover her name, we christened her 'dragonfly' as she was elfin, gauzy and forever moving away

That was all that there was to it but I guess some of my cousin's passionate yearning must have rubbed off on me I became moody and pensive and most days would be down in the forests that flanked our house, near Annandale, walking by myself

It was then that I discovered the young pine, growing quietly in one corner It was six inches or so shorter than me and its leaves were soft and silky I christened it Louella This was also the time that I discovered Pat Boone — and for the rest of the time I was at Shimla, there would be rarely a day when we were not together, sharing a conversation or a song or two

Then when it was time to move away from the hill-station, I made a long and sentimental farewell

Today if she is still there, she would be 60 feet tall with forest-children of her own, murmuring together as only pines can when the wind blows through But if I do see her, I have a problem, how do I recognise my Louella?

Many years were to pass, growing to manhood and settling down Then my wife and I got posted to Midnapur and found ourselves somewhat enigmatically, occupants of a Swiss chalet-like bungalow with a ceiling so low that you could touch the roof by stretching

During the long parched summer, it was oven-hot inside the house and we

decided that trees would have to be planted for shade and survival Off we went to Calcutta and the Agri-Horticultural Society and from there returned lighter in purse but with lovely saplings of drooping deodar We diligently planted and watered them

I remember many an occasion when my wife and I would emerge, torch in hand, from the house in the depths of the night, to see how things were going in the 'nursery' Every new leaf, every centimetre of growth became a cause for celebration

We moved out of Midnapur when the saplings were a foot off the ground In distant pastures there was little news to be had about our trees but when our son was born, I told him about our "deodar children" and my wish that someday the siblings should meet

Many years passed before that came to be but one day, a chance visit took my family and I back to Midnapur and the chalet of old The bungalow looked run-down, the plaster was peeling and the flower beds were gone and then I saw the deodars! Eighteen of them, they were standing straight and strong under the blue sky of spring, proud Chatterjis – every one of them! My son had met his siblings after all and we all stood proudly that day in spring not perhaps a small but a very happy family nevertheless!

As Deputy Commissioner in Darjeeling, I lived in Rivers Hill which stood just beneath the Shrubbery and the approach to it was through a little forest of *dhupi, chilauni* and *katus*

Come April and with the first breath of spring the hillsides would erupt in flowers The wisteria that climbed the wall of the house would be a cataract in blue-pink but my own favourite was the *arucha* or plum tree with its soft white blossoms It stood at the end of the drive like a fairy in white spreading benediction

For sometime I found myself as the Director of the Himalayan Zoo in Darjeeling there as well I was suddenly *pater familias* to a large family of leopards, Ussuri tigers, yaks, bears, not to mention tragopans, pheasants and the Himalayan owl! Not that I did not enjoy it Every morning I was up early and would walk down to the zoo, exchanging a few words with Shiva the leopard, 'disco-dancer' the red panda or giving the yak-calf a fond look

Just at the entrance to the Director's office was a glorious blue pine I would spend a quiet minute here Inhaling the mountain air with that indefinite fragrance of wood resin and hearing again the murmur I heard as a boy among the hills of Shimla

Darjeeling is crowded during the summer months and again in autumn Vast throngs then move up and down and well into the night in my house, I could hear their multitudinous roar Winter is a different story The crowds disappear and only those in love with the town carry on, braving the biting wind and the bitter cold It is the time for long walks, as much to thaw the blood as to pass the time and introspect

There was the way up Jalapahar, the old road to Calcutta or Lebong But my favourite beat was to go past Chowrasta to the point where I could look down and see the shops at the bazaar come to life in the morning and the first train huff and puff its way to Ghoom A lone tree stood at this spot, gaunt and resolute, framing the distant hills I had named it Ghaffar Khan because of its imposing height and because I saw a certain resemblance, physical and spiritual, to the great man of theNorth West frontier The tree gave me strength and fortitude just as the *arucha* gave me a sense of beauty and the blue pine freshness and the wrench of sudden remembrance

It would be a full decade before I could go back to Darjeeling again This time it was not to stay but a quick two or three days snatched from the hurly-burly of life Things had changed and the faces around me were new I took a walk down to my old house searching for familiar landmarks, seeking my trees The house was there and the new inmates bade me welcome but the plum tree was gone! Blown down in a mountain storm, I was told In its place stood a dish-antenna gazing at the sky The zoo was next I walked up, all trepidation to where the blue pine had stood near the garden gate

Gone again! The resinous fragrance, the whispers of the forest out of childhood Where would I seek them now?

Disconsolate with the disappearance of old landmarks, I wandered about Subconsciously my feet brought me to where I would look down at the bazaar shacks and the mountain train going its way, all those years ago Then, turning a corner, I saw Ghaffar Khan against the sky patriarchal, benevolent, Frontier Gandhi as ever! The tree had stood the test of time The ten year interregnum vanished at a stroke and I was home again and not alone this time!

I was curator of the Victoria Memorial when that institution was celebrating its diamond jubilee I had been brought in to give a bit of administrative spine to the museum but got caught up in a vortex of seminars and exhibitions which the occasion demanded Celebrities came in from home and abroad, there were precious pictures to be carried to distant places, publications to be organised and special cancellations to be arranged with the postal authorities

All this was new to me and as a result the hours got longer and longer and the adrenalin flow became a mighty flood To cool off, I would go and walk in the garden Acres of it and full of glorious trees, flowers and birds Long-tailed parrots screeching out of the *simul*, the bee-eater resting awhile in the branches of the *pakur*, the slash of oriole-gold amidst the green of the mango

These gave me a sense of calm and soothed my frazzled nerves When I needed more sustained therapy, I would head at the hour of dawn to watch the sun rise and fill the great crown of the mimosacaea, standing by the western lake, with the pearl light of dawn I called this tree, The Tree of Life With its enormous trunk and spread of branches it seemed to hold up the sky itself

Springing from the earth it was also a symbol of all that was fruitful and good Under that tree quiet would enter my soul and it seemed I was back in some hermitage where there could be no pain or anger There was a bench near the tree where lovers sat I thought the tree affected them also While elsewhere they talked endlessly They fell silent here in the shadow of the mighty tree

In summer, the heat is stifling where I live in a small flat in the middle of Calcutta But I am four floors up and from the window of my room I am on a level with the tops of trees A sea of green stretches in front splashed here and there with colour The *gulmohur* is in bloom and the yellow flowers contrast with the green of the leaves

The *neem*, the *jamun* and the mango crowd together knitting conjoint shadows I can see the gravestones in the Bhowanipore cemetery Alongside a lilac tree is in bridal bloom and an amaltas is shaking its golden anklets I dream-walk in the swathe of green and soon the sun is gentle A song comes to my lips I am singing Louella ■

PROFILE

CRIME AND PUBLICATION

Dick Francis is as keen a horseman today as he was 30 years ago when a nasty fall terminated his career as jockey ***Seema Sirohi*** *profiles the 74-year-old popular British writer of crime*

A long morning walk along the beach, a swim in the sparkling blue waters of the Caymen Islands, a quick cup of coffee and then, well, it is time to sit down and write

Dick Francis, who still churns out a thriller every year at the ripe old age of 74, follows this strict regimen and says that mental work is more exhausting than his first career as a jockey for the British royal family



Dick Francis Plotting crime

Even though horses are an integral part of his life and novels, now he is "too old to ride" or judge events or train But he is still close to the royals and sympathises with their troubles, saying they never had a chance at happiness given the hounding they get from the press

It would not be an exaggeration to say that horses are to Dick Francis what diamonds are to Elizabeth Taylor or what style is to Diana or eccentricity to Prince Charles

They are simply synonymous For four generations, the Francis family has been attached to the royal family, training, breeding and racing its horses So it is hardly surprising that when Dick Francis gave up his career as a jockey and took up writing, the novels were centred round the world of horses

The pain of defeat or the rigour of nonstop training for a Grand National until the beautiful animal is found mysteriously drugged or incapacitated in some other way are essentials of his mastered technique

The drama of a Dick Francis novel grips the reader, taking him on a journey of intrigue and deceit, heavily aided by the science of pharmacology since drugging of the horse is a recurrent theme in his thrillers True, either you are addicted to his novels or you are not but he remains one of the most popular writers of crime thrillers today Any book signing ceremony is evidence of his fan following

He meticulously signs hundreds of books without complaining, sharing a joke with the readers as he goes through piles after piles At a recent book signing in the American city of Denver, there were at least 300 people crammed inside a room on the third floor above the book store waiting for Dick Francis to show up

He came with his manager-son Felix but went to have a drink because he thought there were no fans He was

overwhelmed when he went upstairs to the right room This correspondent met him in Bratislava, where nearly a 100 people lined up in cold weather to get his autograph It was a coup of sorts for the Slovak publisher of his novels since Slovak is the first foreign language his latest novel has been translated into — even before Japanese He sells most in the US, followed by Japan and Czech and Slovak republics

Dick Francis even today is as keen a horseman as he was more than 30 years ago when a nasty fall cut short his reign as a jockey He broke his wrist and burst his spleen The accident followed another 'numbing experience when a horse belonging to the Queen Mother mysteriously collapsed under him a few metres before the finishing line The incident came to be known as the 'Devin Loch' episode in the annals of racing history

"I have got used to it now but at that time I was numbed I was 10 lanes in front and winning the race easily," he says, speaking slowly He went and checked on the horse after the race and found nothing wrong with it except that it seemed tired Perhaps this real-life drama has been the biggest inspiration behind the novels

It would not be an exaggeration to say that horses are to Dick Francis what diamonds are to Elizabeth Taylor or what style is to Diana or eccentricity to Prince Charles

Jockey career ended, the sprightly Britisher began writing his autobiography which attracted the attention of the sports editor of the *Sunday Express* who pursued the famous, royally connected man of horses to write a column Dick Francis was coy at first but as the offer increased, he accepted He began in November 1957 and wrote for the next 16 years

"The job taught me how to write stories, how not to use superfluous words and what words to leave out," he said of his journalistic stint

His wife, Mary, reminded him of his desire to write a novel and he published his first in 1962 There has been one every year since, he says proudly Often, his wife helps him with the research and travels They went to Moscow for the *Trial Run* and went to the sunny beaches of Australia and New Zealand for *In the Frame*

There are invitations from jockey clubs and horse show organisers all over the world and Dick Francis never refuses if he sees an opportunity for a book He denies that he is a creation of his publishers and insists that he writes at a pace comfortable for him

Yet he is keenly obliging every May when it is time to deliver the manuscript to the publisher so he can have the book for the Christmas market

"They have a fit when I say I will give them a novel every other year" He keeps abreast of the latest in the racing scene and says the races have not really got faster, only more lucrative and more numerous even though many people think they are run faster A good jockey may run as many as 200 races today, often flying, to a different spot in the evening while in his days the numbers were well under 100

Dick Francis himself won 76 races on some of the famous horses in history He holds that the best horses still come from Ireland followed by Florida and Kentucky "The breed of horses in eastern countries such as India or Japan does not last' even though the people love to breed them there, says the expert The bones get lighter after a few generations and the breeders have to keep going back to Kentucky to replenish the stock

The main reason is the lack of calcium in the soil and the grass The rich soil in parts of North and South America and the British Isles comes from the Mexican gulf stream Dick Francis is unselfconsciously honest when not being 'managed' by his son who seems to watch his every word But the author still manages to drop a few bomb shells He said he liked living in Florida for 15 years because "well, the natives spoke English"

But he was irritated by the American habit of telephoning "you for this or that" "Now that we live in the Caymen Islands, they think we have gone abroad or something even though we are on the same area code on the telephone system," he says

He hates the Arab world because of "the natives" and the sand He lived in Egypt for two years during World War II

The pride and prejudices of his social class come across easily but it does not seem to bother him He only worries about plotting his next novel ■

is publishing poems regularly.

JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and NOT to The Telegraph, by ORDINARY MAIL Contributions sent by registered post or courier **will not be** accepted Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned** All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates No enquiries will be solicited

Fill in the coupon below and sent with your contribution

___ Block letters please

Name_____

Age_

Address_____

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

CROW PHILOSOPHY

One summer evening, as storm clouds gathered over the purple mountains, a glossy black jungle-crow settled on the window-sill, looked at me with his head cocked to one side, and said, "You look worried today, chum. Anything I can do for you?"

I had been lolling in an easy chair near the window, looking pretty gloomy I suppose, for all was not well with life in general, when this Runyonesque character arrived and startled me out of my solitude.

"I beg your pardon?" I said politely. One must always be polite with strangers, nowadays some of them carry guns or knives.

"Just asked if anything was wrong," said the crow. "You're not your your usual cheerful self."

"No, I'm not. But there's nothing I can do about it. And it's got nothing to do with you."

"You never can tell," said my visitor.

"All right. And if it wasn't that I'm feverish and probably in delirium, I'd swear that you were talking to me."

"Don't swear. Just listen. I've been around. I've even been human. Chang-tzu had me for a disciple. Epictetus had me for a friend. Saul of Tarsus and I made tents together. I've knocked about with Kashyapa, father of demons."

"And now you're a crow. I suppose it's progress of a kind."

"It's all because I went into politics the last time around. The result was this feathered reincarnation. But seriously, there's nothing wrong with being a crow. We are a much-maligned tribe. Do you realise that no other bird has our intelligence, our resilience. We can make a living almost anywhere — and that's more than what you've been able to do of late."

He had me there. I'd been struggling for some time, trying to make ends meet but I wasn't getting anywhere.

"I'm doing my best," I said.

"That's your trouble," said Crow moving nearer along the window-sill and looking me between the eyes. "You do your best. You try too hard. That's fatal, friend. The secret of success lies in maximum achievement with minimum effort."

"But that's ridiculous," I protested. "How am I to be a successful author if I don't write?"

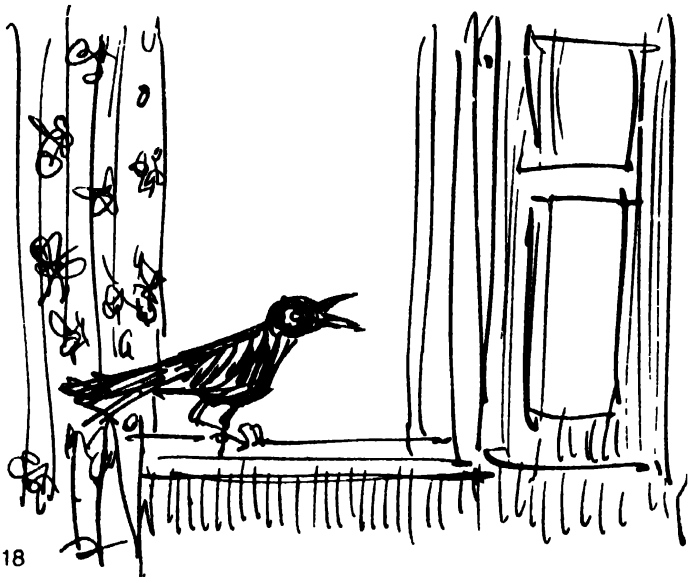
"You misunderstand me. I am not recommending the idle life. Have you ever seen an idle crow? I bet you haven't. A hard-working crow? Most unlikely. And yet, we've always got one eye open, and that eye's on the main chance." And sidling up to me, he filched the remains of my sandwich from my hand.

'It's all because I went into politics the last time around. The result was this feathered reincarnation. But seriously, there's nothing wrong with being a crow. We are a much-maligned tribe. Do you realise that no other bird has our intelligence, our resilience....'

"See that? Got what I wanted, didn't I? And with a minimum of effort. It's simply a question of being in the right place at the right time."

I was not amused.

"That's all very well if your ambition is to pinch someone else's lunch," I said. "But how does it apply to succes-





'What I'm really advocating is pragmatism. The trouble with most people, and that includes writers, is that they want too much in the first place. A feast instead of a bite from a sandwich. And feasts are harder to come by and cost much more. So that's your first mistake to be wanting too much, too soon'

sful authorship? Do I p nch other people's ideas?"

"Most people do but that's not the point What I'm really advocatn g is pragmatism The trouble with most people, and that includes writers is that they want too much in the first place A feast instead of a bite from a sandwich And feasts are harder to come by and cost much more So that's your first mistake to be wanting too much, too soon "

"And the second mistake is to be pursuing things What I'm saying old chap, applies not only to authorship but to almost everything under the sun Success is what you are pursuing, isn't it? Success is what most of us are pursuing

"Now, I'm a successful crow, you must admit that But I don't pursue I wait, I watch, I collect My motto is the same as that of any Boy Scout 'Be prepared!'"

"I'm not a bird of prey You are not a beast of prey So it is not by pursuit that we succeed If we became hunters, we would automatically bring into being victims And a victim's chief object is to get away! And so it is with success Pursue it too avidly and it will elude you "

"So what am I supposed to do? Write books and forget about them?"

"Exactly I don t mean you have to tuck them away Send them where you will - send them to the four corners of the earth -- but don't fret over them, don't expect too much That's the third mistake -- fretting Because when you keep fretting about something you've done you can't give your mind to anything else "

"You're right," I had to admit "I do worry a lot I'm the worrying kind I call it authoritis "

"All wrong What have you to worry about?"

"Lots of little things "

"Anything big?"

"Not at the moment "

"But you expect something terrible to happen? You expect the worst?"

"Isn't it prudent to expect the worst?"

"No In crow philosophy we expect the best!"

And hopping onto the side-table, he dipped his beak in my beer mug and took a long, tasteful sip

"Always expecting the best! And I usually get it By the way, if you can afford beer everyday, you can't be badly off "

"I don't have it everyday "

"Why this sudden interest in my welfare? Why not someone more deserving?"

"Because I've taken a fancy to you," he said cocking his head to one side "You don't trouble crows "

"I've never noticed them much "

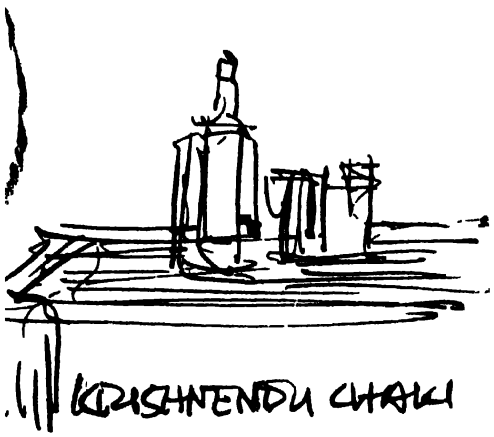
"A pity If you'd taken the trouble to study crows, you'd have learnt something from them Survival, independence, freedom from stress "

He took another sip of beer

"No writer worth his salt can afford to ignore us We're nature's greatest survivors!"

With a disdainful flap of his wings he took off and headed straight for the Woodstock School kitchen I looked at the label of my bottle of beer It seemed quite genuine But you never know, these days

(Sanctuary Features)





GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

SIGHT OF SOUND

A pale hand flaps imperiously from the front window of a white Maruti, in a vain effort to force a way through traffic This is a woman with a mission A mission to show her paintings to a gallery owner

Finally finding a gap, she proceeds cautiously, as if the Maruti is an alien form of transport of which she is deeply suspicious, and parks before Delhi's Little Theatre Gallery Opening the back door of her car she struggles to remove a huge leather portfolio, almost bigger than she is, and heads towards the gallery stairs

This petite woman, with ash-blonde hair, wearing a white kurta-pajama printed in Rajasthani style in simple blue, and draped with the most stylish jewellery, is Ameena Ahuja Ahmad

In Old Delhi where she was brought up, she is still best known as the daughter of Barrister Nooruddin Ahmad, remembered as a giant of a personality, a man of immense humour and learning, who used to sit chatting with friends in Urdu Bazaar His children, say the old men of Old Delhi, have become modern

But Barrister Nooruddin was not altogether unmodern himself He studied in Britain, fell in love there and married a British girl with Russian connections Ameena is their child

Inside the gallery, she is greeted warmly by old friends, unzips the portfolio and spreads out her work against the walls and across the floors These are animal forms — pacing leopards, falcons, horses running, peacocks, doves, deer and one of the Virgin Mary and child They capture the essence of the creatures they seem to represent

But these are creations of calligraphy, these are poems in Persian and Urdu by Rumi, Hafiz, Ghalib and Faiz, shaped by the artist 's hand into animal form

Calligraphy means literally beautiful handwriting, as does the Urdu *khus khat* Just because you have good handwriting, you can't claim to be an artist Most calligraphers are simply craftsmen but over the centuries there have always been some who have produced new scripts and ways of using them Formerly they were given titles — rather like an Urdu poet's *takhallus* — meaning Amber, Sweet, Golden or Mercurial Pen

It's to this tradition, perhaps, that Ameena belongs, creating a new blend of European and Indian tradition She is by training an artist from Camberwell and the Slade School of Art, where her special subjects of study were Persian miniatures and Russian icons Her search in her own art is for the perfect line This she finds in alphabetical scripts, specially in the half a dozen or so Urdu/Persian scripts perfected in India

"Every artist needs a perfect line, a tool to draw with," she explains, sipping tea and looking down over her work "I use the reed pen, and traditional ink, sometimes mixed with honey for lustre, and myrrh to keep insects away Pen and ink have always been greatly respected Reed pens have been called the cypress trees lining the Valley of Knowledge, and ink has been compared to the Water of Life

"But it was my mother first who showed me the forms which lie within the Urdu alphabet, the elegance of the script She saw Henry Moore's reclining sculptures in the letters *be*, *pe*, and *te*"

Ameena is obviously deeply influenced by her mother, who came to India and became fluent in the languages of Delhi She designed jewellery, sitting and working with traditional craftsmen, using semi-precious stones — lapis, amber, agate, jade and coral

Around Ameena's neck hangs a smooth tulip outline in grey agate bound in brass Around her wrist is a silver bangle, leaves twining towards an oval of amber containing petrified bubbles of light Both were designed by her mother Her own contribution is of amber too — a necklace of cigarette holders Ameena was once a heavy smoker

"I was always encouraged to paint — it was the only thing I was good at And Urdu was my mother tongue, as was English Both India and England were my homes, and this seemed entirely natural to me But the poetry I heard here made a specially deep impact on me I think it is very important to learn by heart, and I learned the poetry I heard Much of this I use in my paintings I also learned calligraphy as a child

"See, that is *shikasta*," she goes on, pointing to one painting, "the letters are cut off before completion It's difficult to read That was the script used for love letters, so they were not easy to decipher if they fell into the wrong hands

"Then that is *khat-e-ghubar* — the script of dust — that you would use for writing to an enemy Hakim Ajmal Khan used to write prescriptions in it so that dust would fall on the patient's illness and it would be destroyed The horse is in *khat-e-rehani*, a script resembling intertwining basil leaves"

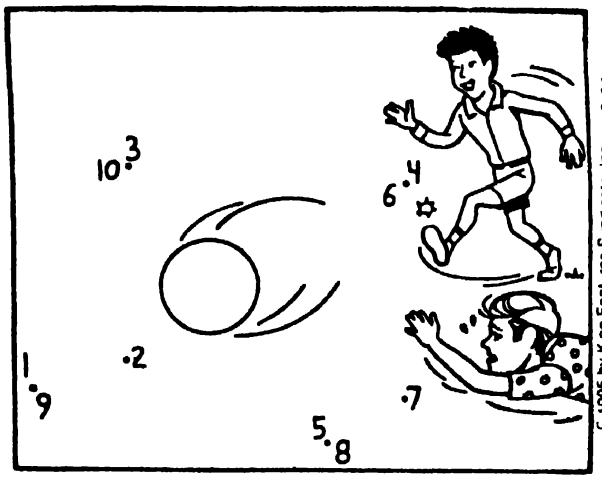
The galloping horse lying before us was created from a verse of Ghalib — *Saaya mera mujh se misl-e-dud bhage hai* — My shadow runs from me as fast as smoke The falcon was formed of Rumi's verse, *Man mast o tu diwane* — I was intoxicated and you are mad, I have told you a hundred times, Drink less than you do, not more than two or three measures A lion, its head turned as if in seeking, was formed of another of Rumi's verses which tells of a holy man roaming the streets with a lamp in his hand, sick of the company of surrounding evil spirits, in search of one good human being

For Ameena "Sound must be seen, colours must be heard " Now this winter it seems from the conversation in the gallery, that the sounds Ameena draws will be seen again this winter after a gap of over five years

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

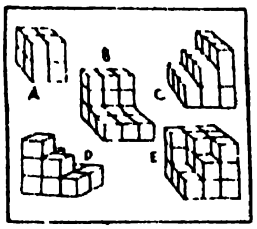
HAL KAUFMAN



KICK STAND! Block that kick? Too late. What's missing from this soccer scene? Draw lines from dot to dot to see

THINK FAST! 1. This number reversed is the equivalent of three score and two. 2. This number's square is two less than the cube of three.

Answers: 1. 26 2. Five



BLOCK TALLY CHALLENGE

MOST blocks in the diverse sets above are in plain sight, but some are hidden from view. Assuming that all sets are complete, how many blocks would you say there are in arrangements A, B, C, D and E? Indicate your tallies in blanks below.

A ____
B ____
C ____
D ____
E ____

Remember, all block formations are complete.

When you have made your individual counts, check with answers given below.

A - eight. B - fifteen. C - eighteen. D - twenty. E - twenty-two.

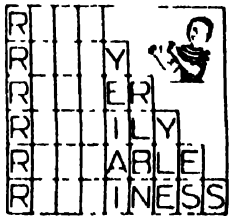
KEYING IN! Three letters are missing from a certain key word in the top step of the exercise below. Indeed, these same three letters may be inserted to complete the five progressively longer words in these steps below.

How quickly can you find the three letters that complete the key word?

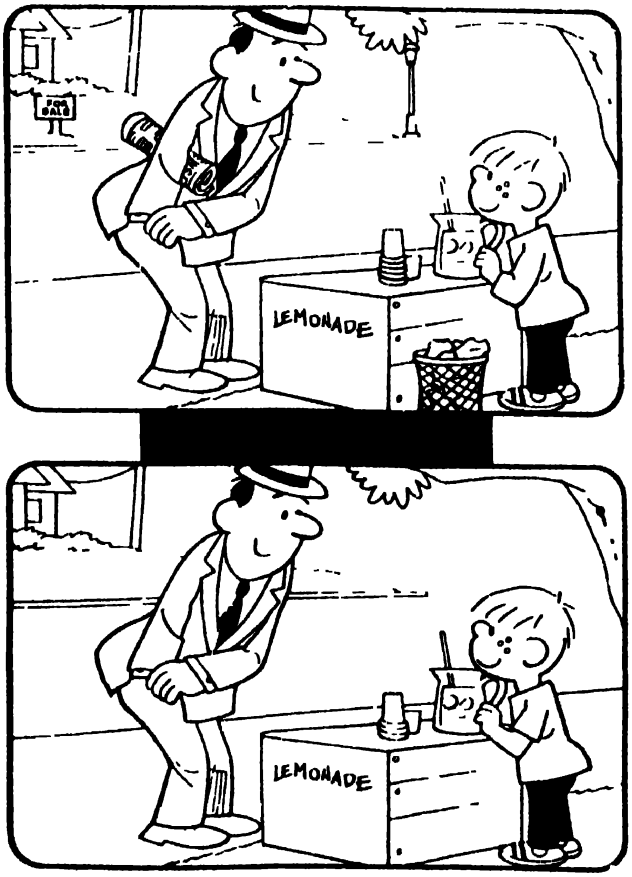
Limit: 30 seconds.

Clue: It is a word that denotes a learning skill which is an important asset throughout a person's life.

Answer: READABILITY. Add R, A and D to READ for READ. Add A, B and I to RD for RAIL. Add A, I and T to RAIL for RAILS. Add A, B and I to RAILS for RAILBIRD. Add A, B and I to RAILBIRD for RAILBIRDS.



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Paper is missing. 3. Lapproset is missing. 4. Cup stack is lower. 5. Trash basket is missing. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

FUNSPOT



HAND PICKED! Nice birdie, here's a treat. Add the following colors by number code. 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. green. 9—Pink.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

SMOOTHER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

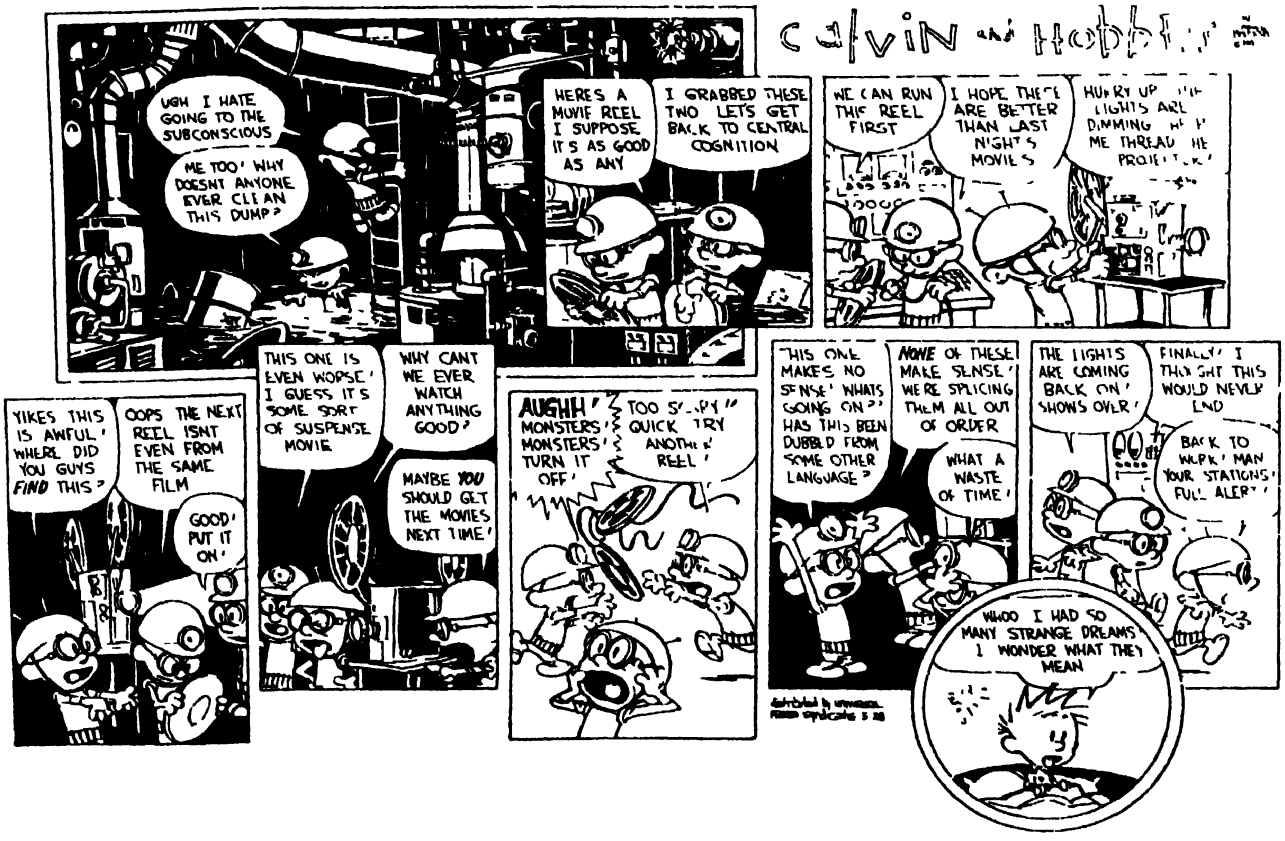
Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible twosome: Root mash.

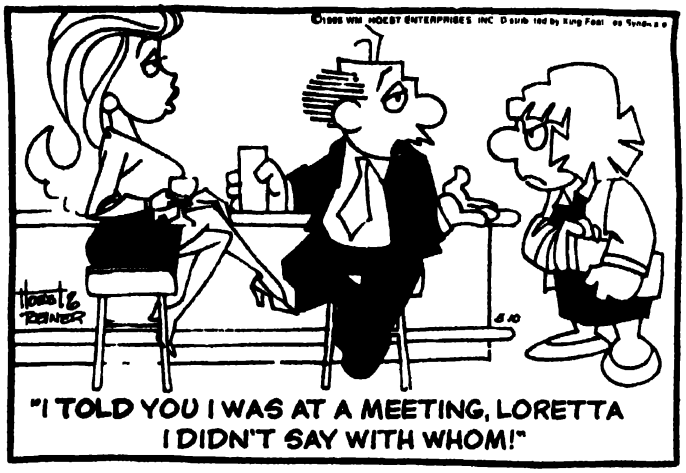
ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON

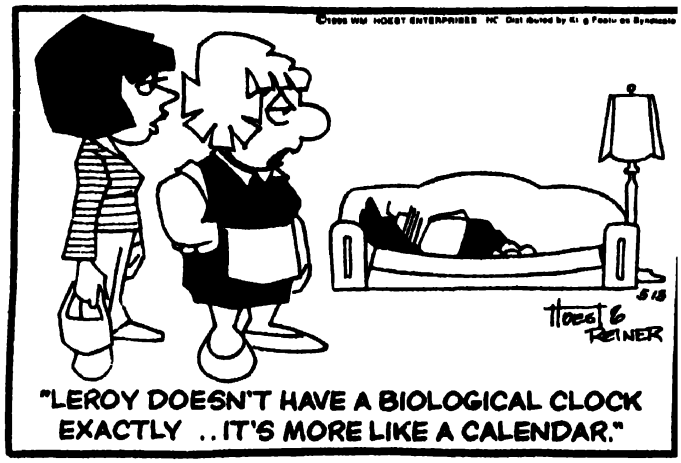


THE LOCKHORNS

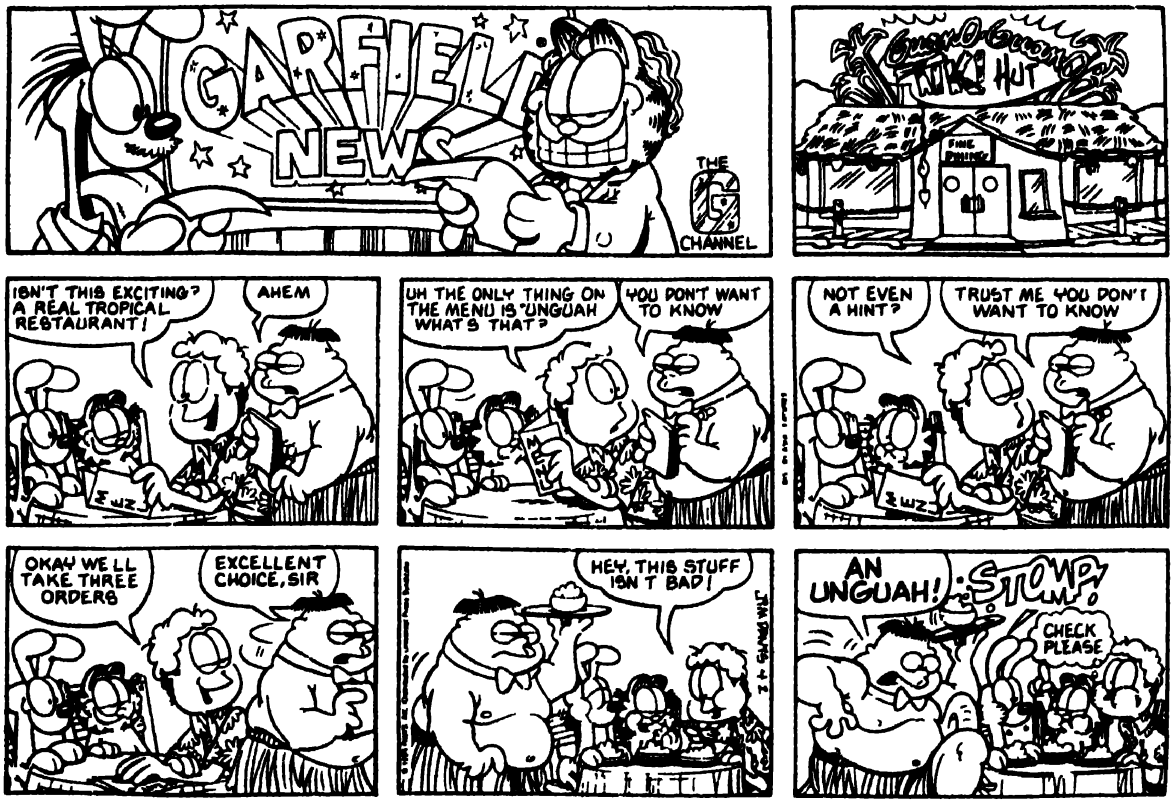






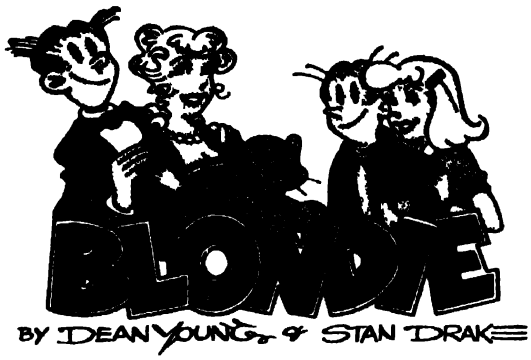


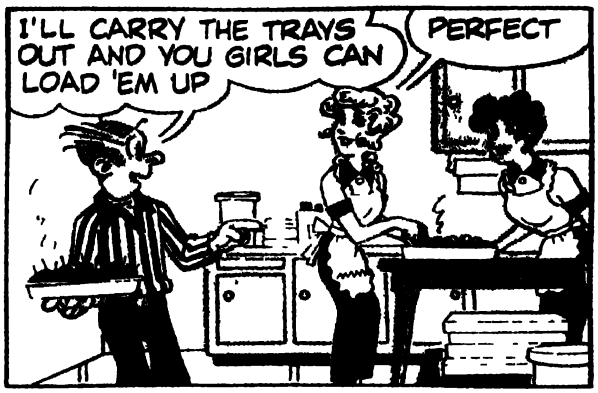
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

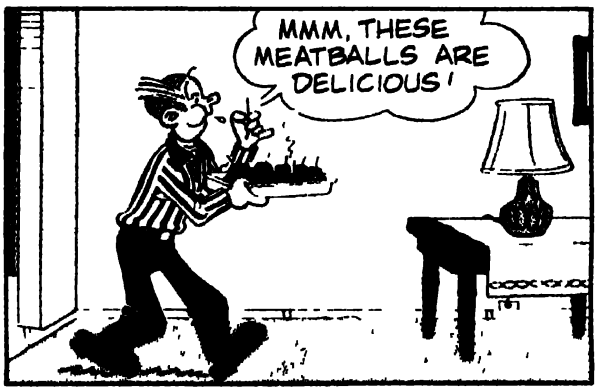


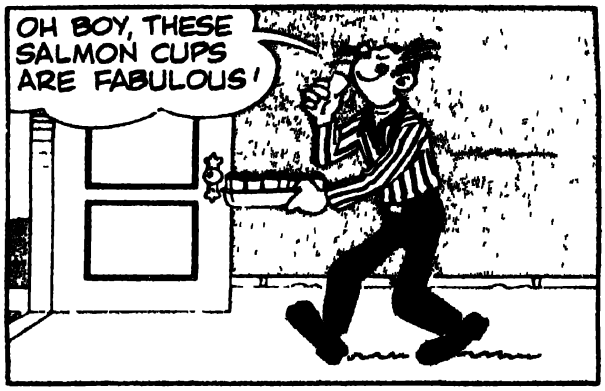
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

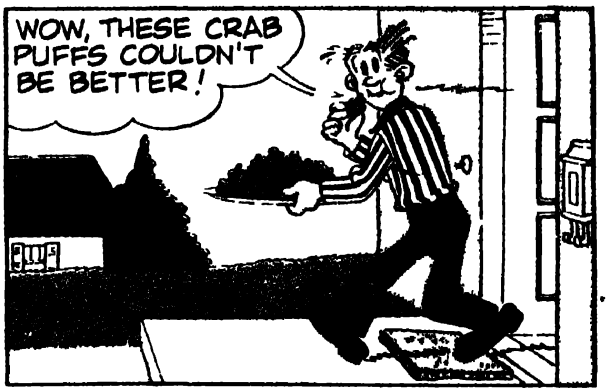




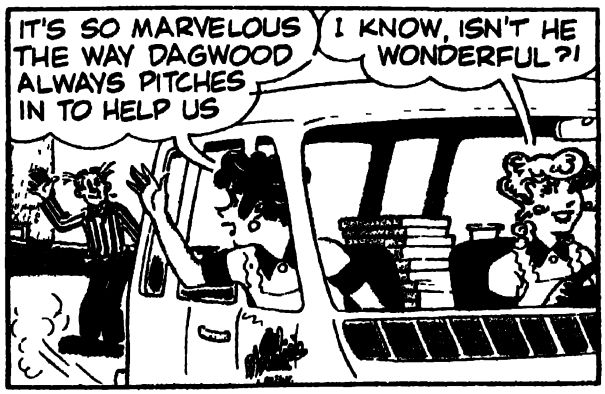














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FOCUS

FLYING FREE: TO DEATH

Reintroducing a dying species to its native habitat, is never easy. In fact, most attempts with the rare Arizonian parrots, have failed

A seven-year effort to return thick-billed parrots to the pine forests of Arizona where they once thrived has failed because birds raised in captivity floundered in the wild, quickly becoming prey for hawks

Some of the birds starved, others succumbed to disease, but most were eaten by predators, often within 48 hours of their release

Researchers have suspended the project, saying they are uncertain whether any of the 88 parrots released in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona from 1986 to 1993 survived Reintroducing a dying species to the wild, even in its native habitat, is never easy, conservationists say In fact, most attempts fail, specially when they involve animals born in captivity

Yet wildlife researchers say that such efforts tend to be more popular than other conservation techniques, like those that rely on legislation and public education To be sure, the appeal of returning the brightly plumaged thick-billed parrot to Arizona is largely aesthetic, said Dr Noel Snyder, an ornithologist who directed the parrot project and led the attempt to revive the California condor in the late Eighties

The thick-billed parrot, which is rather tame and not a prolific talker, is one of only two parrot species native to the United States The other, the Carolina parakeet, went extinct early in this century The thick-billed parrot is emerald green with scarlet shoulder patches and a red nose It disappeared from the south-western United States in the early Nineties, a victim of hunters but large flocks of the parrot still nest in the western Sierra Madre of Mexico

The attempt to resurrect the species in Arizona began with 29 wild adult parrots that the US Fish and Wildlife Service had confiscated from smugglers Later, another 36 wild parrots were added But the flocks dwindled considerably after a drought in 1989 Illnesses such as an incurable, fatal wasting disease, took a toll as well The project encountered its most formidable challenge when it supplemented the wild parrot population with birds that had been raised in captivity

In their native habitat, thick billed parrots are loud and gregarious creatures Among the largest parrot species they streak through the sky wing tip to wingtip holding a tight, V shaped formation A robust thick billed parrot can easily outfly goshawks and red-tailed hawks, its main predators, and sometimes even a peregrine falcon On the ground, the parrots seek safety in numbers, nesting close together in Ponderosa pine trees or Douglas firs at altitudes of 7,000 feet or more

Often one bird will act as a sentinel for the others perched on a treetop and calling vociferously when danger approaches The 23 parrots raised in cages lacked those flocking instincts and more importantly, proved unable to develop such survival skills in the wild Liberated, they took solo journeys to other mountain regions, foraged for pine cones in forests that had no pine trees and showed a lack of interest in socialising with their fellow avians

"They get out there and the whole thing seems to be such an overwhelmingly new situation that they sit there dazed," said Snyder "They don't flock properly, so they are very vulnerable to predation " To improve the birds' chances, the biologists created what amounted to training sessions in how to behave like a thick-billed parrot

Housed in 30-foot-long cages with wild parrots, the ones raised in captivity learned through a combination of imitation and trial and error how to feed themselves "That's a tricky thing," Snyder said They must



The Carolina parakeet. Now gone extinct

The thick-billed parrot, which is rather tame and not a prolific talker, is one of only two parrot species native to the United States. The other, the Carolina parakeet, went extinct early in this century. The thick-billed parrot is emerald green with scarlet shoulder patches and a red nose. It disappeared from the south-western United States in the early Nineties, a victim of hunters, but large flocks of the parrot still nest in the western Sierra Madre of Mexico

snip a pine cone off a branch and then maintain a firm grip while using their thick bills to extract the seed The training helped hone the parrots' foraging skills, but it did not improve their flocking strategy

In one typical release, a female thick-billed parrot quickly located a wild flock and took up a perch about 33 yards away When the flock returned to its feeding area, the female flew to another canyon She was killed by a raptor later that afternoon "We reached a point where we were putting out the best candidates of captive-bred birds and just watching them die," said Susan L Koenig, a volunteer in the programme who wrote her master's thesis on thick-billed parrot behaviour for the University of Arizona in Tucson "Ethically, we couldn't justify putting out more captive bred birds just to feed the hawks"

Wildlife Preservation Trust International invested $276,000 in the reintroduction programme, some of which was a contribution from the Arizona Game and Fish Department From the beginning, the project faced dismal odds Only about 1 of 10 reintroduction schemes that use animals raised in captivity leads to self-sufficient populations of 500 or more individuals, said Dr Benjamin B Beck, associate director for biological programmes at the National Zoological Park in Washington, who has reviewed 145 such projects

The most successful reintroduction programmes involved large numbers of animals over several years, Beck said They also relied on public education programmes to foster local support and enthusiasm "They capture the imagination," said Dr Mary C Pearl, executive director of Wildlife Preservation Trust International, a non-profit organization based in Philadelphia But she said most reintroductions occur when the species is in its last gasp

' That's almost certainly a prescription for failure," she said While the thick-billed parrot is not in such dire straits, conservationists say that a renewed North American population could become a critical safety net for the endangered Mexican birds, whose habitat is under siege by loggers In the next several years, Snyder, working with conservation groups in Mexico, will study that population If they discover a healthy and sizable group of parrots, they might again try to rekindle a group in Arizona, but strictly with birds caught in the wild

(The New York Times Service)

PIN UP

STARRY RIGHTS

Hollywood comedian Eddie Murphy gets turned on by good perfume. And he will not perform till his dressing room is filled with peach-scented pot-pourri.

Diana Ross is choosy about the room she lives in. When the diva didn't find the dressing room of a performance centre in Iowa's Cedar Rapids up to her starry liking, she flared up and ordered the waiting room and the three adjoining dressing rooms be redone

The walls and floors were repainted and recarpeted in the earth-toned hues she fancied brown, mauve and beige

Being rich and famous and hounded by an all-too-adoring bevy of fans celebrities make unimaginable demands to assert their 'star' status And why not, feels Randy Taraborelli, Michael Jackson's biographer, "You can't imagine how chaotic and turbulent their lives are " They'll demand anything that can be done to make life easier for them.

Even stars who would love to forget the limo culture give in after some time And the bigger the name the greater the tantrums. Hollywood's fifth richest entertainer, Bill Cosby, is very fussy about the limousine he rides. It must be a white Jaguar.



Diana Ross: Proud diva

Once a producer sent him a black limo to take him to a party Cosby declined to step into the limo

The pay-offs for the 'suffering' celebrities undergo are simply fabulous Even hotels and restaurants love to pamper stars; some of the ritzier ones in Los Angeles and New York take the business of perks very seriously going to the extent of maintaining files cataloguing celebrity preferences in food and drinks and even getting in touch with studios to garner information about their likes and dislikes. House rules can also be broken if it is a high-wattage star

A room service manager of a Los Angeles hotel had found out that Clint Eastwood had a weakness for Evian drinks. When the actor checked in, he found a dozen or so premium corked glass bottles of the mineral water awaiting him in his posh suite. But down with arthritis the actor found it impossible to use the corkscrew The manager immediately sent a waiter to an adjacent store and had him buy up all the plastic bottles of Evian.

There's no end to the caprices of Hollywood stars Warren Beatty often gets the urge to "reach out and touch someone" at restaurants

Beatty also loves to make his presence felt Recently, at one of his favourite NY eateries, Beatty disappeared to make a call on the house phone leaving his wife and two of her friends at the dining table. He went on talking for the rest of the meal forgetting his company and also the fact that he was inconveniencing other residents of the hotel who may have urgent calls to put through No one in the hotel protested

A large entourage of domestic help is considered a symbol of high status in Hollywood And it boosts a star's media hype Demi Moore, Hollywood's highest paid actress now, hires a rotating security staff, a nanny, a personal assistant who has her own assistant, a trainer, a masseur, a housekeeper, a cook and several workmen on call every day

With her earnings shooting up to $12.5 million she sure can afford this luxury!

Eddie Murphy loves to surround himself with at least a dozen staffers. And there's nothing Eddie loves more than to eat in peace and solitude. His 'boys' are known to clear out an entire McDonald's joint so they can eat in privacy.

Well, stardom may be a big bore, but when the perks are so enticing it *must* be nice to be a star.

Clint Eastwood with Jack Nicholson (left) and Barbra Streisand: Star perks



POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Tonight

There is a poem
within me
that seeks release tonight,
an anger which must
burst
into flames

A madness that lingers
to manifest on my face
a secret which gnaws

Somewhere in the body
a grief lurks
out at the vast darkness,
an unknown fear
creeps through my bones

Tonight I think I'll let
all these go
Tonight I'll let the body decide
its ultimate destiny

Now that I've got that
long lost gypsy girl in my arms
whose glistening thighs
quivers for a touch

of my restless fingers
like a serpent's licking tongue
stirring the quiet darkness

Durga Prasad Panda

Forgotten Pillars

Mute witness, having succumbed
to the weight of timelessness
they stand adorned with hapha-
zard creepers
And cobwebs weave intricate
design
over decades of dust

Shunned into oblivion,
Away from all religious frenzy
they might offer solace
to the chance wanderer
untainted as they are
with the blood of devotees

Santanu Ray Chaudhuri

Eternity

Eternity is
that moment
when the black deserted road
stretches out till nowhere,
the sun beats down,
the wind raises the dust
that lies on the cosmos
and I try to struggle out of
myself—
to be free,
elemental,
unbound by this body
that moment
when I crave for love,
want to shatter the restrictions
of gender,
age,
society,
politeness,
and snatch love—
but I wait
Eternity
is that moment
when I no longer wish
to rebel,
when my whole universe
gathers into one person,
my whole life
into one moment

Sudha Chandi Dvivedi



Asim Roy

Stigma

A poet, successful or not
must bear a stigma
This blighted creature
must see life
differently,
from the rest of the mankind,
in a manner divergent,
with a view that is his own,
and put it on paper, he must
how ever prosaic it may be
An object of suspicion,
a tinge of distrust,
a stigma, that is his cross

Gautam Sinha

Spider

What is that creature
that hangs? Delicate threads
of mystery, interwoven by the
black widow—a trap for
the naive fly that does not
understand

From what race
do you descend that has learnt
the art to trap, is it the politician's?
Nay, your threads are more subtle
And yet so firm

Satyajeet Misra

VIDISHA PAVATE, *19, winner of the Ford Super Model contest from India, leaves for the Bahamas at the end of August for the big event. Her rendezvous with the world of glamour began only six months ago, with a few ads like Kissan, Tanishq and a number of fashion shows. Will the 5'91/2" model with a wispy 32-24-34 figure also return with international laurels?*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
To have a pure conscience.
What is your greatest fear?
Lizards
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mom.
What do you dislike most in others?
Wickedness
What do you dislike most in yourself?
The tendency to leave things for the last minute
What is your most precious possession?
My famuly
What objects do you always carry?
My handbag
What makes you most depressed?
When I can't solve a maths problem
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My stubby nails (I bite them)
What is your favourite word?
Sorry
What is your favourite journey?
Journey to dreamland



What or who is the greatest love of your life?

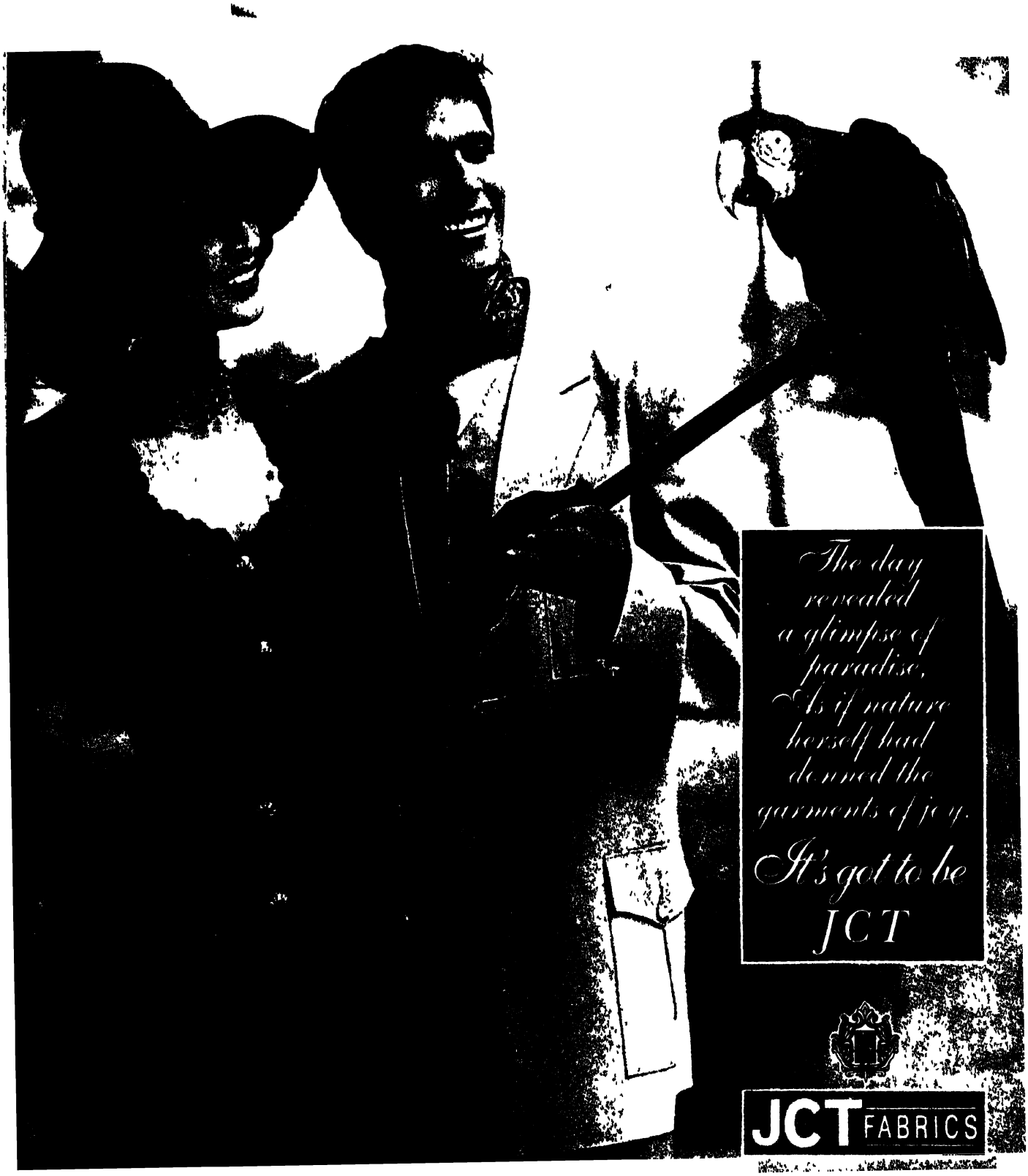
Chocolates, at present

What is your favourite dream?
Reaching the top.
What is your nightmare?
I prefer to forget
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Chocolates, at present
What is your source of sustenance?
My will power
On what occasions do you lie?
So far I haven't felt the need to
What is your greatest regret?
Nothing yet
What has been your happiest moment?
When I won the Ford India Super Model contest
What brings tears to your eyes?
Cruelty
How do you relax?
With a book
What do you envy most in others?
Long nails
How would you like to be remembered?
As a good human being
How would you like to die?
Painlessly and quick

What do you envy most in others?

Long nails


THE MAN.
THE MACHINE..
THE TYRE...
MRF NYLOGRIP


The day
revealed
a glimpse of
paradise,
As if nature
herself had
donned the
garments of joy.
It's got to be
JCT
JCT FABRICS

2 JULY 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Let There Be Peace

■ The fact that many Westerners, including Hollywood stars like Richard Gere, have embraced Buddhism, shows that the Dalai Lama's unrelenting efforts to spread the teachings of Lord Buddha in the world have succeeded ('Don't Worry, Be Buddhist', June 4)

He has travelled to every corner of the globe for the liberation of Tibet. But for a people that believes and practises non-violence, freedom from Chinese rule has proved elusive

In a world, torn asunder by violence and war, the only religion that could usher in peace is Buddhism and going by the large number of recent converts to this religion, it is obvious the people are weary and seeking calm of mind

B.N. Bose,
Calcutta

■ Most religions preach non-violence and universal love It is a different matter that followers do not adhere to the tenets of religions

Think what Christian Germany did to the Jews. Sri Lanka, a predominantly Buddhist state, has recorded the most gruesome instances of violence and bloodshed

The perennial feuding between the Jews and Muslims has brought untold suffering to West Asia.

Pakistan is still reeling under violence from intra-religious clashes. The Protestants and Catholics of Northern Ireland are also known to clash from time to time

Religion has actually failed to tame and discipline humans And therein lies its failure.

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

■ Wherever one turns there is tension and bloodshed What has the world come to? Look at India, the place where Buddhism was born

It is the most unhappy land today Kashmir, once a tranquil paradise, reverberates with the sound of firearms.

Punjab, India's most prosperous state, has witnessed dark days of a kind it could have never imagined. And it was all fanned by religion

The Northeast is a terrorists' den Kidnappings and killings are a way of life there

Bombay, which was considered a model city for secular amity witnessed the worst ever communal strife in India

Whatever has become of the land of Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi?

Somnath Mukherjee,
Calcutta



Bodhi tree at Gaya: The roots of Buddhism were in India

Not Politicians, Please

■ We wait eagerly to read 'First Person' every week But most of the time we are confronted with personalities like politicians whose rejoinders do not interest us or mean anything

Why can't we have young people like Sachin Tendulkar and Arvind Swami expressing their views? Even T N Seshan would not be a bad choice

Ambar Paul,
Shyamnagar (W B)

We have already carried Sachin Tendulkar and T N Seshan long back — **Editor**

Raquel, Raquel!

■ Raquel Welch believes "Sex is power" ('Limelight', May 28) I cannot agree with her

Feminism is essentially an effort to build up a society where men and women can both live on equal terms and with mutual love and respect.

If modern women begin to flaunt their sexuality, it would only kindle man's dormant bestial desires and upset societal peace.

Rachayeeta Pradhan,
Berhampur (Orissa)

INSIDE



A Borrel/courtesy Merchant Ivory Productions

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ISMAIL MERCHANT'S controversial film, *Jefferson in Paris*, for Walt Disney has proved to be a failure despite an impressive cast and lavish sets What does this mean for the Merchant-Ivory team?

PAGE 26

The Bonobo chimpanzee, according to latest studies, can communicate with human beings

A still from *Jefferson in Paris*

SECTIONS

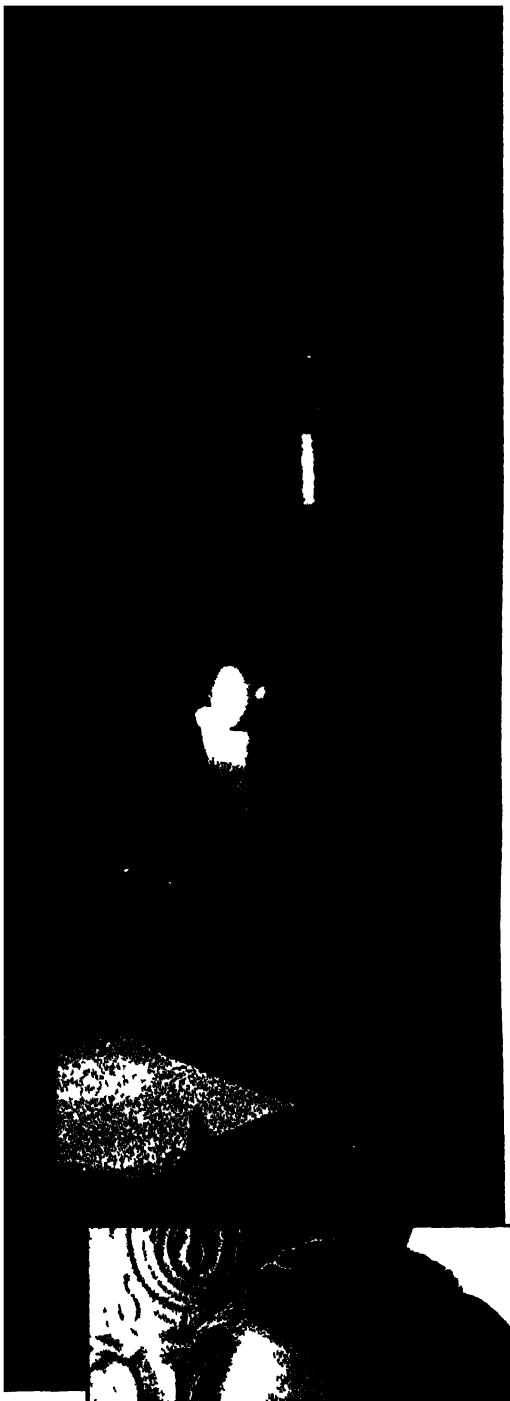
16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 FOCUS
28 POETRY
29 IN
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Seth Rubin/ courtesy Merchant Ivory Productions



Nick Nolte in *Jefferson in Paris*

PARIS MISMATCH



A Bamal/courtesy Merchant Ivory Productions



Jaspert Yadav

Ismail Merchant

Jefferson in Paris, probing the private life of Thomas Jefferson, was expected to ignite controversies and the box-office. But Ismail Merchant's first ever film for Walt Disney company is a washout. Will this affect the team which has been eminently successful so far? ***Arthur J. Pais*** *finds out*

IT WAS A DEAL OF THE DECADE, IF NOT THE CENTURY THE mighty Walt Disney Studio initiates a deal with producer Ismail Merchant, promises him complete freedom in choosing the material, cast and crew for his films — a rather unusual step for the studio — and greenlights *Jefferson in Paris*, a controversial project about one of America's most revered statesmen.

Though Merchant has remained outside the pale of Hollywood for more than three decades, Disney — impressed by the success of his recent ventures, *Howard's End* and *The Remains of the Day* — convinced him that he did not have to worry about any interference from the studio bosses.

Hell, Disney did not even mind Merchant producing a film that could hurt millions of Americans. For, in the movie, Thomas Jefferson is seen not just as the Father of Declaration of Independence and a moral force behind the new nation, but also as a human being with a lot of flaws — a slave-owner and one who carried on an affair with a married woman, who apart from giving America the Declaration of Independence, also gave her more slave children, thus continuing a tradition that he himself had prophesied would "produce convulsions" through all the future generations.

"It is a story about an individual who was truly a renaissance man, who is a great part of American and European history," says Merchant. "I think everyone ought to know about this particular man and what he has done for civilisation. The character is so obsessive and wonderful Jefferson's life was a very rich tapestry. We are concentrating on only five years of his life in France because the canvas is very vast."

The movie chronicles the years 1784-1789 that Jef-

ferson, 41, and a recent widower, spent as the American ambassador to France These were significant years for him in his public and personal life, and a fateful period for France for the revolution was about to break out

Historians are split over some of the personal issues of the legendary statesman's life, as raised in *Jefferson in Paris* According to director James Ivory, though his films are populated with historical characters, in documented and speculative situations, it is impossible to be exact "It is my version of the lives of these well-known people," he says "I think people will see to some extent what Jefferson was up to while he was in Paris, what kind of man he was and what kind of figure he was to the French who revered him as being the great champion of liberty They will also see him in the guise — which is completely atypical of a slave owner — which will come as a surprise to some people even though it is widely known that Jefferson had slaves as did George Washington

"His mind and his feelings are revealed in ways which one does not get out of history books," says Ivory

Adds Merchant "The film is a reminder about certain things that have happened in history, particularly idealism, and how it is connected to our lives today

"Schools do not pay much attention any more, and most people don't know much about Jefferson Many people don't even realise that he is on the five cent piece (coin) "

With Nick Nolte as Jefferson and a $15 million budget — 30 per cent more than an average Ismail Merchant film, and the potential for controversies, this was an ideal project on paper

But last month when *Jefferson in Paris* opened to tepid reviews and was yanked out of movie houses, with just about $3 million collected, it became the biggest flop in the careers of producer Ismail Merchant, director James Ivory and writer Ruth Prawer Jhabvala — the team that had worked



'James Ivory cannot bring himself to do justice to passionate scenes,' said another critic. 'As for the controversial aspects of the film, they never ignited. James Ivory is no Oliver Stone'



A. Bonel/courtesy Merchant Ivory Productions

RAY RETURNS

The past one year has been an unusually busy year for producer-director Ismail Merchant *In Custody*, the movie in which he made his debut as a feature film director, opened in about 16 American cities to mostly raves

But the movie was not even an art-house success It grossed a pale $100,000, Merchant had expected it to do at least $1 million in the United States

But Merchant — and his partner James Ivory — got a lot of praise for restoring the Satyajit Ray classics and getting them released through Sony Classics, a division of Columbia Pictures.

The restored prints with a digital soundtrack received great reviews and a bountiful box-office in New York and a handful of cities From *The New York Times* to the more popular *Daily News*, critics in New York raved about *Pather Panchali* and several other movies

In its two-week long, limited run in New York city, *Pather Panchali* grossed $50,000 — a very healthy figure for a 40-year-old movie "It had the potential of grossing half a million dollars across America," says box-office expert Art Murphy "This is a rare feat. Most European movies released in art houses do not do that much of business "

Restoring the Ray movies and having them released was a labour of love for Merchant and Ivory For Ray had not only composed the music for *The Householder*, the very first collaboration between Merchant, Ivory and Jhabvala, he had also guided Ivory in editing the film.

"He is one filmmaker who was so influential in my career," says Ivory "I learned much more from him than the art of editing ..I learned to pay deep attention to details, to check the authenticity of details, and to get commanding performances from the artistes "

on such acclaimed and successful films as *Heat and Dust*, *A Room With a View*, *Howard's End* and *The Remains of the Day*

A Hollywood movie has to gross two-and-half times its budget to break even *Jefferson* needs to make at least $37 million to be just that

In his 35-year-old movie-making career Merchant has seen several of his movies flopping *Deceivers*, *Slaves of New York* and *Ballad of the Sad Cafe*, all did dismal business, but for a man like Merchant, known for his resilience, a flop here or there does not really matter

"He knows how to get to his feet in no time, and start working on a new project," says Andrew Sarris, a distinguished film critic and author, who has watched the Merchant-Ivory team at work for three decades

Sarris could not be more on the nail-head, Merchant is forging ahead with three other projects and he is giving breaks to several directors, including Madhur Jaffrey, who has acted in some of his most memorable movies like *Shakespearewallah*, *The Diary of a Princess* and *Heat and Dust* Jaffrey is tight-lipped about the project, but insiders believe that it will be based on her own soon-to-be-published novel

As *Jefferson in Paris* was taking a lot of heat from critics, an ntazed Merch ant began directing his second feature film, *The Proprietor* in Paris

But there is no question that *Jefferson in Paris* has caused the team deep embarrassment For this was the first project the trio did for Walt Disney Unless the film does extraordinary business abroad Disney might lose as much as $12 million on the movie



Ivory (left), Merchant and Jhabvala. Three decades of successful partnership

From time to time American movies that have flopped in America end up doing fabulous business abroad *A Perfect World*, starring Clint Eastwood and Kevin Costner, grossed a paltry $30 million in the States, but grabbed a hefty $110 million abroad netting a handsome profit of $25 million

Similarly, *Sliver*, the Sharon Stone sizzler, made just about $25 million in America, but took in $100 million abroad, earning a $20 million profit But will *Jefferson in Paris* fly abroad? Many industry sources believe that the movie has no future abroad

"The movie is at once boring and slow moving," says critic Jack Mathews Other critics said that the controversial elements of the story were not played out well, and for a film set in the revolutionary age, it was surprisingly bloodless The scenes of love affairs were totally tame and gutless

"James Ivory cannot bring himself to do justice to passionate scenes," said another critic "As for the controversial aspects of the film, they never ignited James Ivory is no Oliver Stone " Even though most main-



Last month when *Jefferson in Paris* opened to tepid reviews and was yanked out of movie houses, with just about $3 million collected, it became the biggest flop in the careers of producer Ismail Merchant, director James Ivory and writer Ruth Prawer Jhabvala

stream historians would dispute the accounts of Jefferson's illicit affairs with slave women and the children he sired, hardly anyone rose to run down the film "It was like the movie came and went out without anyone ever noticing it," says Paul Noglows, film writer and short filmmaker

Many reviewers faulted the screenplay by two-time Oscar winner Ruth Prawer Jhabvala They said that Jhabvala excels when her scripts are based on celebrated novels by such masters as E M Forster (*Howard's End* and *The Remains of the Day*) and Henry James (*The Europeans* and *The Bostonians*)

Unwittingly Merchant himself prophesied the problem Discussing the project in its initial stages, he said, "When you are adopting a novel, the story is already there But when you are writing an original screenplay, you have to create a great deal, imagine what it could have been — or should have been "

The film which looks lavish and gives the impression that it cost as much as a big budget movie, also suffered because of its casting When Merchant had signed Nick Nolte, he was at the height of his popularity He had starred in *Cape Fear*, a Martin Scorsese movie that was a worldwide hit In Barbra Streisands' *Prince of the Tides*, he scored yet another impressive hit as a deeply troubled man who fights spiritual and emotional scars It brought him his first Oscar

Merchant was delighted when Nolte agreed to work for *Jefferson* even though he was getting just about $2 million, half his standard fee "This has been our tradition," Merchant had said two years ago "We have always got top stars such as Paul Newman to act in our films for a fraction of their normal fees because they are convinced that the low budget movies we make get wonderful acclaim "

But Nick Nolte's luck began to run out soon after winning the Oscars Three of his movies, *Blue Chips*, *I'll Do Anything* and *I love Trouble* flopped at the box-office The last named, a romantic adventure with a budget of $45 million, co-starred the redoubtable Julia Roberts, but ended up losing more than $15 million

His performance in *Jefferson* was also criticised. Most reviewers felt that he seemed out of place in a historic drama He seemed to be anxious to throw out his wig and the elaborate costumes, said one observer

There was a couple of good performances, though Luminous Greta Scacchi played Maria Coswy, the enchanting Anglo-Italian painter and musician who has an affair with Jefferson Thandie Newton gave a brilliant performance as Sally Hemmings, a descendant of an illicit affair between Whites and slaves (mulatto) who also happened to be the half-sister of Jefferson's deceased wife

But a handful of arresting performances, lavish production values, and enchanting musical score were not enough to salvage *Jefferson in Paris* ■

MIRA MISSES THE BOAT, TOO

Just as *Jefferson in Paris* was saying adieu, another film by an Indian filmmaker took a big fall at the box-office. Mira Nair's *The Perez Family*, a $12 million bitter-sweet romantic drama set in Miami's little Havana, nosedived in the opening week.

By the time the movie completed its American run, it had grossed less than $4 million.

Nair's third feature film starred Angelica Huston amd Marisa Tomei along with Alfred Molina. Originally Al Pacino was to play the role that went to Molina.

"Pacino and I danced together for more than two years," says Mira Nair, "and then he decided not to do the movie." Unlike her previous movies, *Salaam Bombay!* and *Mississippi Masala*, the film got mostly negative reviews.

***The Perez Family* tells the story of a man who takes the refugee boat to Miami after languishing in a Cuban prison for over 20 years. His wife (Huston) who has been waiting for him all these years misses him at the boat's landing — and after a futile search, starts a romance with a younger man.**

The husband is mystified at not meeting his wife. Feeling abandoned, he too begins a romance with a fellow boat passenger, a younger woman, played by Marisa Tomei.

With two Oscar winners — Huston and Tomei — and a colourful locale, a gorgeous musical score, the movie looked like a winner. But after a few minutes of viewing, it was apparent that Nair had missed the boat.

Scene by scene, the film looked wonderful, but it lacked depth and coherence.

And worse, it opened two weeks after *My Family*, a film about a Spanish family and produced by Francis Ford Coppola, premiered and was received with warm welcome by audiences and critics. *My Family* which cost less than half of *The Perez Family* made about $15 million, a profitable run; it could do better business abroad, industry sources say.



Marisa Tomei in *The Perez Family*

Suresh Shah, whose ambitious *Double Dragon* lost more than $18 million late last year, is working on three medium budgeted ($8 million-$10 million) movies. He is also planning the sequel to his hit film, *Lion Heart*, starring Jean Claude Van Damme.

"In this business there are just two things that are uncertain," he says wryly. "Death — and the fate of a movie."

VIEWPOINT

'CAN SUNJU BE A *DESH-DROHI*?'

BY SUNIL DUTT

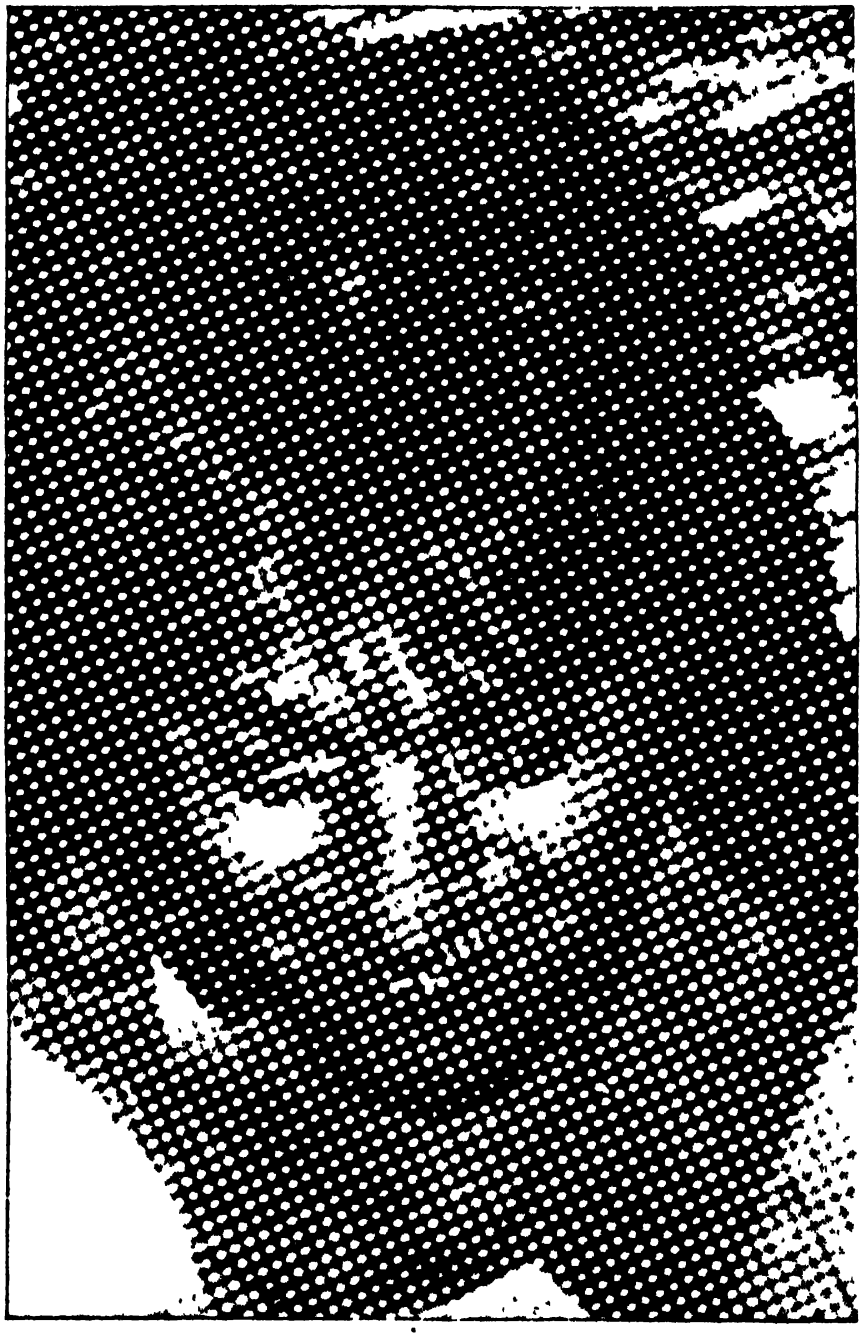
After Sunju was arrested in that awkward fashion I could not step out of the house without getting stares from people The first few weeks were terrible My daughters could not leave the house, they were so scared of the vicious campaign against our family Those days, when I used to visit my advocates to discuss the case, even the watchmen at their offices used to nudge each other and whisper, "*Dekh, woh desh drohi ka baap.*" I could not show my face anywhere

But can I blame the people for this? And people forge. such things soon, too Only we cannot Today there is so much support for Sunju

But I cannot still recover from the manner in which he was arrested The poor boy was shooting in Mauritius when the whole thing started I rang up the chief minister and told him that I have asked my son to return immediately Can you imagine, when he landed up in Bombay there were 50 policemen armed with guns to arrest him? What did they fear when he had tamely listened to me and arrived like a good boy? Would a criminal come home like that, openly?

I come from a conservative family and I brought up my children to behave like middleclass children You can see for yourself how shy my daughter Priya is They have all been shattered by this experience Priya says the novena We pray at both temples and the dargah My children have not learnt to distinguish between religions and have faith in all That is why today we get letters of support from people from different religious groups And we answer each letter personally, because we are glad to see the support that Sunju has

Can such a child, who has been brought up in this fashion, who has



been exposed to different religious experiences, be imprisoned as a *"desh drohi"*?

Can you imagine, when he [Sunjay] landed up in Bombay there were 50 policemen armed with guns to arrest him? What did they fear when he had tamely listened to me and arrived like a good boy? Would a criminal come home like that, openly?

This label hurts me very much You know, when we (Priya and I) walked 500 miles in Japan to show our stand against nuclear disarmament, so much warmth was showered on us. The Japanese were so appreciative of our effort. Students used to stand by the lanes and sing songs for us as we passed them.

I took up the cause because I was agonised by the inhuman manner in which people were killed by the dropping of the atom bomb Lives were snuffed out in seconds and there were not even ashes left of them Even in areas around, far away, the heat made the people jump into water holes, which were steaming What a way to die — over two lakh people killed in that fashion I could not bear the thought, which is why I decided to undertake that walk And the Japanese, who were complete strangers to me, treated my daughter and me with so much love and respect for that effort

They would cook food for us Allow us to use their homes for rest We interacted as human beings And that is the most important thing that I have taught my children — to interact as human beings and treat everybody as equals When strangers could appreciate my efforts, my own country for which I have worked so much has hurt me deeply by calling my son a *desh drohi* Anti-national, *desh drohi* — these words are something I cannot recover from

And you know Sunjay is really a very affectionate, simple boy You may think I am saying this because I am his father and it is a father's affection which is prompting me But ask Sunju's driver, Prasad After my wife's death Sunjay had taken him on Ask the driver And see how fiercely loyal he is about Sunju Talk to his secretary Pankaj After Sunju was arrested people expected him to leave us But Pankaj had stayed on because of his love for Sunju He does all the legal work now, which eases some burden off me

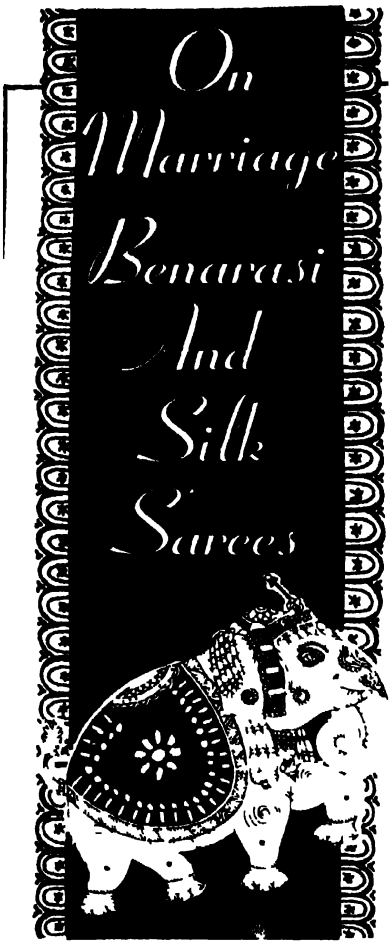
You can imagine how sweet Sunjay is really For, even in that handcuffing incident, Sunju has changed his mind The other day, when we were talking he told me, "Papa, I was hurt initially at being handcuffed and paraded in the hospital But let us not file a case against the constable, since he may be punished for it And he is an old man " He was so sweet about it despite having suffered humiliation at being paraded like that and having people stare at him in the hospital

I sometimes worry about his health because he has this pneumothorax problem Air bubbles form in his lungs and each time he has had to have surgery done on him Fortunately, the two times this happened he was in New York and we could ensure immediate treatment If something like that recurs, here I don't know

He has also become thin He reads

A file picture of the happy family





Indian
Silk
House
COLLEGE STREET
MARKET
CALCUTTA



some books — law and fiction, mainly But otherwise cooped up in one room the whole day, without basic amenities no fan. But my girls have been brave They used to stand for hours outside the jail when he was kept at Thane

I tell my children that we have to be brave It is easy to be a sadhu and run away from life But to live and feel life's pain, that is what living is all about There is a beautiful Urdu couplet which expresses this best. *Farishtey se beheter insaan banne mein, Magar isme lagti hai mehnat zyada "*

In effect, this is what contemplation and meditation is all about I remember the time when I had made the film *Reshma Aur Shera* — I had invested all my money in it, mortgaged my house, borrowed Rs 60 lakh If the amount is big today, in the Seventies, it meant even more When creditors started running after me, I went to Swami Muktanandji, to find some peace He told me to sit still in one place and forget everything I tried but failed After sometime, he returned and asked me if I had succeeded I told him, "Swamiji, everytime I shut my eyes I see a row of creditors I cannot unwind " He told me to think of something I enjoyed doing instead So, I thought of the camera, the whole effort of acting And I got deep into a trance-like state

Similarly, I am involved today in the process of trying to reach out to people Be simple And be just a human being This is what is seeing us through But the effort is too much, since it is difficult to shut out my son's suffering I tell everybody concerned, please punish him for his individual lapses

But please do not club him with others who wanted to hurt the country Please do not call him a *desh drohi*

People tell me that those who have done this to our family will suffer But what difference would that make for Sunjay? It is a question of now This moment Life passes away so fast and I am old How much longer do we have to wait?

He was at the top of his career when this thing happened When he returns, he will go back to that slot There is a grace about him A screen presence And he had worked hard to get there But his best screen quality is his ability to be a comedian, a talent which was exploited by director Daddu (Raj) Sippy well in *Thanedaar*

We have a funny relationship For instance, I used to know about the girls he was seeing But he never discussed this ever with me and I never asked him about it We were friends and at the same time he treated me with respect But in my family, we have always been very close In other families, fathers expect to be treated with fear The minute the father enters the house everything becomes quiet and hushed But in my house, I play with my grandchildren, behave like a child with them



Sunjay with his father at his mother's funeral

My children have never been brought up as VIP children I come from a middleclass family My father died when I was just five and my mother became a widow when she was just 25 Imagine having to support a family of three children at that age Partition had driven us to Punjab, from Khurt in Jhelum district Though we got a few tracts of land in exchange for the land we lost during Partition, it was not the same

I used to travel 78 kms to attend school on horseback In my village there were only classes up to second standard That life had toughened me up When I decided to come to Bombay to study in college I took up a job as a shop-recorder for Rs 100 with Bombay Electric Supply and Transport I used to work part-time and attend Jai Hind College I used to make a big fuss over my clothes, wash them in the night The ironwallah was my friend, so he used to press my clothes for free The dhobi, too, so I got a free shave I used to wear only khadi kurta and pyjama then, but the girls in the college used to look admiringly at



me because they thought that I was some big *neta*'s son

One day a terrible thing happened I used to sleep on the footpath and one morning I overslept My college girls walked past me I was sure that they had seen me I was feeling very embarrassed when I went to college that day, but fortunately for me the girls had not noticed me on the footpath!

I used to take my wife and children around Bombay to show them the places — the footpaths where I slept, the offices where I worked, and the simple hotels where I used to eat — so that they never forget our origins

In 1962 I decided I decided to sing for our troops at the warfront because I wanted to give back something to my country which had given me so much happiness It is for this reason that I undertook those walks in Amritsar, after the Bhagalpur riots and from Faridabad to Ayodhya I had collected Rs 25 lakh for riot victims

I feel strongly for slum-dwellers Just evicting them from their huts by calling it encroachment does not solve the problem We have a duty towards them. That is also the reason why I decided to enter politics, because I thought this would give me greater opportunity to help them and give greater access to people

I continue with my cancer projects and drug awareness drive That keeps my mind off my personal problems

I got into films accidentally I used to be active in my college's cultural programmes One day I was invited by Radio Ceylon, when they launched it, to do some star interviews My first interview was with Nimmi and was I terrified! Slowly I gained confidence and then the programme became an extended one, an extremely popular one, with me giving short clips on the studio activities - innocent details like the colour of Nutan's car and what time Dilip Kumar entered the sets!

Then one day Ramesh Sehgal suggested that I get into films I told him firmly that I did not want a *chhotu-motu* role It had to be that of a hero I was called for an audition and given Dilip Kumar's kurta, which was very short for me But I wore it and went through the whole thing as it in a trance Everything seemed to have blacked out in front of my eyes I was so ashamed of my performance that I did not visit the studios for two weeks

Then somebody from there bumped into me and said that everybody was raving about my audition and I signed my first film contract for Rs 150 But I told them that I would not join films till I finished my graduation in history because I had promised my mother

In my village people used to weep in front of my mother, saying that I had ruined my chances of becoming a government servant by joining films

Later when I visited my mother she suggested that I build a small *pucca* road connecting our village to the farm lands because the oxen used to slip on the fields when the rains came That was the first road to be ever built in my village Later, they said there was no school No hospital

Once I build these, too, the villagers used to visit my mother and tell her, "See, we told you that your son will be a great man one day"

Today I miss not being able to meet my people And that I cannot visit my constituency Since the problem surfaced it has become difficult for me to go out as before

For us, my family and I, time has stood still in that moment when Sunjay was arrested

(As told to Shameem Akthar)

Sunjay in *Khal-Nayak*



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INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says, home and property hold centrestage once again. Parents and in-laws, a home away from home, efforts to draw the family closer, will figure prominently On and after July 5, journey and partnerships are clearly emphasised Trips and ties are indicated

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Like Taurean Sachin Tendulkar, you too will be in a mood to get engaged, get married, have a better-half, thanks to the favourable Venus factor News, views, messages, contacts, collaborations, loans and funds, all these somehow come together in a unified whole for you

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Mercury in your sign this whole last week, according to Western astrology, helps you converse and communiacte at break-neck speed, and the results will be pleasing as well as profitable There is a sharp focus on family and finance, the two important wheels of your life

Cancer

Jul 21—July 20



Open up full throttle, as folks will be in a mood to oblige and grant you favours July 1, 2, 8 and 9 are particularly indicated to warm the cockles of your sentimental heart You will be relaxed and happy on and after Wednesday, because Venus, the charmer, enters your sign

Leo

July 21—August 21



Once again, expenses, travel and visitors mark the highlights of the week It is absolutely certain that your contacts will pay Understand this fully and work accordingly That is the astro way to make it Family affairs, renovation and new assignments quicken the tempo

Virgo

August 22—September 22



A surge forward emotionally and physically, thanks to Mars the energiser and Uranus the awakener being in a fine placing Money flies to you and I am sure you will not object to that Rest assured that the opposition will not get the upper hand Trips on the anvil

Libra

September 23—October 22



The screws will be really turned on and it will require a tremendous effort to cope with it, but you will succeed for sure, as Venus, your planetary ruler, helps you all the way Be an achiever and plunge into activities with force and renewed vigour Position, or responsibility is in store

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Be a wheeler-dealer, negotiate with skill and courage, take a panoramic view of situations and people, because that is the way to crash through this week On and after July 5, work will be done and a career, a business take shape splendidly There is plenty of hope now

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



The spotlight shifts to loans and funds, investments, capital formation, shares, debentures and mortgage. Buying, selling and trading are also highlighted Romance and flirtations are foretold and you will enjoy them thoroughly Be very health conscious

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



Partnerships, legal issues, separations are the knitted strands of the week Contradictions come together now giving spice and ice to life itself Trips and collaborations, work, commitments further beef up the picture for you Health needs attending to Learn to relax

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Ganesha says you will break the bonds that bind you and be free Therefore be prepared for a forward thrust Those in job and profession should aim for the skies For those in business, radical changes are round the corner On and after Tuesday, you will be fully charged

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Load, fire, reload should be the principle you should follow now for maximum impact Obviously, the week is favourable for influencing others, very specially on and after July 5 Give way to your creative impulses, however wild and crazy these may appear to others In short, go all out

BIRTHDAYS

July 2: Ganesha says those in import-export, media and communications, art and research get more mileage. Your creativity will be the key to your success.

July 3: Moon-sextile sun leads to general progress, but more so for new appointments and ventures. Therefore be bold and confident.

July 4: Moon-Mars conjunction gives you the necessary impetus for changes and final triumph and that is what really counts. A complete change of scenery is foretold.

July 5: Moon's first quarter pushes you literally into the limelight. Renovation, decoration, shifts and major moves are definitely on the cards.

July 6: Moon square Uranus leads to complications. But the moon also trines Mercury and that means an ability to get out of tight situations and be a winner.

July 7: Moon-Venus fine formation denotes love, romance, comforts, promotion and perks, too. So be ready to give your best shot and move ahead.

July 8: Moon trine sun means victory after a sharp struggle. My suggestion is to go all out for victory. New positions of authority and responsibility are on the cards.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1, 3 5 7
AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1010	1 2 3 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 2 3 6 7
BANGALORE					
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1735	1 3	VF-105	1635	1 3
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC-274	1830	daily
AI 681	2330	1			
DELHI					
IC-263	0700	daily	S2-025	0810	1, 2 3 4, 5 6
S2 026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4, 5 6	S2-005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF-737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0600	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5
PF 735	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
PF 735	0730	1	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	IC 230	1620	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
4S 816 811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	1410	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	1045	1 3 5	S2 024	1525	1 3 5
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4, 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	3 7	IC 213	1315	3 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2005	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	1 2 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1740	1 2 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3, 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	3 7	IC 213	1315	3 7
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ 185	1345	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0345	7	KL-875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
KB-105	0850	2, 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 5, 7	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3 6	IC 732	1505	2, 4 5, 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6
[redacted]					
RO-076	1950	5 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
[redacted]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG 698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
[redacted]					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG-091	1110	1 2, 3, 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 5, 6
BG 094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3 5 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
RA-214	1030	4 7	RA-213	0945	4, 7
IC-747	1115	1, 3 5	IC 748	1455	1, 3 5
[redacted]					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA-143	1450	3 7
[redacted]					
SU-538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
[redacted]					
KB 106	1105	3	KB-105	0810	2, 6
KB 106	1325	5			
[redacted]					
SQ-415	2345	2 5	SQ-416	2230	2 5
[redacted]					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	
[redacted]					
AI-306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16-15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues, Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16-15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed, Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10-45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun, Arr Wed & Sat	12-50	2306
2307	23-30	**Jodhpur Express**	4-40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat, Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11-35	3074
3045	20 00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	3046
5049	23-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11-35	5050
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun, Mon Wed & Fri	4-30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15-30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**	11-55	3020
3021	16-05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5-00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun, Arr Mon Tues & Wed	6 50	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	6-50	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	6 50	1182
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13-40	**Teesta Torsa Express**	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7-15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 55	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	3104
5185	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5186

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6-55	6004
8002	19-20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8-20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6-50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21-00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14-05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Ar. Mon Thurs & Sat	19-40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21-25	8112
8005	20-55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21-40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22-15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5-30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 30	8410
2821	6-15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-05	2822
8045	10-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15-10	8046
8017	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11-35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	—
—	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10-45	2421
6322	22-35	**Guwahati Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
—	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22-15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri, Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
--	14-05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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HOUSES FOR TREES

In all the hullabaloo over our diminishing forest wealth, we do not hear anything about orchards We take them very much for granted But our fruit gardens are disappearing, too, as the towns and cities grow larger and denser

In small towns all over the country, private orchards often provided the open green spaces and parklands that were otherwise only found in New Delhi or state capitals There are some lovely parks in New Delhi (though not evenly distributed) and some good ones in Lucknow, but where are they to be found in cities as diverse as Shahjehanpur, Bareilly, Saharanpur, Rourkee or, for that matter, Ambala and Amritsar?

Dehra Dun is a case in point Dehra was once famous for its lichi trees Apart from one or two other places in Bihar, it is the only town in northern India where lichis can be grown And yet, the lichi gardens have been diminishing rapidly over the last 10 years, making way for housing colonies and large hotels

You can't blame people for selling their land They get a lot of money for building sites, and only a modest sum for a lichi crop So the lichis must go And the same with guavas and papayas and jackfruit and pomelos

A young man visiting Dehra Dun for the first time some 20 years ago alighted at the railway station and found that he had lost the address of the friends with whom he was to stay He had been told that their house was surrounded by lichi trees

These mango trees or groves are little worlds in themselves and perfect sanctuaries for all kinds of birds. Parrots, mynahs, bluejays, coppersmiths, seven sisters (often eight sisters) all seek the shelter of the tope. Once, under a large tree, I saw a very round face with a solemn expression look out of a hole, and then a little spotted owl flitted silently to the lowest branch of another tree



So he described the place to a *tongawala* and set off in a *tonga*. The *tongawala* took him all over Dehra, past hundreds of houses with lichi trees, before finally depositing the weary traveller (now poorer by a day's *tonga* fare) at the right house

Today he wouldn't have so much difficulty *Tongas* are things of the past, and the number of houses still having lichi gardens must be down by about two-thirds

Largely expensive (and usually half empty) hotels, built with government subsidies now occupy the sites of former orchards And even outside the town, the tea gardens have all but vanished (making way for housing colonies) While Dehra's famous *basmati* rice will have to be grown elsewhere

It is not for me to pass judgment and I am not sure where the solution lies, for human cupidity can only increase with the population

Recently, on the long drive to Delhi through the prosperous heart of Western UP I was heartened to find that the mango orchards were still thriving This is one cash crop that can compete with the demand for sugarcane and wheat And these same mango groves form windbreakers against the swirling dust and hot winds from the south, providing oases of greenery where humans can feel human again

When I walked down the Old Survey Road a few months ago, I noticed that most of the orchard had gone, making way for a new house. But two or three old pomelo trees still grew near the garden wall, and these were in fruit

Between Roorkee, Purkazi, Muzaffarnagar, Khatauli and Meerut, there are old mango grooves and even new plantations The mango will survive, even if we have to start importing our lichis from China

The mango will grow almost everywhere except in the mountains Nor have any other trees been so celebrated in Indian literature and folklore Its blossom has been mentioned by Kalidasa and other poets as one of the darts of Manmatha, the God of love

In popular folklore it was known as the "wish-granting-tree" It is widely represented in art and architecture There are so many varieties of the fruit that I would have to write a separate article to describe them in detail

These mango trees or groves are little worlds in themselves and perfect sanctuaries for all kinds of birds Parrots, mynahs, bluejays, coppersmiths, seven sisters (often eight sisters) all seek the shelter of the tope

Once, under a large tree, I saw a very round face with a solemn expression look out of a hole, and then a little spotted owl flitted silently to the lowest branch of another tree

Sometimes the grove resounds to the screams of the green parrots, as they wheel around, all settling at once on the topmost branches, a spectacle of unequalled grace The minivet, the flycatcher and the screaming pied cuckoo are all visitors to the mango grove The grove provides welcome shade and shelter to bird, man and beast, but the best time to visit it is just before sunrise

Then the birds and small animals are at their busiest, and you can watch the sun come up and strike through the branches of the trees as the parrots, green and gold, wheel above you in the sunshine

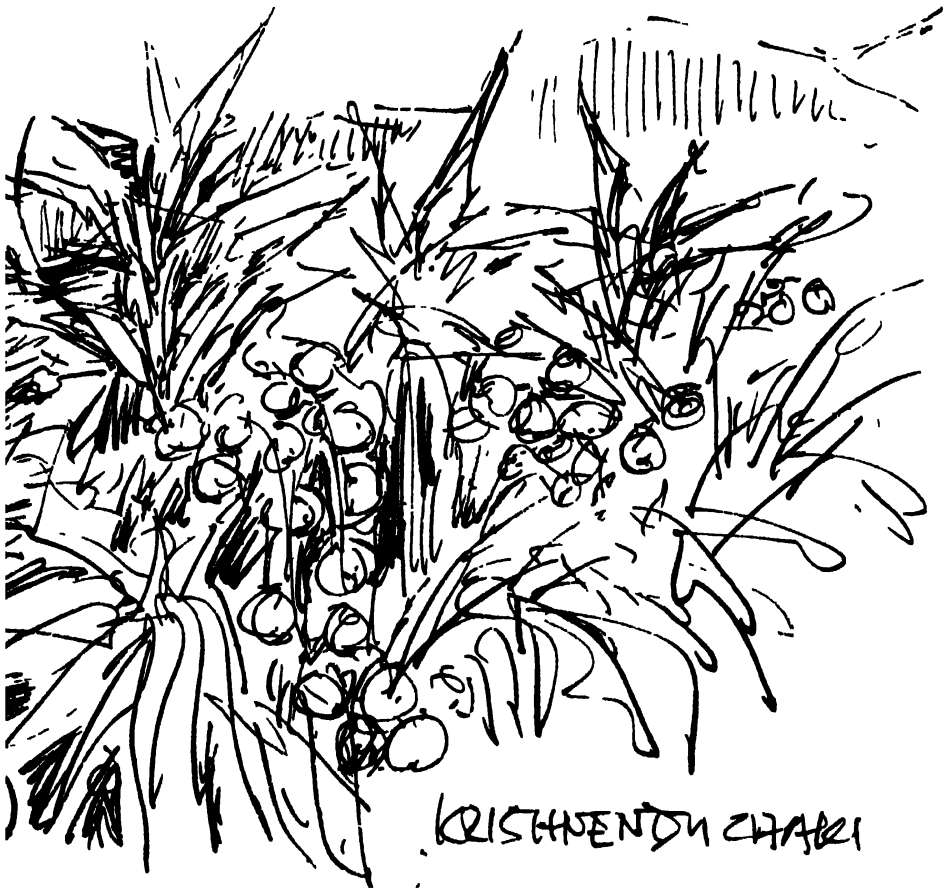
Fifty years ago, in my grandfather's orchard in Dehra, there were a number of pomelo trees which he had planted The pomelo is a large slightly acidic citrus fruit which I rather liked The trees, too, were good for climbing

When I walked down the Old Survey Road a few months ago, I noticed that most of the orchard had gone, making way for a new house But two or three old pomelo trees still grew near the garden wall, and these were in fruit

I was standing there looking at them when the present owner of the house came to the gate and invited us in, so in we went for a cup of tea She had recognised me, and knew that I had spent part of my childhood in this house We chatted about old times, and then, as I was leaving, she presented me with a large pomelo from the tree

So something of my grandfather had come down to me, after all! I kept the pomelo on my desk for a few days, and then the children and I consumed it Thank you, Mrs Kakkar, for preserving those pomelo trees

(Sanctuary Features)



GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

MONEY FROM MUCK

They say, "Where there's muck, there's money," and it's true in more ways than one Cities have wealth but on their outskirts also stand huge landfills overflowing with garbage and circled by ornithologically fascinating scavengers

In Delhi, rubbish often falls by the wayside, and never quite reaches the municipal bins it is intended for In such wayside refuse are occasional envelopes revealing the litterbug I have, once or twice, recovered a smelly envelope, rushed to the address thereon and confronted the offender with the evidence — a futile gesture

More positive action is being taken by the NGOs One of them, Shrishti, now sends a cleaning operative in a smart red uniform to take the garbage away from each house in my neighbourhood every morning for a nominal fee

Shrishti's usefulness is proved by its growing network of garbage collectors But removing rubbish and keeping it off the streets is only the beginning of the problem

It needs to be processed There is, of course, always the smallscale option of a home worm composting system A worm bin is something every home can afford, as it takes up very little space and costs next to nothing This clever, though to many, unappealing, idea for converting waste to compost (called vermiculture) is being promoted in India by the organisation, Trees for Life

All you need is a small, ventilated bin, 800 grams of red worms and a daily supply of 400 grams of rottable household waste to keep them happy However, it is all rather labour-intensive and I am doubtful about my ability to harvest — to separate the worms from the compost they produce

Red worms breed fast, and each bin-owner is encouraged to regularly share out his worms among others But even if they take off so to speak, they will never have the total answer for a country which produces 700 million tonnes of rottable waste every year

The company which still seems to have the best answer is Excel Having started production in Bombay three years ago, it is now spreading out over India — to Bhopal, Calcutta, Bangalore and Hyderabad There's even a smallscale plant inside the Tihar jail

The raw material is rubbish from the municipal tip and Excel works at the dump sites themselves to convert it into 100 per cent organic fertiliser, thereby, constantly emptying the dump and freeing space for more refuse Their technology is 100 per cent Indian, and their staff have total commitment to their cause

S Senthil Kumar is one of them By training an electronics engineer, he now has developed a missionary zeal to give power to the people in the countryside, and stop the drift into the cities Recycled rubbish, he told me, should do just this

"Farmers," he said, "are sitting on a goldmine, and we want to give them the means to dig up that gold Chemical fertilisers only give a few nutrients, but our compost gives yield with taste and enriches the soil These vegetables here," he continued, pointing to a basket of onions and carrots of exceptionally large proportions, "are grown solely using our compost as fertiliser "

This organic compost, Celrich, is not advertised because Excel has been in the agricultural business for years, though not organically, and has a network to supply directly to farmers

The company's problem is demand vastly outstrips supply For sometime they have realised that organic farming is the 'in-thing' and have tried to get in first so as to have a headstart in the future They aim eventually to provide a complete rural supermarket service, supplying drip irrigation, seeds and what's now called "plant protection"

They also want to buy back the farmer's produce from him, ensuring him a better price that is provided by the many layers of middlemen that stand between the grower and the cities If it succeeds, then Excel will have constructed a perfect circle — from urban rubbish, to organic manure, to crops grown in the countryside and sold in the cities

It's in the cities that their operations are so impressive In the main plant at Chincholi, by far the biggest of Bombay's dumps, they process 700 tonnes of garbage a day, producing 100 tonnes of compost The process is disarmingly simple and all rubbish is grist to their mill

Newly arrived garbage is piled up and masked workers in caps, gumboots and gloves spray microberich slurry over it In just an hour the evil smell natural to garbage is gone, and the ragpickers can move in

Needless to say, ragpickers don't have access to protective clothing, but at least the rubbish is less dangerous and malodorous than that they would usually deal with

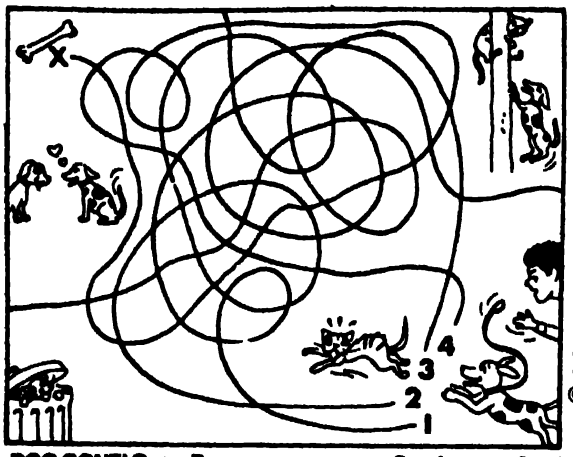
The heaps of rubbish are regularly turned by bulldozers as they rot quickly under the effect of the slurry Then the unsorted compost rides up the conveyor belts winding into the belly of the great, grey factory and is thoroughly agitated in huge metal cylinders The agitator shakes out pebbles, plastic and glass, and the pure organic Celrich spurts out of a shoot into the back of a truck and is taken away to be packed

The joke in the company is that Excel were the first to export Bombay's garbage to the Gulf and get paid for it Celrich isn't exported there so much now and the company helped Oman set up its own plant. They are prepared to help any other likely entreprenuer in the towns and cities of the world

In other words, Excel will franchise garbage treatment like MacDonald's franchises hamburgers So here is the opportunity for right-minded citizens to make money from muck And perhaps the rest of us can rest at ease, knowing that to consume is not quite as unredeemably sinful as some might have us believe *(Sanctuary Features)*

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



DOG GONE! Oops, Rover is running away See if you can find the path he takes to point marked X, top left corner

TALLY HO! Ask someone to think of a number, multiply it by three add one, multiply result by three add the original number and subtract three Result will always be ten times the original number Give it a try



IT'S A FLAT-OUT EYE TEASER

SEEING is believing, it is said, but there are occasions when what our eyes perceive may be illusory A good example is in viewing the inverted pyramid design depicted above

Hold this drawing at a customary reading distance and fix your gaze somewhere in the middle

Alakazam, the pyramid appears to divide into a stack of individual rectangles of graduated size

To dispel this illusion, simply start at the bottom and trace your way (if you can) to the top You will discover that the design consists of a single continuous line

It's an amusing design and flat-out eye teaser

SPELL OUT!

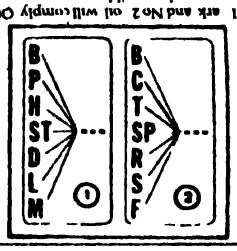
Find a word of three letters to complete each of two sets of seven longer words in the exercises below Example In No 1, insert the word ALL, and the result is ball, pall, hall, stall, and that's all for ALL

In No 2, try ORE, and you have bore, core, tore, spore, whereupon the string runs out

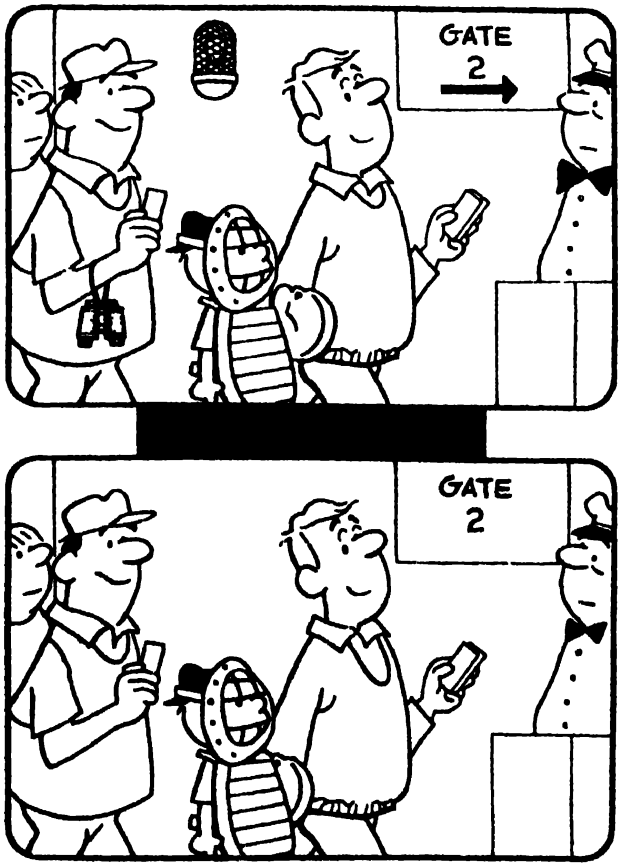
Clues For No 1, think of a celebrated vessel of old For No 2, think of a product that's sold by the barrel

What are the two words?

No 1 ark and No 2 oil will comply Other answers may be possible



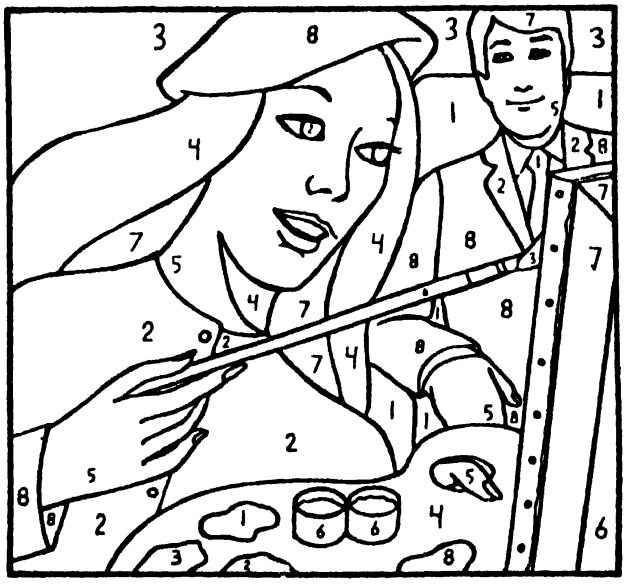
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Binoculars are missing 2 Light is missing 3 Glove is moved 4 Necklino is different 5 Arrow is missing 6 Tie is smaller

FUNSPOT



PICTURE SHOW! "Just hold that pose," says the artist. Add these colors by number. 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. gray. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

MAGNOLIA

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

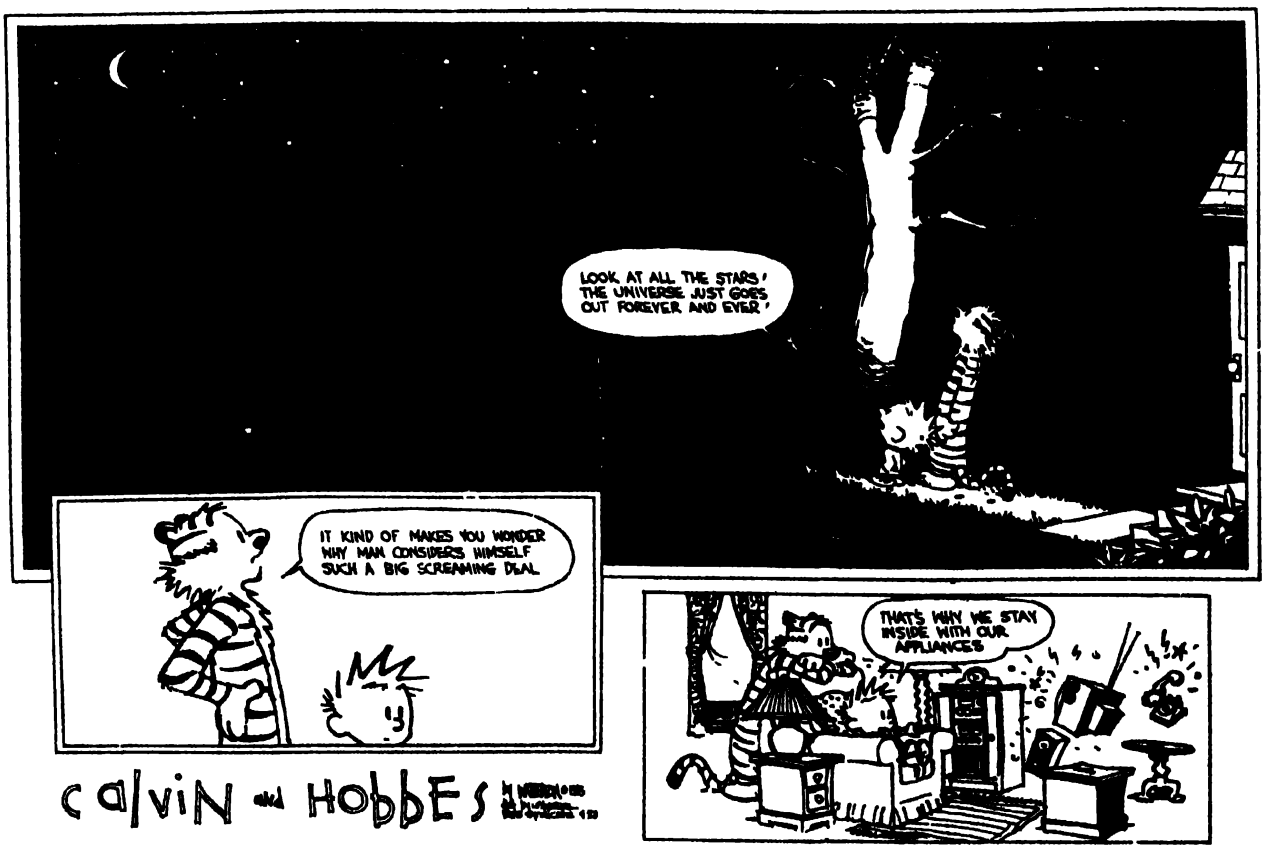
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible two-word main goal

ARCHIE

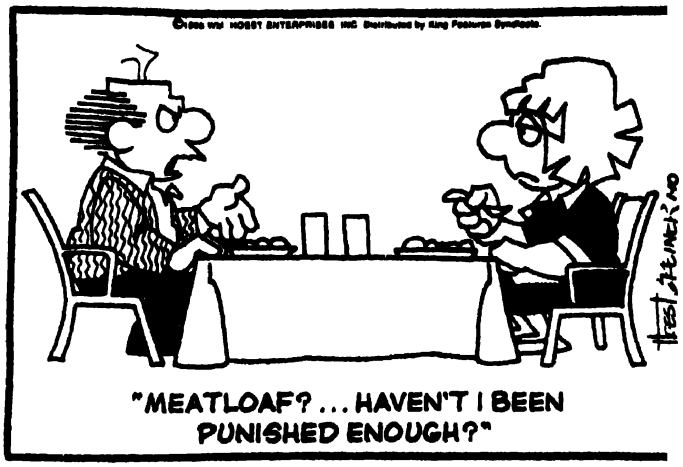


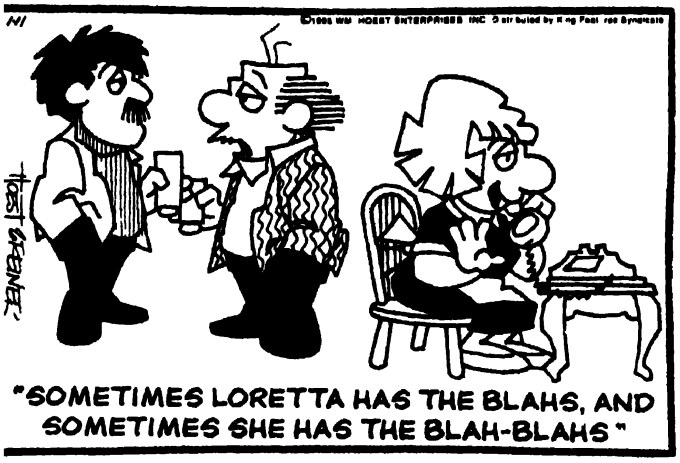
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON

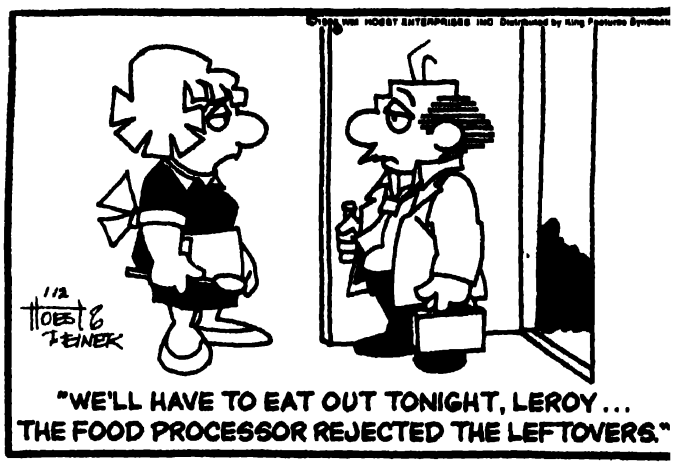


THE LOCKHORNS

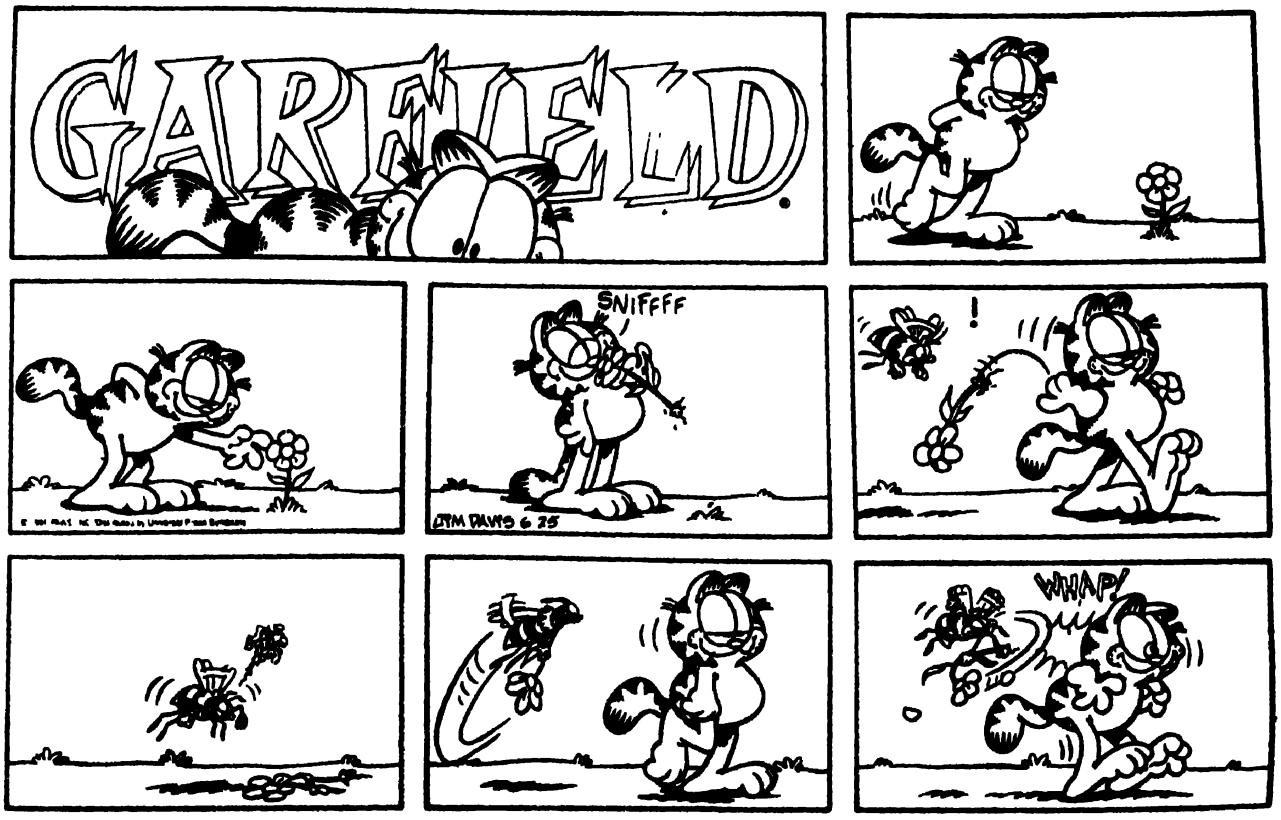




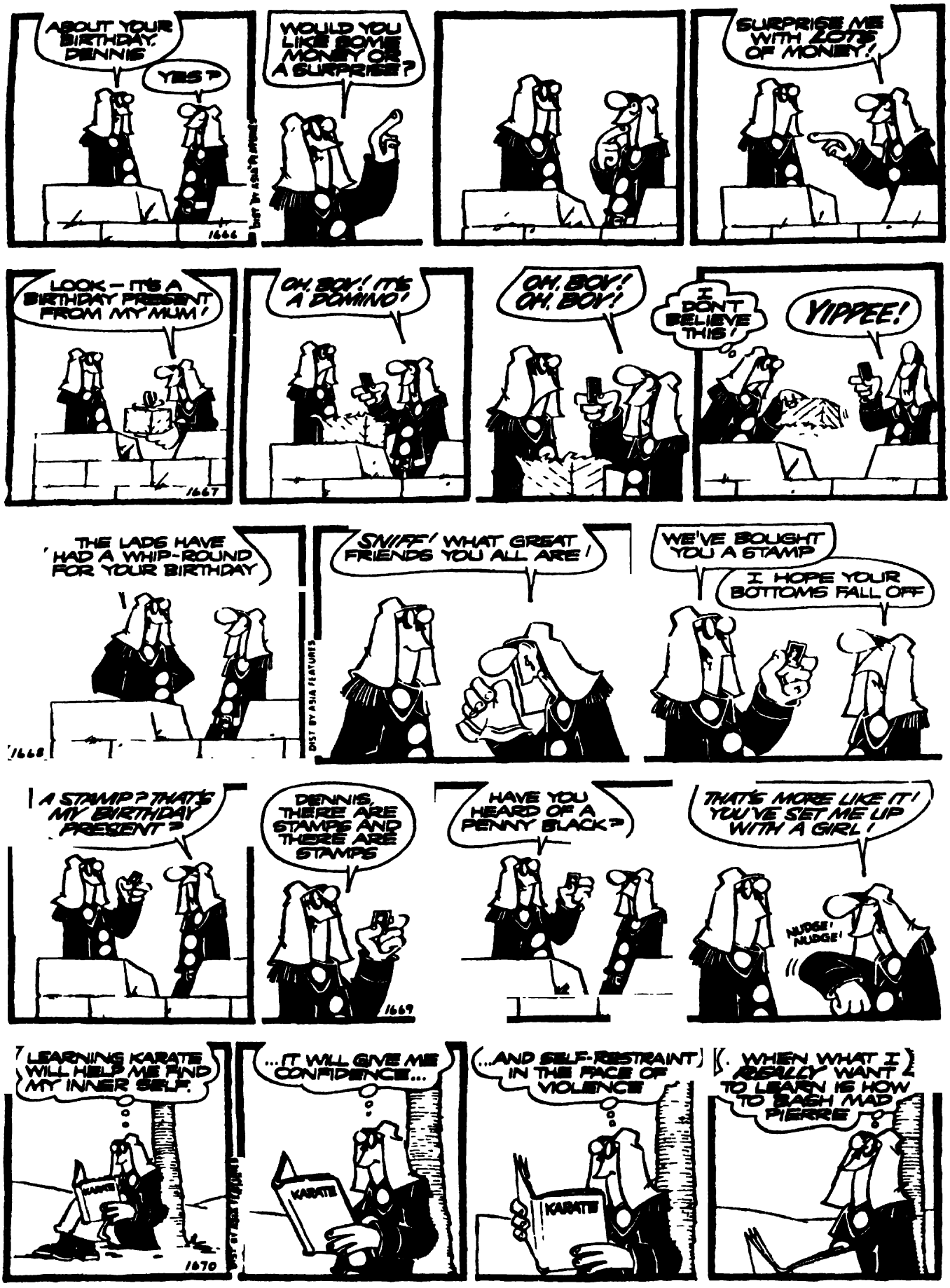


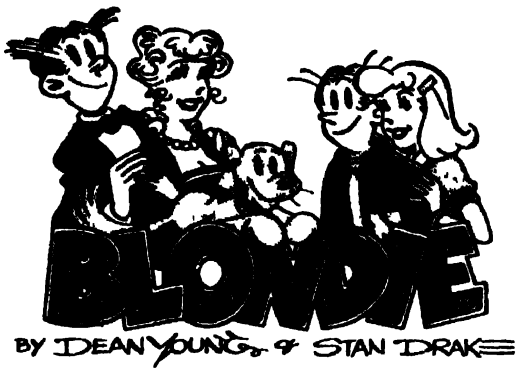


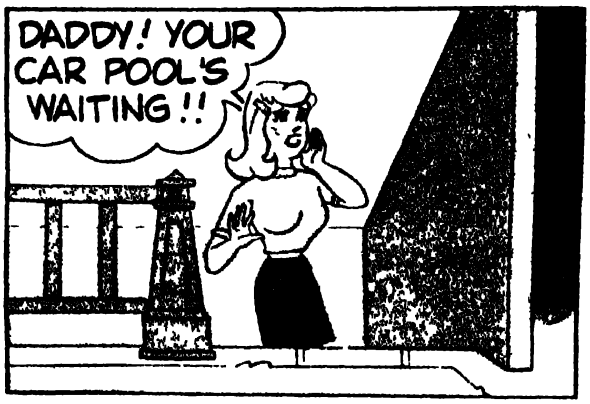
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

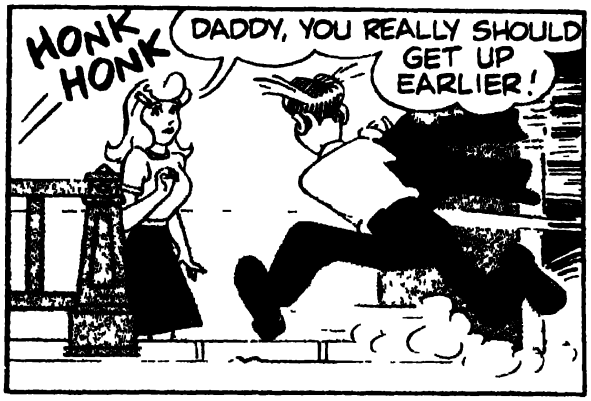


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP




BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


DADDY! YOUR CAR POOL'S WAITING!!

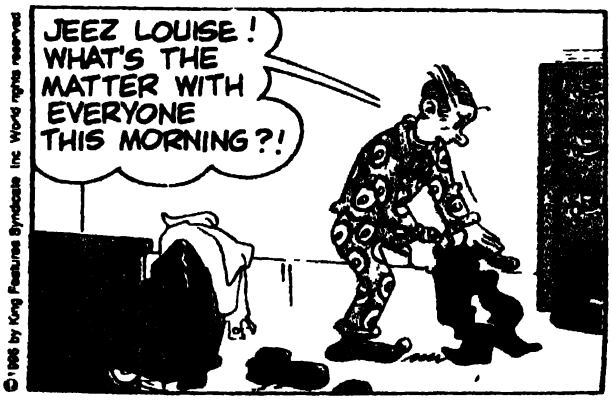

HONK HONK
DADDY, YOU REALLY SHOULD GET UP EARLIER!


DAGWOOD! YOU NEED TO START GETTING UP EARLIER!!
WHOOSH


WHY CAN'T YOU GET UP EARLIER?!


IT SEEMS LIKE YOU COULD GET UP EARLIER JUST OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE REST OF US!!


WHY CAN'T YOU GET UP EARLIER LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE?!
YOUNG & DRAKE 6-4


JEEZ LOUISE! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH EVERYONE THIS MORNING?!
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FOCUS

CHIMP TALK

According to recent experiments, the Bonobo or pygmy chimps, which some scientists believe are more humanlike and intelligent than the common chimpanzees studied earlier, can understand complex sentences and communicate with the outside world ***George Johnson*** *on the ruckus raised*

Panbanisha, a Bonobo chimpanzee which has become something of a star among animal language researchers, was strolling through the Georgia woods with a group of her fellow primates — scientists at the Language Research Center at Georgia State University in Atlanta

Suddenly, the chimp pulled one of them aside Grabbing a special keyboard of the kind used to teach severely retarded children to communicate, she repeatedly pressed three symbols —Fight, Mad, Austin — in various combinations

Austin is the name of another chimpanzee at the centre Dr Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, one of Panbanisha's trainers, asked, "Was there a fight at Austin's house?"

"Waa, waa, waa," said the chimpanzee, in what Dr Savage-Rumbaugh took as a sign of affirmation' She rushed to the building where Austin lives and learned that earlier in the day two of the chimps there, a mother and her son, had fought over which got to play with a computer and joystick used as part of the training programme

The son had bitten his mother, causing a ruckus that, Dr Savage-Rumbaugh surmised, had been overheard by Panbanisha, who lived in another building about 200 away

As Dr Savage-Rumbaugh saw it, Panbanisha had a secret she urgently wanted to tell A decade-and-a-half after the claims of animal language researchers were discredited as exaggerated self-delusions, Dr Savage-Rumbaugh is reporting that her chimpanzees can demonstrate the rudimentary comprehension skills of two-year-old children

According to a series of recent papers, the Bonobo, or pygmy chimps, which some scientists believe are more humanlike and intelligent than the common chimpanzees studied in the earlier, flawed experiments, have learned to understand complex sentences and use symbolic language to communicate spontaneously with the outside world

"She had never put those three lexigrams together," Dr Savage-Rumbaugh said, referring to the keyboard symbols with which the animals are trained She found the incident particularly gratifying because the chimp seemed to be using the symbols not to demand food, which is usually the case in these experiments, but to gossip



Dr Stuart Shanker and his colleagues insist that Savage-Rumbaugh's experiments suggest there is not an unbridgeable divide between humans and the rest of the animal kingdom'

In a book to be published later this year, *Apes, Language and the Human Mind Philosophical Primatology* (Routledge), Dr Savage-Rumbaugh and her co-authors, Dr Stuart Shanker, a philosopher at York University in Toronto, and Dr Talbot Taylor, a linguist at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, argue that the feats of the chimps at the Language Research Center are so impressive that scientists must now re-evaluate some of their most basic ideas about the nature of language

Most language experts dismiss experiments like the ones with Panbanisha as exercises in wishful thinking "In my mind this kind of research is more analogous to the bears in the Moscow circus who are trained to ride unicycles," said Dr Steven Pinker, a cognitive scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who studies language acquisition in children ' You can train animals to do all kinds of amazing things "

He is not convinced that the chimps have learned anything more sophisticated than how to press the right buttons in order to get the hairless apes on the other side of the console to cough up M & M s, bananas and other tidbits of food

Dr Noam Chomsky, the MIT linguist whose theory that language is innate and unique to people forms the infrastructure of the field, says that attempting to teach linguistic skills to animals is irrational — like trying to teach people to flap their arms and fly "Humans can fly about 30' — that is what they do in the Olympics," he said in an interview "Is that flying?" The question is totally meaningless

"In fact, the analogy to flying is misleading because when humans fly 30', the organs they are using are kind of homologous to the ones that chickens and eagles use "

Arms and wings, in other words, arise from the same branch of the evolutionary tree "Whatever the chimps are doing is not even homologous as far as we know," he said There is no evidence that the chimpanzee's utterances emerge from anything like the "language organ"

Chomsky believes it resides only in human brains This neural wiring is said to be the source of the universal



Fonsi, the chimpanzee, at Munich zoo clowns around with a camera

grammar that unites all languages But some philosophers, like Shanker, complain that the linguists are applying a double standard: they dismiss skills — like putting together a noun and a verb to form a two-word sentence — that they consider nascent

●●●

He [Dr Steven Pinker], a cognitive scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is not convinced that the chimps have learned anything more sophisticated than how to press the right buttons in order to get the hairless apes on the other side of the console to cough up M & Ms, bananas and other tidbits of food

linguistic abilities in a very young child "The linguists kept upping their demands and Sue kept meeting the demands," said Shanker "But the linguists keep moving the goal post"

Following Chomsky, most linguists argue that special neural circuitry needed for language evolved after man's ancestors split from those of the chimps millions of years ago

As evidence they note how quickly children, unlike chimpanzees, go from cobbling together two-word utterances to effortlessly spinning out complex sentences with phrases embedded within phrases like Russian dolls

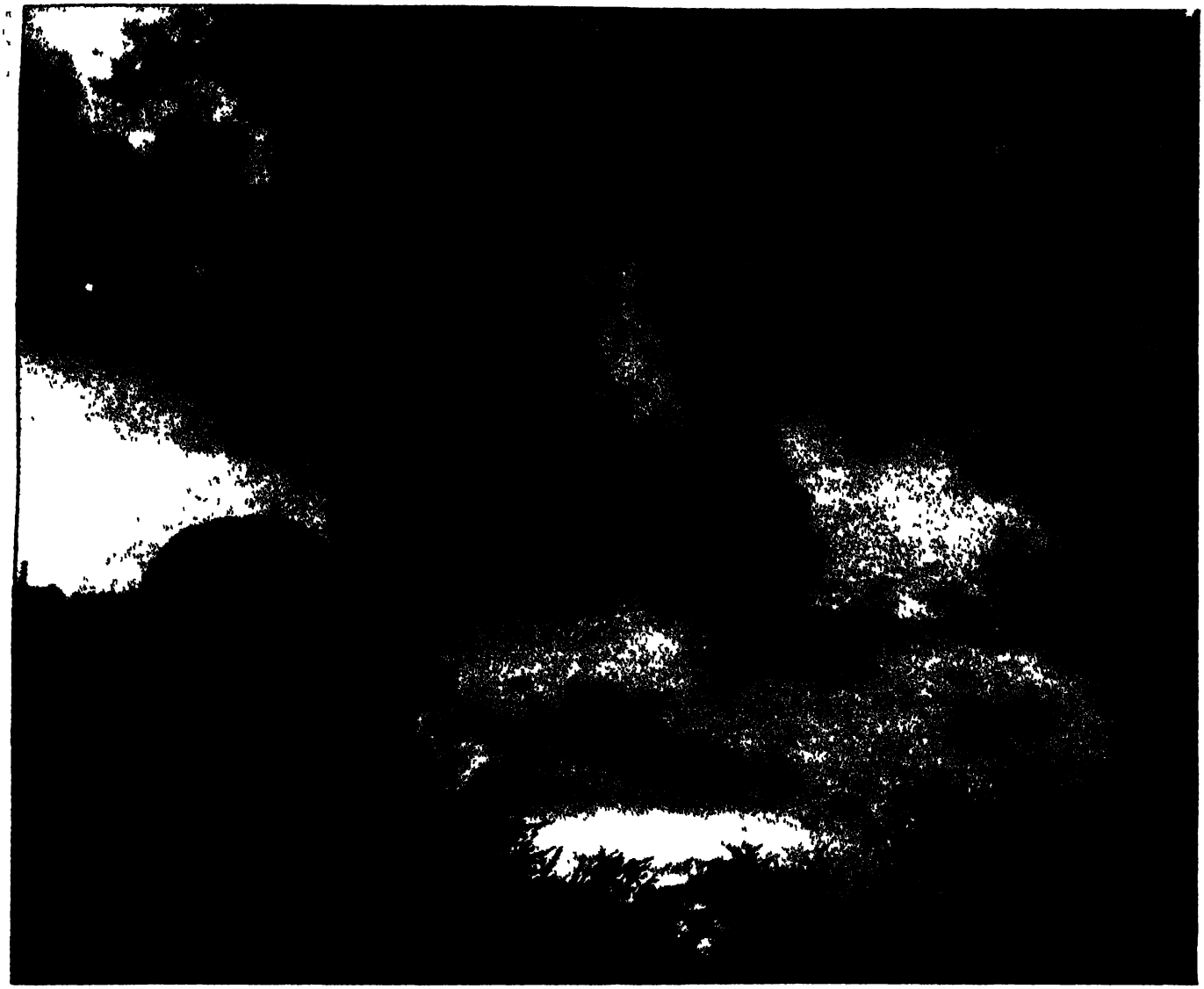
But Shanker and his colleagues insist that Savage-Rumbaugh's experiments suggest that there is not an unbridgeable divide between humans and the rest of the animal kingdom, as orthodox linguists believe, but rather a gradation of linguistic skills In a forthcoming book, *The Engine of Reason, the Seat of the Soul A Philosophical Journey into the Brain* (MIT Press), Dr Paul Churchland, a philosopher and cognitive scientist at the University of California at San Diego, says linguists should take Dr Savage-Rumbaugh's experiments as a challenge

He argues that the jury is still out the rules for constructing sentences might turn out to be not so much hardwired as a result of learning — by people and potentially by their chimpanzee relatives

(The New York Times)

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



The Night

The night, left out
by barred windows
of content houses
weeps on my shoulders
I count its age
by annular rings
of lights on highway —
far-off candles
at my lonely, open air
birthday dinner,
breaking the night
into gold rimmed, concentric
shells of friendly darkness

Suchandrima Banerjee

Between the Basement and the Bunker

My father,
unworthy of the warmth of the sun
was driven to dwell
in a dingy hole underground,
- in the basement -
the overwhelming ordour of which
did not let his torpid mind go adrift

for a moment
from the care of penury, and,
the despair caused by the utter
want of power

My son,
most worthy of all the goods
under the sun
has been driven
underground
into a palatial hole,
- into the bunker -
the overwhelming grandeur of
which
does not let his tortured mind go
adrift
for a moment
from the dread of the loss of
fortune, glory and power

Sukumar Mitra

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS



Muriel's Wedding This Australian movie is about an isolated, and ABBA-crazy, Muriel (Tony Collette), who wants to get married and be popular In fact, marital bliss, she is convinced, will be a sure path to Waterloo

But she comes to realise in the end that it is better to be just oneself

Beneath the campus veneer, lurks the sadistic peer-pressure that girls about to get married hurl at one another

The film whips up laughter by getting Muriel to wear some tight clothes so she will look fat and ugly and prizes her when she looks pretty in a traditional way

Supporting characters are either afflicted with cancer or commit suicide so that the message for Muriel rings loud and clear about what is truly relevant in life

BOOKS

The Art of the Brand: **The book is a pe**
a Paris-based Bengali
r, Samhit Sengupta.

He seeks to give "spirituality" to product packaging and feels that in India, where food is considered sacred,

that to e

me more than a pleasure. It should become a way of life.

It is this philosophy which the book upholds as it guides one in the quest for unique design solutions.

The author's ideas are crystallised into what he terms a Consumer Pyramid, and Ten Commandments of Strategic Design.

He also probes the creative possibilities in establishing a brand image and the individual demands it makes on companies to get the maximum out of the products' potential.

Bearing testimony to the success of his company, Skin-



ing Strategic Design, the book helps one to decipher not just the creative process, but the self as well.

LIFESTYLE

Soft 'n' gold Imagine yourself taking a break from this sweltering heat, sprawling under a giant umbrella next to a pool, sipping a glass of chilled Canada Dry

Cadbury Schweppes Beverages India Private Limited has launched its international soft drink flavour, Canada Dry, in association with their franchisee Pure Drinks Private Limited



This 'Champagne of soft drinks' is a blend of citrus, vanilla and ginger flavours Light, crisp, and golden, it is meant for those 'mature' men and women who can 'appreciate a truly independent soft drink' Packaged in a 300 ml green bottle, the drink costs Rs 5 50

Clean air If you think you can avoid inhaling dust, smoke or pollen particles by staying indoors, well, you are wrong But now Pollenex has brought in a breath of fresh air with their electronic ioniser!

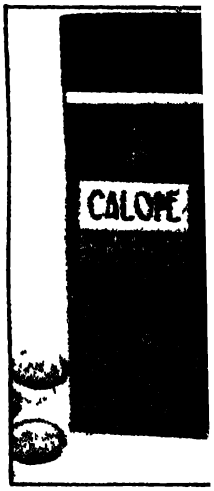
It is a compact, sophisticated electronic device that cleans air by emitting zillions of negatively charged ions that act like magnets,



attracting microscopic dust particles

One can plug one right into any wall outlet as this tiny thing (1/2"X3") is very inconspicuous With 'On' indicator light and a collector pad that can be rinsed and replaced, this gadget might be handy for your room Try your luck at shops selling foreign goods and get one for your living room — or, perhaps, one for each room

HEALTH



Herbal skin-care: **Following the call for herbal products like herbal oils, shampoos, cosmetics and medicines, Calope capsules is here to stay.**

Introduced by Geutech Laboratories Limited, this oral skin health nutrient is rich in exotic ingredients. It contains Evening Primrose oil and two essential fatty acids — GLA (Gamma Linolenic Acid) and LA (Linolenic Acid). The product claims that these acids rejuvenate the skin's moisture retaining capacity. It also eliminates wrinkles at the source and improves skin tone.

Priced at Rs 383 for a pack of 60 capsules, 'Calope is available in select chemists' and departmental stores.



TUSHAR GANDHI *led an ordinary, everyday life till a gay activist called his great grandfather a 'bastard* bania' *on a much-hyped chat show. Tushar's decision to sue the broadcasters of the programme, Star TV; the producers of the programme,* Nikki Tonite, *TV 18; and Nikki Bedi who offended with her giggles, led to a snowballing of public opinion against the programme. Star TV diplomatically suspended it 'until further notice' and Nikki Bedi, the media darling, has turned a media recluse in the Garboesque mould. Calm amid the furore he catalysed, this 35-year-old is 'waiting for all this to get over so that I can go back to being a normal guy'*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
To be surrounded by absolutely happy people, loved ones and strangers alike, sharing in each others joys, in a happy environment
What is your greatest fear?
Not achieving my goals before I die
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
No single person, but my family and my school principal, Prabhubhai Upadhyay, and his wife Dhanuben
What do you dislike most in others?
Manipulative tendencies, deceit and artificiality
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My habit of putting off things
What is your most precious possession?
My ancestry
What objects do you always carry?
Nothing permanently, apart from the usual stuff, keys, wallet and such
What makes you most depressed?
Seeing children suffering due to the follies of adults
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
Nothing
What is your favourite word?
Food I love it and it shows
What is your favourite journey?
My first. On January 17, 1960, by 1 Down Howrah Mail via Nagpur, from Jalamb to Akola I was born when the train was between Jalamb and Shegaon My parents were travelling to Akola for my mother's confinement and I could not wait.
What is your favourite dream?
Being able to achieve everything that I want to do in my life and living to see its fruits
What is your nightmare?
Not being able to achieve everything that I want to do in my life and living to see its fruits
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
My children, my wife Sonal and my parents
What is your source of sustenance?
My faith in my honesty and integrity
On what occasions do you lie?
When my truth would hurt somebody else and when lying would put an end to a trivial tiff
What is your greatest regret?
Not having achieved my goals yet.
What has been your happiest moment?
The births of Vivan, my son and Kasturi, my daughter
What brings tears to your eyes?
Mindless cruelty, and suffering children.
How do you relax?
Lie down, read a book, listen to music, watch a favourite film or TV, I could write a book on this subject. It is what I am best at.
What do you envy most in others?
Their ability to remain slim and trim even after bouts of indulgence
How would you like to be remembered?
As a useful person
How would you like to die?
Happily.

How do you relax?

Lie down, read a book, listen to music, watch a favourite film or TV, I could write a book on this subject. It is what I am best at

What is your favourite journey?

My first. On January 17, 1960, by 1 Down Howrah Mail via Nagpur, from Jalamb to Akola. I was born when the train was between Jalámb and Shegaon. My parents were travelling to Akola for my mother's confinement and I could not wait



Just how long is 12 years?

Long enough to see leaders rise and fall. Borders redefine the world. Witness history being rewritten. All this, while in the heart of Scotland, Black Dog quietly matures to reach perfection. For only in the fullness of time do the select natural ingredients of the Highlands work their magic with age-old distilling secrets. Only after 12 years of aging gracefully does Black Dog acquire its smokey, mellow taste. The rare taste of perfection.

ROUND - THE - YEAR

COOL



SPRINGFIELD. A WIDE RANGE OF BLENDS IN WOOL, SILK/LINEN AND POLYESTER, AVAILABLE IN SUBTLE DESIGNS AND TROPICAL SHADES IDEAL FOR SAFARIS AND LIGHTWEIGHT SUITS

Raymond

SINCE 1924

SUITINGS FOR THE COMPLETE MAN

9 JULY 1995

The Telegraph magazine

POSTMORTEM

Bride and Prejudice

■ It is not every day that we get to hear of an Indian making news overseas; moreso in an area as alien to Indians as fashion ('Cut and Thrust', June 11).

Tarun Tahiliani was almost making history when lady luck deserted him and his dreams were shattered. What could have been more disappointing than to be told at the 11th hour that the bride would not don his tailored trousseau, but would get married in a traditional Western outfit?

For a designer who had given his heart and soul to create the bride's outfit ('She is a dream person to dress', Tahiliani had said in the Magazine), the decision must have come as a rude shock. Hurting his sentiments more than humiliating him.

Does it then mean that Indian fashion is spurned abroad?

Aparajita Mukherjee,
Calcutta

■ Much as Jemima would have loved to wrap herself in Tahiliani's dream lines, she had to give in to her father's wishes. And a skirt and jacket it was and not a salwar-kameez.

No matter how lovingly you embrace a religion and culture, it is difficult to give up your own identity. So Jemima may have converted to Islam, but at heart will she not always remain a Westerner?

Hounded by the Press which was so critical of her marriage with a Muslim, she had little choice but to give in to the pressures at

Imran Khan, in a feeble bid to preserve his Islamic identity, stuck to his churidar-kurta and Nehru jacket.

R.N. Chowdhury,
Calcutta

■ There are villages where people cannot afford to buy food, leave alone clothes. Should we then bother ourselves with Versace and YSL?

R. Chatterjee,
Asansol (W.B.)

■ Any designer should try to incorporate the colours, patterns and traditions of his land into his creations. Tahiliani's dresses were intrinsically Oriental. No wonder Jemima, a recent convert to Islam and one fascinated by the East, had chosen Tahiliani.

Jawed Nehal Qureishi,
Calcutta

■ I wonder if Tarun Tahiliani is a qualified designer. In this fiercely competitive age being creative is just not enough, the aspirant should be armed with certificates to establish his credibility.

Subhashis Ray,
Rourkela

■ Is the Magazine a fashion glossy? How many of the middle-class readers would be interested in Tarun Tahiliani whose clothes are in any case beyond their reach? It is difficult to believe that an outfit can cost as much as Rs 2 lakh.

Sanjib Dutta,
Calcutta



Tarun Tahiliani: Shattered dreams

INSIDE



PAGE 4

YOU MIGHT have pitied them, some of those unlucky poor sods. But they were luckier than you and the world thought A 13th Anniversary Special

PAGE 30

THE COMMON MAN in 'First Person' Part of the Special

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
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21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 FOCUS

Cover Priyaranjan Rakshit

COVER STORY

SO YOU THINI

THERE ARE VARIOUS PEOPLE WHO, FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, are believed to have been extremely unlucky However, a closer examination would suggest that perhaps they were better off than most people realise For example

ROMEO AND JULIET

For generations, for hundreds of millions of people round the world, these star-crossed lovers, dead by their own hands, have been a symbol of tragedy — young love cruelly

Anurag Mathur *picks 'seven poor souls' who actually didn't do too badly for themselves A 13th Anniversary Special*

Illustrations by Arthur Cardozo



13 IS UNLUCKY?

cut short.

No one reads the play without a tear in the eye and a sigh for what might have been.

They should thank their stars. Try and imagine what would have happened if the duo had escaped with their lives, secured parental permission and got married.

It is 35 years later (than their date of expiry). Early morning. Juliet looks a little different since she has put on 93 kgs of weight, her greying hair is in medieval curlers, the fabled beauty showing the effects of having borne nine children (Normal, and anyway, do not forget this was immortal passion) The face is not fully visible because it is covered with cream she has forgotten to wash off



The cream has not improved her looks, but it has stopped any more children

She is trying to ensure that six of the school-going ones have their lunch with them, their stylus in hand and actually set off in approximately the right direction The other three, aged five, three and two, are clinging onto her like papayas from a tree With one hand she swats whichever is closest, with the other she checks the stale pineapples the *thelawala* is trying to palm off to her

"Thou art a crook," she swears "Verily sirrah, I shall so get my kinsmen to impale thee, that never again shalt thou swive a damsel fair "

But the *thelawala* knows she is not serious, since she is keeping a close eye on Romeo who is taking a suspiciously long time to saddle his horse before setting off to office, which may not be unconnected to the fact that the neighbour's 15-year-old daughter is combing her hair on the balustrade, something she has been doing far too regularly the last month this time of the morning

But Juliet holds her peace since she has had a raging row with Romeo over the self-same nymphet just this morning

And besides, anyway, the *thelawala* feels, fain should Mistress Juliet speak of swiving Had not his friend, the dashing sword instructor, told him in his cups, of the refuge his sword had found and oft, in Mistress Juliet's wondrous sheath? And verily, two of the brats in sooth did bear a passing resemblance most strange to the swordsman

And Master Romeo, ah, a figure still to make the ladies sigh, though no doubt limping due to the gout and, of course, if he could only get back just

some of his hair.

TERRORISTS, NOW THAT THERE IS NO TADA

Since people, whom the police know to be guilty, but without proof, can no longer be kept forcibly in jail, our cops have to resort to unconventional methods to make them stay in prison

If they leave, they are sure to commit further mayhem, leading to acute problems for the police

IG Adhik Ved to Shaitan Dubaiya who is flipping through a *Playboy* copy Shaitan Sahib, I am told you are not pleased with the hospitality we offer here in jail and plan to leave tomorrow morning May I humbly know the reason for your annoyance?

Shaitan Last night you put me up in your office to sleep because you know I feel upset without an air conditioner But somehow, *mazaa nahin aaya* So I am leaving

IG (*trembling like a leaf*) Shaitan Sahib, a thousand pardons *Gustakhi maaph* Tonight, I will personally stand behind you all night and fan you with copies of the Indian Penal Code while you take your rest

Shaitan I will think But I was shattered by the *gulab jamuns* from the Taj Hotel Just shattered There was hardly any *mitthas* to them I cannot bear this inhumanity anymore I am leaving

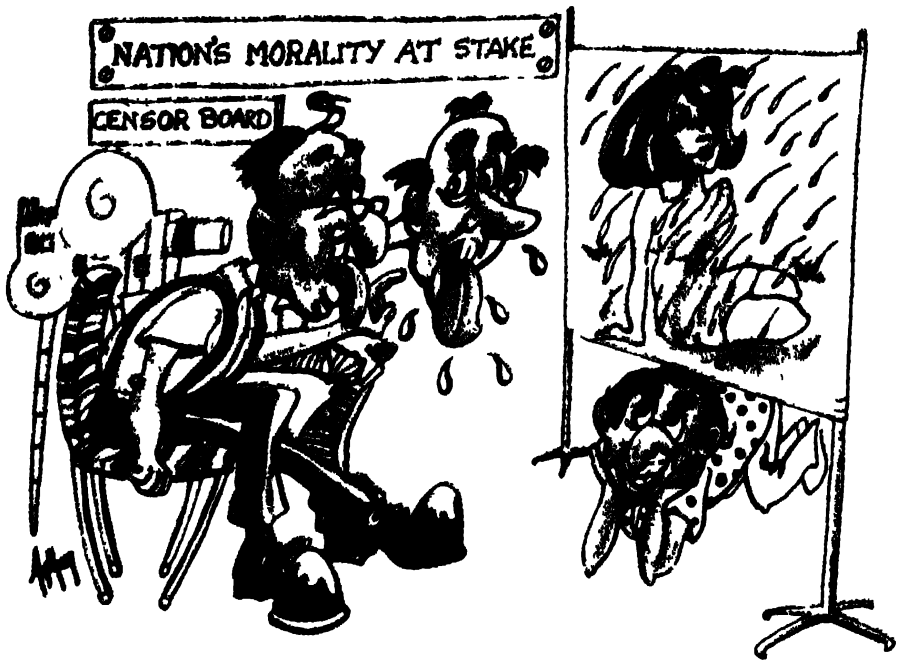
IG (*desperately*) A thousand pardons But see, here is a box of *pedas* A BSF plane has specially flown down for you from Mathura They are said to be the best in the world

Shaitan (*examining them*) What? But where is the silver foil wrapping them? I am going to leave this very minute

IG (*laying his cap at Shaitan's feet*) Forgive me, forgive me A horrible error For the sake of my family, my growing children, I implore you Stay Don't ruin my career

Shaitan (*signing and selecting a peda*) What to do? I have always been too tender-hearted All right Just one more day But make sure my clothes being laundered in Paris arrive on time and no more of this Indian five-star food, understand? I have developed a fondness for Icelandic mackerel

IG (*clasping Shaitan's hand*) Thank you Thank you You are a truly good human being, a real patriot





CENSORS

Most people think they have a thankless job, watching dozens of dimwitted films every week We try and imagine what must go on as they examine the latest offering

Main Censor (MC) to Assistant Censor (AC) Kindly freeze the frame right here

There is a timid knock on the door and a man creeps in

MC (*sharply*) Yes? Don't you see how busy we are protecting the nation's morals? In this very rainfall sequence we have to ascertain whether the heroine is wearing any undergarments or not Can you imagine the fate of the nation if we take a wrong decision? It will collapse Collapse, I tell you! Projectionist, please magnify the picture so we can see for ourselves. Ah, yes. Thank you Assistant Censorji, I think there is no doubt that

the heroine*ji* has been forgetful in dressing up this morning. This will not do at all. After all we have a responsibility. Refuse them a certificate.

Man: Sir. I have been sent by the Producer Sahib only He felt there may be a problem and has begged the pleasure of your company and, of course, the AC*ji* for dinner tonight so, he can *personally* explain to you the subtle and artistic reasoning behind our most respected heroine*ji*'s lack of underwear in the rain dance

MC (*sternly*) I neither take nor give hospitality to filmmakers

Man Of course, sir But since the heroine*ji*, too, wishes to explain *personally* and will be waiting anxiously in the hotel suite for the producer to accompany you to the door, I hope you and AC*ji* will reconsider

MC Oh, I see Well, one must not discourage young talent, that is what I always feel It is our duty What do you think AC?

AC I am always with you, sir

POLITICIANS WHO LEAVE THE RULING PARTY

Everyone imagines they must lead a life of wretched loneliness Not really.

PS to the Departed Leader Sir, four editors of national newspapers want your daily abuse of the ruling party

Departed Leader· Give them time.

PS Sir, the heads of the Opposition parties would like to see you to plan a common strategy for the next election

Departed Leader Call them for dinner

PS Sir, several disgruntled MPs of the ruling party are keen to meet you in private

Departed Leader Ask them to come at midnight

PS (*excited*) Sir, some Ministers of State have expressed a desire to communicate through common friends

Departed Leader Why?

PS They are angry because they have not been promoted in the reshuffle And sir, (*really thrilled now*), relatives of many Cabinet members have



called to wish you in anticipation of your birthday, though it is several months away

Departed Leader (*warily*) Why?

PS They say they never know when you may be back



SECTION OFFICER IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WHO IS ON HIS 16TH EXTENSION

He is much pitied because he is always at work No one realises he actually runs the government

Hot Shot in the PMO Sir, I have found this Section Officer who has been given endless extensions It's time they were stopped

Old Hand Before that, shouldn't you answer the questions from the Press on the allegations of there being secret clauses in the Shimla Accord? Ask the Section Officer

Hot Shot (*on the phone*) What's this nonsense about secret clauses in the Shimla Accord?

Section Officer It's true, sir

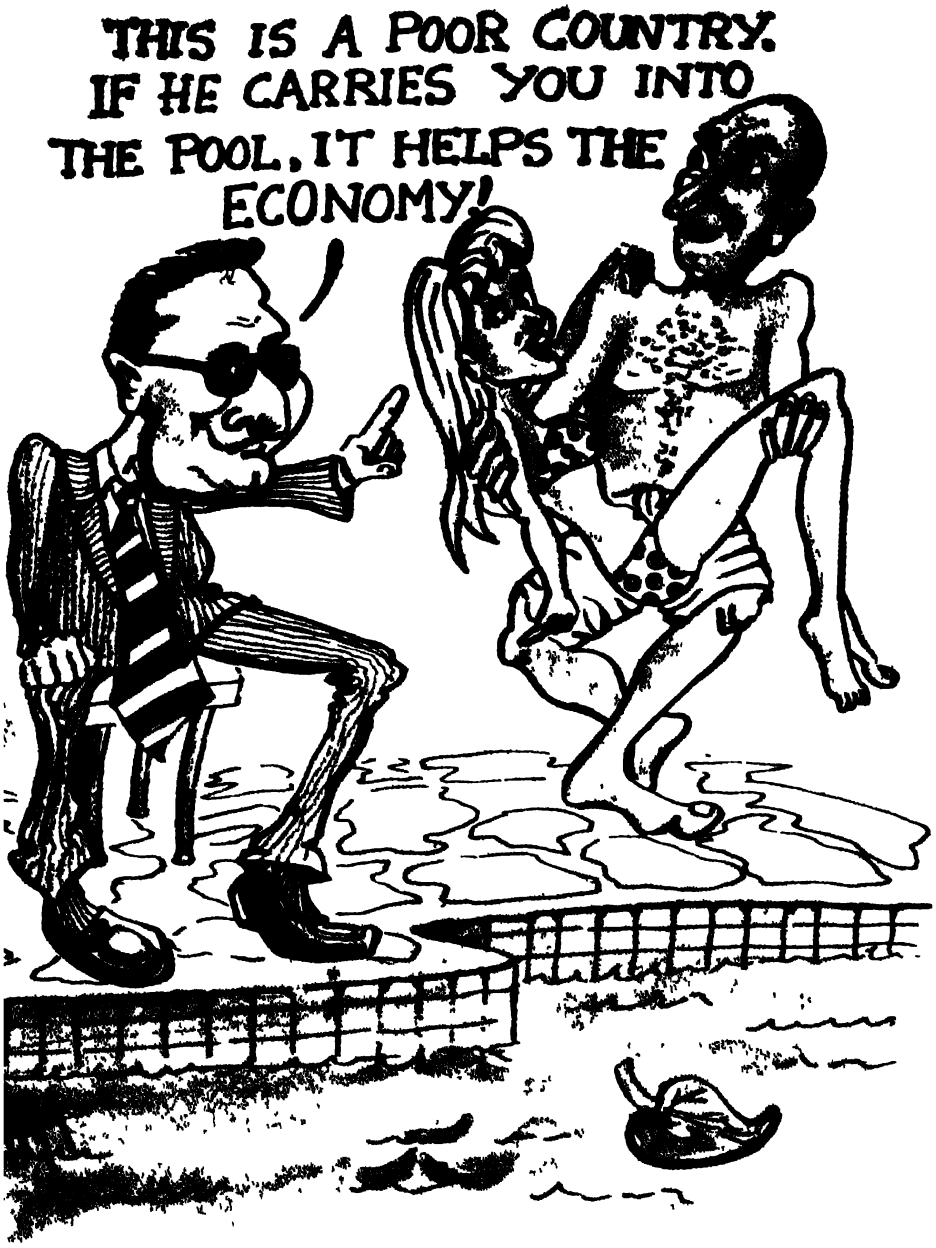
Hot Shot Then dammit, where is the original of the Accord? It will prove our case in the UN on Kashmir conclusively

Section Officer It was carefully filed, sir The rats ate it

Hot Shot Who will believe that?

Section Officer Nobody, sir That's why we can't tell anyone why we can't show the Accord

Old Hand You see now, why we cannot let him retire He's the only one who knows what's happened to all the files



AMBASSADOR OF FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY WHO HAS BEEN CALLED TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR A PROTEST TO BE LODGED IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS

(Popular Belief:)

Indian Official *(as Ambassador strolls in whistling)* *Saale!* H___*mi!* You dare do this I will launch peaceful nuclear strikes on you!

Ambassador I will also launch

Indian Official B_ _ d! I will see you!

Ambassador Oy, you don't go on my father. He divorced one wife before marrying my mother. But I will also see you.

Indian official, demented by fury, seizes the hard-bound copy of the speeches of Sardar Patel and begins belabouring the Ambassador who snatches up the soft cover copy of the Panchsheel Agreement and ineffectually tries to defend himself

(The reality is probably a bit different:)

Indian official I say, bad show, old chap What?

Ambassador Orders, old man

Indian official Well, do pass it on Cheers



FOREIGN EXECUTIVES IN INDIA

They are much pitied by their near and dear ones for having to serve here A conversation between an FEI and a visiting relative

Relative My dear, how dreadful for you, having to live in this awful country in this tiny eight-bedroom mansion

Executive Yes, we were much more comfortable in our bed-sitter above the fish and chips shop back home

Relative Really, darling And the heat Why, I can hardly find the energy to slip off this chair into the swimming pool And look, the gardeners have left a leaf floating in the pool *(shuddering)*! How ghastly How filthy How can you live here?

Executive Poor thing Don't exhaust yourself Ask the servants to lift you into the pool

Relative That's another thing Absolutely no privacy with all these hordes of servants around You poor thing

Executive True Life was so much more comfortable in our bed-sitter when we had to do our own cooking, cleaning, washing, laundering, ironing, vacuuming and driving But the way I see it, hiring servants is my own way of helping the economy here It is a poor country, you know And one does what one can But dear, to be fair, they do come in handy for the daily entertaining

Relative It's noble of you to say so, dear But I know you much preferred nipping down for a nice bit of fish since you could always smell the kind of fish they were frying

Executive *(laughing bravely)* I never could fool you, darling But duty, you know White Man's burden and all that

Relative Sometimes I think you are a saint, love No wonder you get a hardship allowance. You deserve every bit of it ■

AND WHAT ELSE?

What's this about superstitions, asks
***Rajlakshmi Bhattacharyya**, while narrating some of the popular beliefs*

When Henry Bourne, the curate of the Parochial chapel of All Saints in Newcastle upon Tyne, wrote *Antiquitates Vulgares* or, the *Antiquities of the Common People*, in 1725, it was with the idea of rescuing his parishioners from opinions which were regarded as "the produce of heathenism" or "the inventions of the devil", which he felt were weaning away people from an absolute faith in the providence of God

As the age of rationalism gained in momentum during the 17th and 18th centuries, superstitions declined in intensity and number, and by about the middle of the 18th century, it was looked to with nostalgic regret

Today the actual significance of most of the superstitions have been forgotten Omens that once prognosticated death are now merely the harbingers, it is believed, of 'bad luck'

Nevertheless, many people nurture those that have come down from their families, through mothers and grandmothers who are considered the traditional custodians of folklore and fantasies

Some superstitions are so popular, points out Moira Tatem and Iona Opie in the *Oxford Dictionary of Superstitions*, they are now a part of our language, the most likely instance being 'Touchwood' where one had to actually knock on wood to save oneself from a boastful taunting

These, and others such as the crossing of knives, walking under a ladder, spilling salt, or dreading Friday the 13th, remain as a sort of supplement to our ideas of what is essentially good and bad in the world

The number 13 is considered highly ominous, for, it dates back to the time when Jesus had sat down to sup with 12 of his disciples, among whom one, Judas Iscariot, was fated to betray him

Maybe since then, hostesses have never enjoyed having 13 people at the table and would hastily make arrangements for the 14th guest if possible

Some hotels like the plush Carlton Tower in Knightsbridge, London, is described as having 18 storeys, but has only 17 floors Number 13 is missing!

Friday is considered unlucky in itself for it was on this day that Jesus suffered on the cross No new work or marriage is solemnised on that unlucky day

As for the potent combination of Friday and 13, a whole cluster of superstitions abound Spilling salt on that day could bring a major disaster unless you throw some behind your left shoulder

On the way to work, steer clear of rooks, ravens, magpies, owls, swans and lizards should you want to avert death But you are in for luck if you spot a toad, a priest or a nun

Eating fish on Friday the 13th is okay, but if you are digging into salmons, better keep mum about it

Spill tea on the table cloth on that day and it could mean your blood will be spilt before the morning is out On any given day, it is unlucky to stir your tea with anything else but a spoon Stirring someone else's tea means stirring up strife

Since superstitions cover every aspect of human life, one is not surprised to hear of a bat in the room as a token of evil If a bat is carried three times round the house and then nailed outside the window with the head downwards, it will have the effects of a counter charm

To disarm evil as when a black cat crosses one's path from left to right which means they will have a puncture, one has but to stop the ignition of the car, or to give a friend anything black, as a black hen, a black dog or even a black cat

If black is a mystical colour in Scotland, it has always been clubbed together with the metamorphoses of Satan, or his carrier, such as a black cock

While the black sheep in Sussex is an omen of good luck, in Ireland, the first of the flock if born black, foretells mourning garments for the family within the year

White as a contrast, too, could bring evil In Chesire, the boys spit on anything white, be it a horse, a cat, flannels or even a white straw hat Some will put the blame of their misfortune on a friend who has sent them a gift of white flowers Midland lilacs, when white, are regarded as sure signs of death In Assam, the killing of a white wood duck invites, it is said, the wrath of the gods

While a white horse is unlucky, a grey one at a wedding is lucky Widows are branded inauspicious for such occasions worldwide Folklore has it, a lover will not give a white opal ring to his sweetheart for opals signify widowhood and tears

Colours in the theatre world are of immense import, according to another folklore record Blue is an unlucky colour for the players, silver being its only saving relief Certain shades of yellow in a tie, or vest or hat are thought to exert an injurious influence Even the orchestra leader would not allow a musician to play a yellow clarion

Superstitions in India are as myriad as there are ways to counteract their evil Sneeze when the person embarks on a journey, and he is in for trouble The thing to do is to come and rest awhile before starting on again, or to count up to 13 In the West, they say "bless you", because a sneeze momentarily forces the soul out of the body and leaves it vulnerable to the predations of the devil

A bit of a doggerel heard in many a homestead is *"If you mend your clothes on your back, you will live much money to lack"* And, *"If you mend clothing on you, someone is telling lies about you"*

Since men have been known throughout the ages as self-tormentors, the bad omens provide a catalogue which is at once more varied than the good They speak of man's fears of disobedience, of darkness and retribution They mirror the insecurity looming large in their lives ■

VIEWPOINT

STRAINING AT THE LEASH

As life becomes more complicated, and stressful, we can only look back and learn a lesson, says ***Rumu Ray Chaudhury***

We all carry a chip on our shoulder In our younger, fancy-free years, we did have problems and they always seemed to be very serious ones, which could never be solved

However, amazingly enough, anything new happening around us made the previous one trivial and we quickly forgot the issue on which life and death was dependent, and carried on with life!

But that was when we were young As we start facing real life with jobs, families, social commitments, with success or failure at every corner, we seem to place some extra baggage on our shoulder — some point has to be made There is a score to settle, and life becomes heavier and gloomier at each step we take

To some it is the success in their working life or their colleagues' success that worries them more Some are always worried about the running of their household — the success of the children, or their current status in society vis-a-vis the Joneses or the Jhunjhunwalas Apart from all these, there is also the extra baggage of different emotions, such as anger, hate and jealousy towards the near and dear ones or the society as a whole, and the load is too heavy a one to tote

Sometime back I had a shooting pain from my shoulder going up to the neck and giving me migraine I went to see a neurologist friend of mine who gave me some medicines and enquired about the worries that I was having, as it could be a psychosomatic pain arising from stress

I denied politely making it a point that I led a very smooth and happy life, almost like the women we see in the TV ads

But after returning home, sitting with my own thoughts, I shuddered to think of my ongoing predicaments

Dear God, do I have worries! The maid is playing hookey, the children's school exams are near, the car needs overhauling, the house needs a coat of paint, certain social commitments have to be met, worries after worries flooded my mind and oh, what a migraine I had! Desperately I sought comfort in pills

But was it the same in the earlier



days? It seems to me life must have been easier as the pace was slower and people had time to deal with their emotions This present day of noise and speed, change of political scene, a new war every day in some part of the world, our thoughts are tried out at every step We are like bewildered children on a rollercoaster It is elating to be on it, but we do not know whether to face it with fear or excitement

This present day of noise and speed, change of political scene, every day a new war in some part of the world, our thoughts are tried out at every step. We are like bewildered children on a roller-coaster It is elating to be on it, but we do not know whether to face it with fear or excitement

It is very interesting to see how men and women create their own stress levels in very different ways From the very beginning men have been taught to be strong, dependable, brave, and to stand firm against all ad erse situations Their emotions are also accepted as real strong and steady ones

So, basically the vanity that has been implanted in their own minds when they were nice little boys creates havoc in their later lives As they go into their jobs and start earning their living, every step they take, the thought of being able to do better, sits on their shoulder and grows heavier with each passing day of the rat race

There is no harm in improving one's own self, but I feel pain to see that it becomes a baggage that they cannot unburden As the famous Bengali author, Buddhadev Guha, puts it, "Men do not live on what they eat, they chew on their ego to stay alive"

Sure enough these are not the problems of men alone Women by virtue of their birth look at life in a more utopian way Particularly now, when being a woman means she has to be efficient, have a perfect figure, preferably be a working woman, have all the right answers for everything as if she were Sushmita Sen and, last but not the least, she has to be a superwife and a supermother

Every little point to be 'scored' creates stress We would love the men to treat us equally, but it would be wonderful if they treated us chivalrously as well! Life does seem every bit unfair, and the bond of marriage itself is strained Both the partners feel the pressure and do not have the time or patience for each other We forget about loving and caring, the tender feelings and lose perspectives



Does it have to be this way? Why don't we stop and start all over again Actor Paul Newman was asked how his marriage had survived in Hollywood, where marriage was worth a penny, and he answered, "This is the age of disposable goods, plastics, even disposable wife and children! But in our house if a toaster does not work we do not dispose of it, we try to mend it Similarly with our relationships, when things go wrong we try to sort it out instead of discarding the relationship"

In the long run it seems to me it is the attitude that guides our actions Although we love to have our freedom, small compromises, little thoughtful gestures, do bring about a longer lasting relationship

So, loosen up a bit, laugh at every chance you get (it is good for your lungs, too!) and just go easy on the emotions, for everyday we walk one step forward towards our end

It would be the achievement of our life if we can think like the famous poet Yevtushanko—

Sorrow happens, hardship happens
The hell with it
Who never knew the price of happiness
Will not be happy

EXTRACT

'Please Let Me Go Home'

All my frustrations about having my Test career delayed for so long came out at Edgbaston the day before the Fourth Test between England and the West Indies started there in 1991. A few weeks earlier Viv Richards told me "Don't worry about your pick for England. You'll be in the sixteen." I wondered why I hadn't played in the home series against the Australians if I was that much of a certainty. I had been in the best form of my life and some of the players who played in all five matches hadn't established themselves.

The 1991 tour of England was the most miserable period of my life and everything boiled up that day at Edgbaston. I was bowling to Viv Richards in the indoor nets when he drove the ball back to me and, trying to jump out of the way, I came down awkwardly on my ankle. It hurt a lot and I had to be helped back to the dressing-room. By this time tears were welling in my eyes and when I got there I burst into tears and said to Lance Gibbs, the manager, "I want my air ticket to go home. I've had enough!"

"Calm down," he said. "Tell me what happened." It wasn't the incident in the nets. It was an accumulation of all the slights I felt I had endured on the tour. I was twenty-two, eager to advance my career, and I hadn't been given a chance. When Gordon Greenidge was injured early on the tour, Clayton Lambert, the 29-year-old left-hander who was playing for Blackhall, the North Yorkshire and Durham League club, was called in and played in the last Test at the Oval. That was the solitary Test of his career.

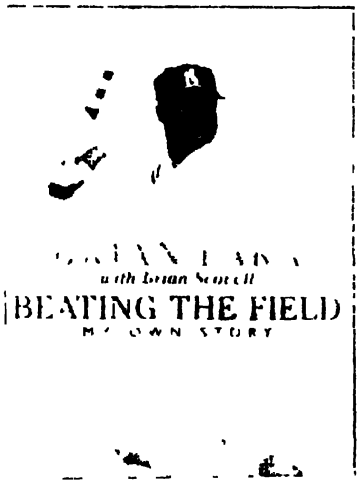
I felt I tried to have as much respect as I could for the senior players but didn't think some of them showed the younger ones much respect back. One of them had made a remark at practice which implied I got into the side because Joey Carew was a selector. This was a senior player whom I idolised and it disturbed me greatly. I was thoroughly dismayed at the atmosphere around this time.

In practice, I was usually the last person to bat which often meant that the manager or some of the non-bowlers were the only ones left to bowl at me. I am happy now that that has changed. An incident in an Indian restaurant after our defeat in the First Test at Headingly hadn't helped my relations with Lance Gibbs. We were bowled out for 173 and 162 and England owed their first victory over a West Indies side since 1969 to a magnificent unbeaten 154 by Graham Gooch, their captain. Gooch showed the application and high level of concentration needed to combat the conditions and during dinner I said to David Williams, the reserve wicket-keeper, that I didn't think we had batted too well.

Gibbs heard me and said, "A player like you wouldn't have scored many anyway at Leeds. You would have been a failure." I resented the way he said it, as if he wanted to do me down. He may have been a great bowler for the West Indies but I don't think he was a good manager. His handling of certain players, me included, could have been much better. "You think you can bat like Gary Sobers," he said.

"I don't know yet if I can bat like Gary Sobers," I said. "But I would like to achieve what he has achieved." For the rest of the summer I tried to stay out of his way.

Now we were face to face in the visitors' dressing room at Edgbaston and



BY BRIAN LARA

Extracted from** Beating The Field **by Brian Lara with Brian Scovell, Partridge Press; distributed by India Book Distributors (Bombay) Limited, 1995, special price: Rs 485

I had to explain why I wanted to go home. He said he would speak to Viv Richards about it As I was unlikely to be fit in time for the Oval Test in just over a week's time, he saw no reason why I ought not to be released I went to hospital for treatment and finished up having a plaster cast put on my foot

I had to accept that the only way I would get into the side was to wait for someone to retire I had been seen as a one-day cricketer I played in the third Texaco Trophy international in front of a 24, 871 crowd at Lord's but only because Greenidge was injured I made 23 before being caught and bowled by Richard Illingworth in a high-scoring game The West Indies lost all three one-day games and that gave a little more confidence to Gooch's side, who went on to draw the Cornhill series 2-2

After that I seemed to have travelled all round the world playing one-day matches — in Sharjah, Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane, Christchurch, Auckland, Wellington, Berri and Kingston before I finally became a regular in the Test side Too much one-day cricket is not good for a young player It doesn't help his development specially if he is a batsman.

I learned a lot from unhappy experiences in England It made me stronger mentally I resolved that I would score so many runs that the selectors wouldn't be able to ignore me I would force my selection on them and give them no alternative but to choose me It also gave more understanding of how young players should be treated Some of the senior men in the 1991 side may have been great cricketers who contributed a lot to West Indies cricket, but their attitude towards new comers could have been different Now I would like to encourage youngsters rather than show them indifference If I ever become captain, I will make a point of that

I played at Bristol and Worcester in the two opening matches of the tour, scoring 30 against Gloucestershire in a one-day game and 26 against Worcestershire Phil Newport bowled me at New Road, the first of several occasions when he has dismissed me Viv Richards scored a typical 131 from 153 balls in a drawn game and his great friend Ian Botham upstaged him with 161 in 139 balls

Two weeks later I thought I had helped my chances of a pick in the Test side by scoring 93 against Somerset at Taunton, but after scoring 3 and 26 in



On the way to 375 against England in Antigua (1994)

the next match against Leicestershire, falling victim to the Australian John Maguire in both innings, I learned that Phil Simmons was going to open in the First Test at Headingley with Dessie Haynes I could understand that they wanted a specialist opener and Phil Simmons, who is someone I think very highly of, fitted the bill Unfortunately he didn't have a very successful series, but later on he made a number of important contributions to the success of West Indies side He's a strong, very positive player but his record would be much better if he had been tighter

I failed at Derby and Northampton but was more hopeful after an innings of 75 against Hampshire at Southampton before the Nottingham Test I scored 82 against the Minor Counties at Darlington and the same against Wales at Brecon but by this time I had given up hope, and when I damaged the ligaments of my ankle at Edgbaston that was my tour finished I appreciate that with an average of 24 57 from 344 first-class runs (the matches against the Minor Counties and Wales were not first-class) I hadn't exactly forced my way into the reckoning with a good tally of runs, but I still think that with more encouragement and help I would have contributed more to that tour

Because of the World Series and the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, I was only able to take part in three matches for Trinidad and Tobago in the 1992 Red Stripe Cup competition, scoring 135 in the opening game against Barbados, and averaging 47, but we won the Grant Geddes Shield by beating Barbados by 8 wickets Viv Richards retired, Gus Logie was about to retire — and I found myself playing my second Test in seventeen months against South Africa in April Since then I made sure I stayed in the side ■

TRIBUTE

MOONSONG MOMENTS

Today is Guru Dutt's 70th birth anniversary Although his sweetest— and best known— songs were those of gloom, the poetry of love in his films was no less worthy of celebration Just one, double-version example here

Yeh raat, yeh chandni phir kahan...

(Film *Jaal*, music Sachin Dev Burman, lyric Sahir Ludhianvi, singers Hemant Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar)

THE HEMANT KUMAR SOLO VERSION

This night, this moonlight, never again,
Come, hark the cry of my heart,
This night, this moonlight, never again

On the branches of the trees
slumbers the moonlight,
Lost deep in your thoughts this,
moonlight,

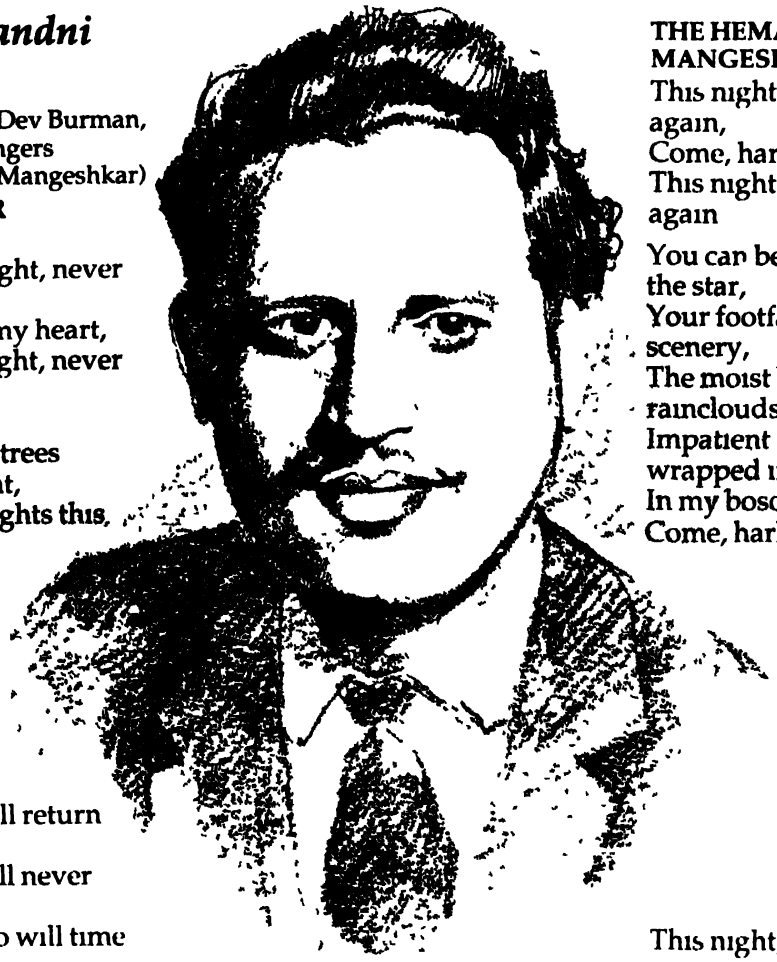


Illustration: Anup Ray

A while more and it will return spent,
This night of spring will never again be,
A moment more or two will time tarry,
Come, hark the cry of my heart,
This night, this moonlight, never again

On the lips of the waves is a soft sonnet,
Within the moist breeze lies white heat,
In this beautiful fire come and smoulder, too,
Now, give tongue to your heartbeats,
Come, hark the cry of my heart,
This night, this moonlight, never again

Receding is the spring, buoyant our youthfulness,
Beneath the shadow of the stars let's tell our tales,
If after beckoning you they pass on,
Never will they return these clutches of spring,
Come, life is in bloom yet,
Come, hark the cry of my heart,
This night, this moonlight, never again

THE HEMANT KUMAR-LATA MANGESHKAR DUET VERSION

This night, this moonlight, never again,
Come, hark the cry of my heart,
This night, this moonlight, never again

You can be heard in the falling of the star,
Your footfalls in the silence of the scenery,
The moist breeze, the lush rainclouds tell your tale,
Impatient is my youthfulness wrapped in flames,
In my bosom rises the smoke,
Come, hark the cry of my heart,

This night, this moonlight, never again

On the lips of the waves some lost lores,
The gardens of hope have all been autumned,
Where art thou who knows, all is deserted,
I know not where it will, the future world,
Demolished is my world of desires,
Come, hark the cry of my heart,
This night, this moonlight, never again

Translated by Anil Grover

INNER EYE — Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



The full moon, Ganesha says, spurs you to action, and thus makes you very result-oriented The home and domestic trend of the previous week continues in full force Changes in the office, also, managerial policies are foretold Kids, education get special attention

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Now is the time to forge ahead leaving others panting for breath Do fan out to people and places Fuse home and work fully, and in the degree of your success, lies the extent of your happiness That is a sure bet Socialise heartily for it will be to your advantage in the long run.

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Windfalls, legacies, joint finances, lottery, compensation for injuries, rewards for services rendered is the way it goes for you Buying, selling, partying, even a housewarming are very likely Be practical to get the best out of the week Trips and ties foretold

Cancer

June 21—July 20



Get out of your shell fast and face the world boldly and squarely It is high time you did anyway With Mercury and Venus in your sign, you will have the charm and dexterity to be a winner Business, marriage, collaborations, trips and assignments can all be yours

Leo

July 21—August 21



You will be forced to push yourself to the outer limits, and that, could undermine your health unless you learn to relax You will be in a cloak-and-dagger sort of activity, so speak less and listen more is the specific astro for you Leons An enterprise or activity can be launched

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Mars in your signs in excellent placing with Neptune results in inspirational moves, fresh commitments, a surge of hope and faith and enthusiasm which is definitely the mother of success Enlist support, throw a party, attend a conference Domestic scene also brightens considerably

Libra

September 23—October 22



You will have to use tact and pull strings to get work done as competition will be stiff and expenses will be heavy There is no time to really relax Changes in the home/office can, and should be made Designers, models, actors, editors, and brokers will be in their element

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



You will have the ability to swing from the moon That means your endeavours will have sweet results Those in trading surgery, arts, research, housing construction, pharmacy, hotelliering, politics and entertainment have an extra edge on others A smashing good week

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Jupiter, your ruling planet helps you moneywise Rentals, taxes, loans, funds, and investments take top priority once again In work, you will strive might and main to achieve goals and objectives Therefore it is mighty important for you to relax and enjoy life

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



The full moon in your sign activates your love life But separations or shedding away old relationships are indicated Time for new beginnings Changes in the home and office are absolutely certain Get ready for a journey which is foretold in the near future

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Journey, commuting, moving are strongly indicated You will have to move with the moods and impulses of others and that could drive you crazy Employed Aquarians stand to gain Be a good listener Do take appropriate health safeguards Rewards come your way the next week itself

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Compassion and passion blend beautifully Your imagination comes into full play and that means terrific creativity at all levels Prophetic insights are possible Do develop self-confidence and a bit of aggression You do not have to please the world all the time Be your own master

BIRTHDAYS

July 9: Moon-Jupiter conjunction leads to good and quick results, says Ganesha Changes in your work area are also foretold More responsibilities are certain

July 10: Moon square Saturn means struggles before triumph, but you do get what you want and I suppose that is what really counts

July 11: Mars trine Neptune means those in trade, commerce, education, acting and astrology win plaudits Moderation is the key.

July 12: A favourable full moon means luxuries, partnerships and travel. Use all media of publicity Mix caution with aggression

July 13: Moon-Uranus conjunction forces you to take chances, and pick your choice Marriage, business, partnerships, travel and children will be the main facets

July 14: No strong aspect You will be more or less free to go your way Therefore, choices will have to be made Keep your cool

July 15: Moon-Mercury fine aspect leads to travel Those in trading, publicity, communication, transport, auto-repairs, land building and construction get more mileage

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY



FLIGHTS

DO

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC-742	1050	4 6
IC-743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5 7
AIZAWL					
PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1010	1 2 3 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 2 3 6 7
BANGALORE					
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF-106	1735	1 3	VF 105	1635	1 3
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2 101	0835	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W-212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2-103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1830	daily
AI-681	2330	1			
DELHI					
IC 263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2-006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF 737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
D2-181	1135	1 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S-816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC-257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
PF 735	0730	1	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	IC 230	1620	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
4S 816/81	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5



FLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0345	7	KL-875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	1045	1 3 5	S2 024	1525	1, 3 5
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	3 7	IC 213	1315	3 7
LILABARI					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2005	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	1 2 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1740	1 2 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	3 7	IC 213	1315	3 7
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
[illegible]					
KB-105	0650	2, 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 5, 7	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2, 3, 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 5 6	IC-724	1520	1 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3, 5 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG-095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RA 214	1030	4 7	RA-213	0945	4, 7
IC 747	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-748	1455	1, 3, 5
[illegible]					
BA-142	2040	3 7	BA-143	1450	3, 7
[illegible]					
SU 538	1755	4	SU-537	1555	4
[illegible]					
KB-106	1105	3	KB-105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
[illegible]					
SQ-415	2345	2 5	SQ-416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure				Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah		Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**		6 45	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**		7 35	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad		13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat		16 15	2382
2303		**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun		16-15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues, Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun			
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat		12 50	2306
2307	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**		4 40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday		21 10	2020
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri-Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat		11 35	3074
2309	22-00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday		12 25	2310
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday		11 35	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri		4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord		7 00	3010
3007	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line		18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**		15 30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**		11 55	3020
3021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**		5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**		6 30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**		21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**		10-30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**		8-45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**		6 30	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**		5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**		15-40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed		7 55	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun		7-55	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**		4 30	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only			
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**		**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13 40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**		6 35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**		8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line		7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**		20 35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**		5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**		4-15	5664
3151	11 20	**Jammu Tawi Express**		15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop		12-30	3134
3103	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**		10-25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues, Thurs & Sat		4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
6003	20-30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20-40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16-20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8111	6-00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	- -
	11 05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10-45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
- -	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13-45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THE PASSAGE OF THE POTATO

"Seeds of the potato berries should be sown in adapted places by explorers of new countries"

So declared a botanically minded empire builder Among those who took this advice were Captain Young of the Sirmur Rifles and Mr Shore, Superintendent of the Doon

It has to be admitted that the Captain was motivated by self-interest He was an Irishman and fond of potatoes In 1823, he received some of superior quality and was considering where to plant them Till then, the northern hill districts had been in British hands for about 10 years, but no one had thought of resorting to them for rest and relaxation

The hills of central India, covered with jungle were known to be extremly unhealthy The Siwaliks near Dehra Dun were malarious It was supposed that the Himalayan foothills, also forest-clad would be equally unhealthy, but Captain Young was to discover otherwise

While he was deliberating where to sow the potatoes, some men from Garhwal arrived and mentioned that they were fond of English potatoes and had grown them in the hills with considerable success They suggested that the Captain try the upper part of the range, directly in front of the Doon

Captain Young and Mr Shore set out on foot and soon left the subtropical forest behind them Above 4,000' they came to forests of oak and rhododendron and above 6,000' they found cedars, known in the Himalayas as deodars or devdars — trees of God

They found the climate so cool and delightful that they gave up the idea of growing potatoes and instead erected a small lodge on Camel's Back facing the snows

Captain Young was to make a number of visits to his little hut on the mountainside Apart from the inhabitants of a few scattered villages in the valley below, no one lived on the mountain Bears, leopards and barking deer roamed in the forest There were pheasants in the shady ravines and small trout in the little Aglar river below

In 1826, Young, now a Colonel, built his first house, Mulinger (it still stands), on the way up to what is now

A suitable name for the hill-station would have been Mount Aloo, but Mussoorie got its name from the Mansuri berry, *Coriara nepalensis*, a shrub that grows abundantly in the area, but is of little use. Mansuri ought therefore to be the correct name and spelling, but then the British never could get Indian names right



The potato was, after all, something foreign and while today we jump at anything foreign, regardless of its utility, our forbears were more cautious. To determine its acceptability (or so the story goes), a conference of Brahmins was assembled and they, to their everlasting credit (and after much debate) gave their decision in favour of the humble vegetable

Landour Cantonment Then on the spur of the small hill he built Annefield (this was burnt down in 1947 and its ruins are now inhabited by goats and the occasional wild cat) Other people began to follow Colonel Young's example and by 1830, the twin hill-stations of Landour and Mussoorie had come into being

A suitable name for the hill-station would have been Mount Aloo, but Mussoorie got its name from the Mansuri berry, *Coriara nepalensis*, a shrub that grows abundantly in the area, but is of little use Mansuri ought therefore to be the correct name and spelling, but then the British never could get Indian names right

Shimla and Nainital sprang up at much the same time as Mussoorie, but although the pleasure-seeking residents of these hill-stations took little or no interest in potato-growing, the farmers of the hills cetainly did Potatoes flourished in the terraced fields of the Himalayan hills and valleys

It was a mixed blessing at first bcause the enthusiasm for its cultivation resulted in the destruction of much fine forest, particularly near Shimla

The British can justifiably claim that the introduction of potato cultivation in India was one of the lesser known benefits of their rule Certainly our meals have been enriched by the variety of uses to which the potato can be put but at first, it was by no means certain that the population would accept it

The potato was, after all, something foreign and while today we jump at anything foreign, regardless of its utility, our for bears were more cautious To determine its acceptability, (or so the story goes) a conference of Brahmins was assembled and they, to their everlasting credit (and after much debate) gave their decision in favour of the humble vegetable

But was the potato unknown in India before the British came? Terry, the Chaplain of the Embassy sent by James I to the Emperor Jehangir, was present at a dinner given to the Ambassador, Sir Thomas Roe, by Asaf Khan, the brother of Noor Jehan

He describes the various dishes that were put before them and mentions potatoes and remarks that they were very well cooked Did Asaf Khan get his potatoes from *vilayat* or was he already cultivating them in his backgarden near the Jamuna?

It is possible, of course, that Terry mistook yams for potatoes, their flavours are similar The accounts of early travellers are not always accurate The same Terry gives us a description of a tiger and then calls it a lion

Mark Thornhill, a magistrate in Agra in 1857 remarks in his memoirs that the turnip was also introduced to India by the British Mr Thornhill was wrong The turnip has been cultivated in Punjab from times immemorial Turnip pickle was unknown in the West till the Punjabis took some there

We have gone a long way from Mussoorie, but then, so has the potato

(Sanctuary Features)



The Telegraph
magazine

is publishing poems regularly.

JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and NOT to The Telegraph, by ORDINARY MAIL. Contributions sent by registered post or courier **will not be** accepted Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned**. All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates No enquiries will be solicited

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

FREE MARKET AT ALL COST

Supporters of market forces have now marched victorious over the globe for more than a decade, promising economic solutions Free markets, they insist, will result in improved efficiency, higher economic growth and therefore the welfare of all

But it hasn't proved that simple, specially in Britain, where the market principal has driven deeper, faster and more extensively into society than in any other Western industrialised state The debate over a 'human face' to reform is not limited to India, and many Indians will be interested in a new book by Will Hutton, the economics editor of *The Guardian*

In *The State We're In*, he argues powerfully for a new system of values, and a complete overhaul of British democracy Market forces have brought limited gains in efficiency, but the social costs have been enormous As the economy cannot be isolated from the social and political system, Hutton insists that the British state has to be broken and put back together again

This book has provoked a storm of debate in Britain because it has touched a raw nerve Hutton points out that freeing of markets has led to the slowing, not increase, of growth, as well as damage to the welfare of the majority

The profile of Britain now is one of increasing inequality Never in recorded history has the gap between the top and lowest salaries been so great Society can now be divided in a 40/30/30 ratio The top 40 per cent have full-time employment or secure self-employment

Thirty per cent are insecurely self-employed, involuntarily part-time, or casual workers At the bottom are 30 per cent who are marginalised, unemployed or working for poverty wages One in four of the male workforce is without a job

Inequality, as Hutton points out, is not only about income, it is also about self-esteem Despondency at not being able to do well in a world where education, transport, health, jobs, all are in the market place, leads for some to a loss of the desire to live

Deregulation of the labour market has led to longer working hours than anywhere in Europe The atmosphere of insecurity has caused permanent stress, making it difficult for parents to keep their marriages going, let alone look after their children

Britain has the highest divorce rate in Europe One in three British children grows up in poverty,

The education system itself has been subjected to the free market At the bottom of the pile are now schools run on limited funds of local authorities above them are schools which have 'opted out' of the system, with larger central funds, and supreme are free-payingpublicschools

This system is an example of exclusion and systematic inequality The children from public schools, which only the very richest can afford, go on to a secure place in life and still fill 50 per cent of the places of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge

These are the people at the top and this, says Hutton, is where the rot starts He quotes Lord Hogg's description of the Westminster system of democracy as "elective dictatorship" Once you are in power in Britain — where there is no written constitution — you are subject to precious few checks and balances

As a result successive Conservative governments have been able to introduce increasingly centrist market-led system Former state or elected institutions have been replaced by Quangos (Quasi-autonomous Non Governmental Orgarisations) whose office-bearers are appointed by the central government Two hundred and seventy-two new Quangos are said to have replaced the old Labour-controlled Greater London Council alone

As estimated 70,000 such jobs are now handed out by Conservative ministers, meaning that the country is returning to the 19th century tradition of rule by a private oligarchy of unelected Conservatives

The British judiciary was never reformed and is still appointed by the Lord Chancellor, largely from the same class of natural conservatives which forms the government and the bulk of the civil service

Companies and financial institutions, argues Hutton, are also cursed by the same 'gentlemanly' traditions

Defenders of the free market maintain that Britain's failures are due to too small a dose of market forces Hutton, on the other hand, maintains that market forces do not on their own reach optimal solutions and capitalism has always worked best when subject to some controls

In the British system he identifies the "gentleman businessman's" unreined desire for quick returns and high dividends as the main reason Britain falls behind.

Not all, though, is lost Britain's problems themselves may provide the spur to revitalise the nation's decaying institutions For Hutton, what's needed is a spirit of republicanism to act as a force to devolve political power to the regions and cities.

In business, companies must be recognised as social as well as economic organisations — not just to be run by opportunist traders for short term gains This means restructuring financial institutions to allow more long-term loans and less pressure to give maximum dividends to shareholders

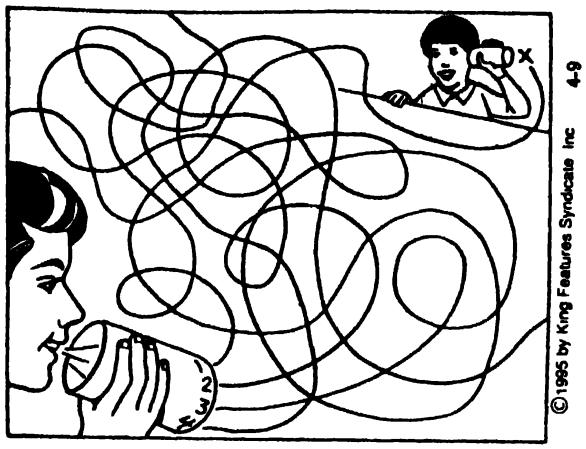
Britain is more in the global marketplace than most One quarter of all British shares, bonds and bank deposits are owned by foreigners Capitalism can function best, argues Hutton, if the volatility of exchange rates can be regulated

His world view of a stability giving all nations an environment to develop their economics according to their own genius, may strike a chord in India too, while his catalogue of British mistakes may warn of the dangers of too much free market dogma

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



CALL WAITING! Two cans are connected with string for a homemade telephone Which line completes the call?

SAY WHAT! Did you ever see a bed spring? A shoe box? An onion roll? A car wash? A cereal bowl? Challenge Think of another in 30 seconds

1 LOW
2 _LOW
3 _ _LOW
4 _ _ _LOW
5 _ _ _ _LOW
6 _ _ _ _ _LOW

GET HIGH MARKS FOR LOW?

LET'S SEE if you can find five progressively longer words each ending in LOW (see diagram, above) in accord with the following definitions

1 Opposite of high (LOW, already in place)
2 Sign often found near a school
3 Watch out—! (Fill blank)
4 Loud roar, as of a bull
Accept without question (sl.)
6 Water over the dam, for instance

How quickly can you find all of the words?

Afterwards, make up another LOW word list

(Answers) 1 Low 2 Slow 3 Below 4 Bellow 5 Shallow 6

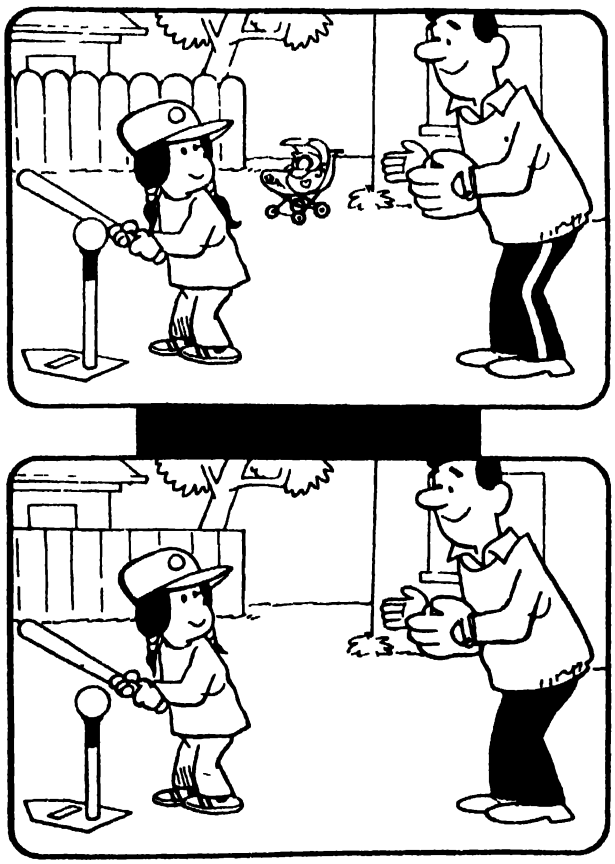
SUM DEAL!

Shuffle a deck of 52 cards Turn up top card and cover it, face down, with whatever number of cards is the difference between face-up card's value and 12 (court cards count 10)

Turn up next card, and repeat procedure Continue similarly until too few cards remain to comply Now, count stacks, subtract 4, multiply by 13, and add number of leftover cards Alakazam, result is total value of face-up cards



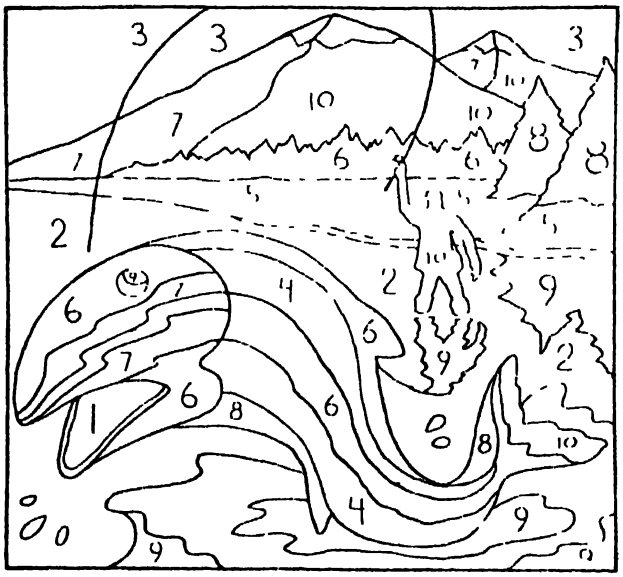
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Fence is different 2 Ball holder is lower 3 Pigtails are shorter 4 Carriage is missing 5 Glove is different 6 Stripe is missing

FUNSPOT



SPLASH DASH! Hey, big fellow, come back here! Add colors. 1—Red 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown. 5—Tan. 6—Lt. green. 7—Lavender. 8—Dk. green 9—Dk. blue. 10—Purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

ESPOUSAL

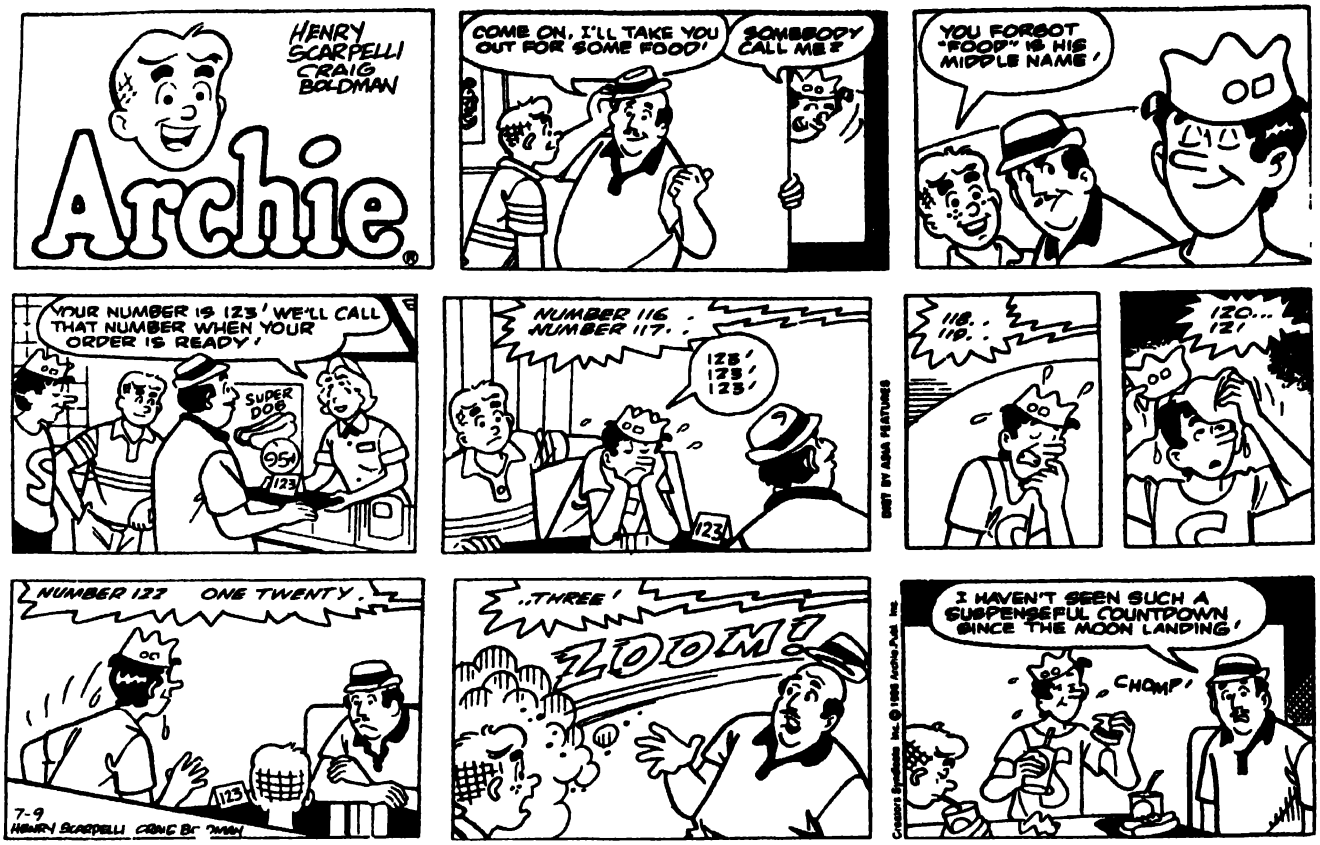
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

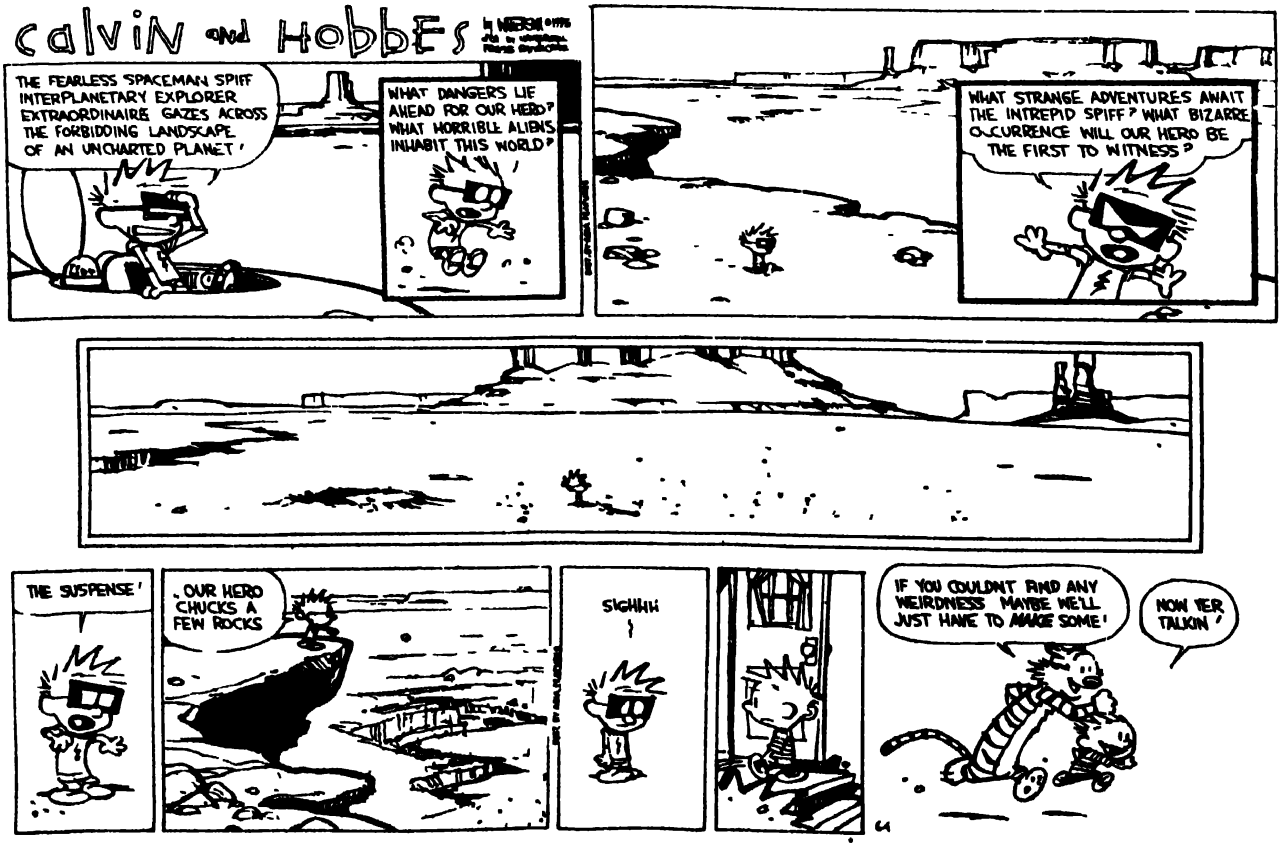
Possible lwosome Soup sale

COMICS

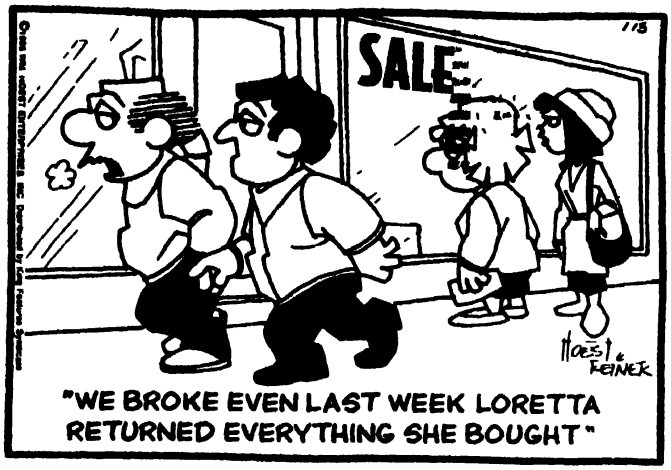
ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

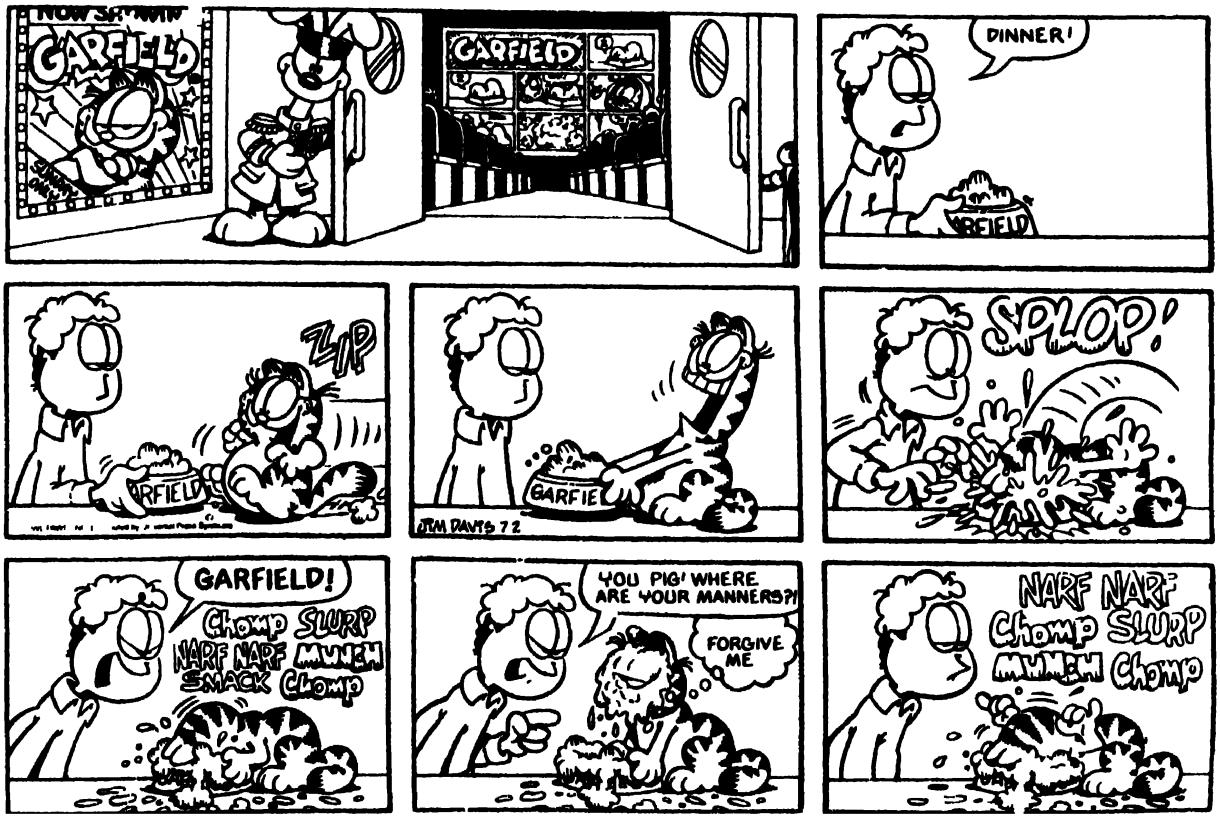




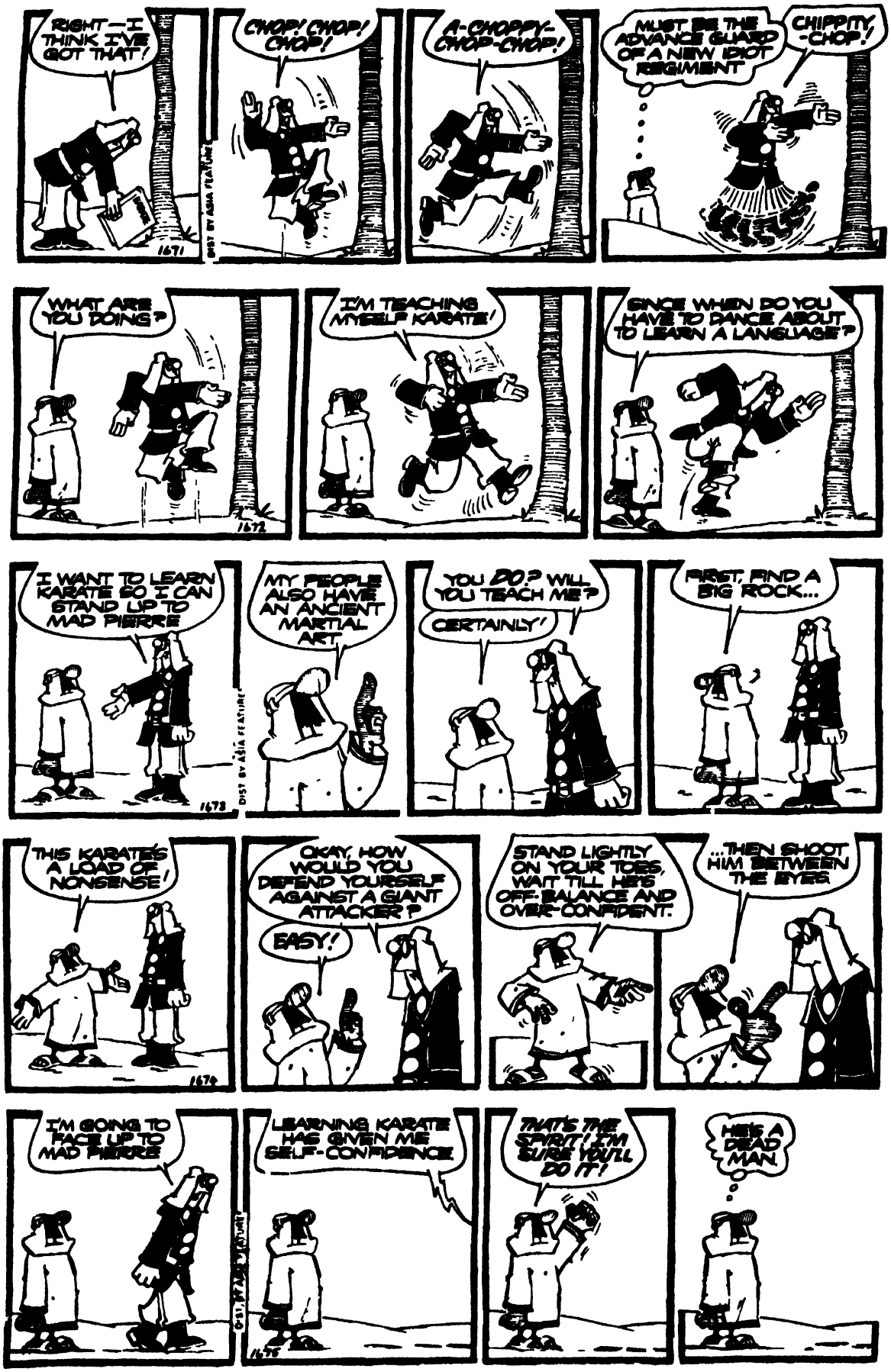


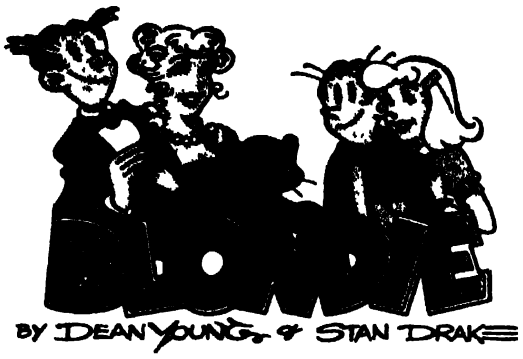


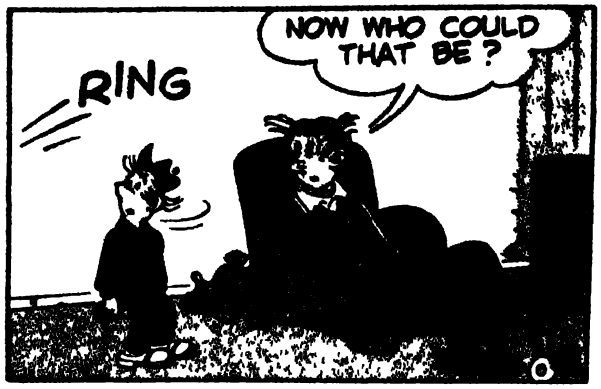
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

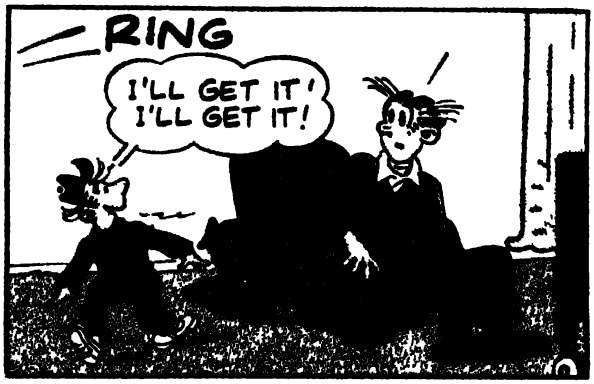


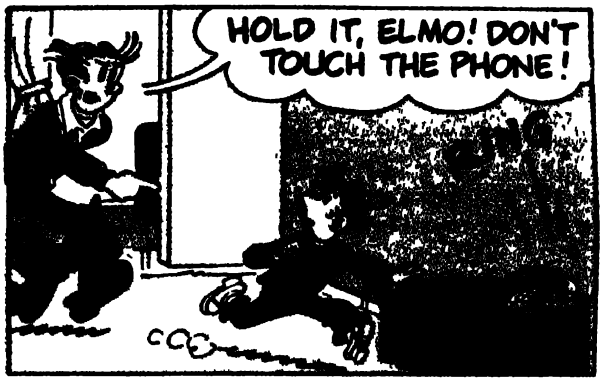
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



















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FOCUS

REMEMBRANCE OF MURDERS PAST

Anne Perry, a widely acclaimed mystery writer, holds forth on why the Victorian age is an obsession with her ***Arthur J. Pais*** *unearths the details*

"England was at the height of its power and prosperity during the Victorian age," says Anne Perry "It ruled half the world including India And yet, there was so much of corruption, crime, misanthropy, and subjugation of women in that era And the world hardly knows about it "

She wants the readers, particularly in the former colonies, to understand how the veneration of wealth and power during the Victorian era brought about untold tragedies in England itself — and how these tragedies might have been echoed elsewhere

"I have found the Victorian era a fertile ground for my mystery books because it offers any number of opportunities for high and low crime," says Perry, one of the most popular and critically acclaimed mystery writers

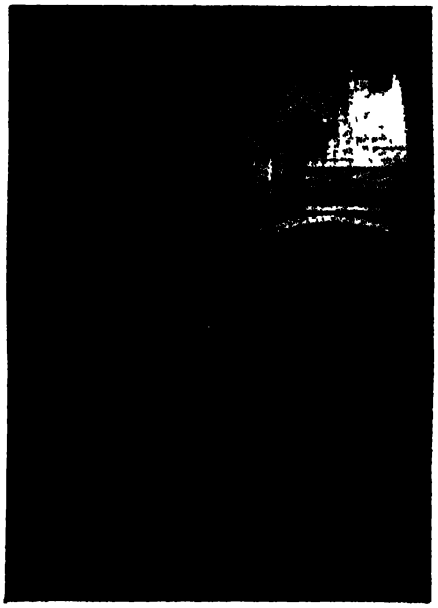
She is indeed unique among crime writers, for, as a report disclosed recently, Perry herself is guilty of a crime found in most of her books murder

About 43 years ago, Perry, a teenager, helped a friend kill her mother in New Zealand and served nearly seven years in a prison

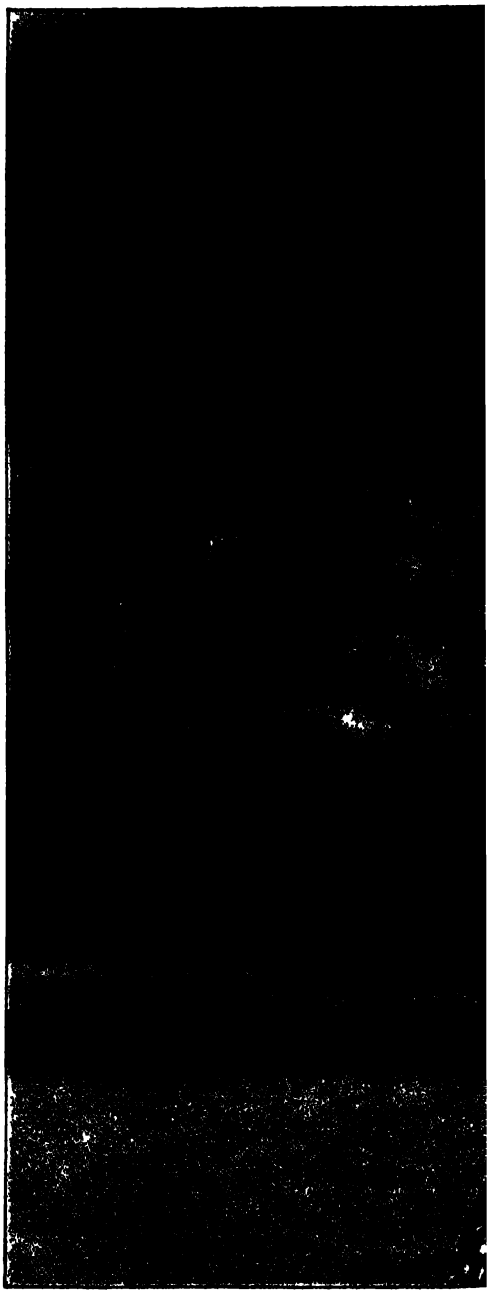
Despite the sensational revelation that made page one in England last year, Anne Perry's reputation as an astute observer of British society remains intact and her new book, *Traitor's Gate*, has received wide acclaim

Perry, who lives in a sprawling seaside cottage in Scotland, is the writer of more than 20 mystery books, including *The Hyde Park Headsman*

"Anne Perry can write a Victorian mystery that would make Charles Dickens' eyes pop," wrote the *New York Times* while reviewing one of her recent books And Carolyn G Hart, a fellow writer, added "Anne Perry writes of yesterday, but her perceptions speak of today Her books condemn the evil that existed in the Victorian times, but many of those evils are very much with us today There is too much of class-conflict and hypocrisy, greed and corruption "



More than half of those books feature Inspector Pitt and his gutsy, inquisitive wife Charlotte, the other series features an elusive, enigmatic William Monk, an amnesia victim and former police inspector In her latest, *Traitor's Gate*, Pitt is charged with investigating a treasonous matter Someone in the Colonial Office is passing information to Germany about England's strategy in Africa The traitor is surely one of the top half of a dozen civil servants But Pitt will soon find out that the case is not only far from being a delicate investigation, there are many moral dilemmas involved in solving it



A still from *Heavenly Creatures*: A film based

"I have always been fascinated by the conflict of ethics, specially involving honesty, compassion and courage, whether a person under stress has the grace to face up to the truth and act honourably," Perry says "Appearances and reputations mattered intensely in that age, and so much was hidden. There were great many situations when people did not have legal recourse to help or justice. Thus blackmail often provided perfect excuse for a murder"

Her mother used to tell Anne Perry. "We judge people too quickly" This is one of the themes she constantly explores in her books "The culprit in my novels may not be the person most responsible for the tragedy or the crime



Anne Perry: Eye for detail



on the murder Anne Perry committed in 1952

It is the society that is often guilter"

Subtly, she also adds messages to her mysteries "I believe that human beings are not born in sin and that you cannot be punished for others' sins," she says "I also believe that we should rise to the full measure of our creation And you will find many people in my books doing that"

Readers love her mystery books not only for their suspense and ambience, but also for their colourful detail Did you know that reading the newspaper was considered "indelicate" in the 18th century? That carpets were swept with sand, and boiled bran was used to clean chintz, and warm cow's milk was used to remove vinegar and wine stains?

"Details, details, details," says Perry "Details are very, very important to my books"

She feels that women mystery writers have made a great progress in recent years not only because they have been concocting superior plots, but also because of their excellent observation

"Women often observe people more closely than men writers," she says, "and that is reflected in their books Speaking generally, men don't notice fine inflections or facial expressions as keenly because they are more interested in facts"

How does she go about doing research?

"I began by collecting auction

Did you know that reading the newspaper was considered 'indelicate' in the 18th century? That carpets were swept with sand, and boiled bran was used to clean chintz, and warm cow's milk was used to remove vinegar and wine stains? 'Details, details, details,' says Anne Perry. 'Details are very, very important to my books'

WRITER AS MURDERESS

"My childhood was scrappy and largly self-obtained," Anne Perry told this writer a while ago "I was privately tutored because of my ill-health, thankfully all behind me now." There was a feeling that she was not too comfortable discussing her childhood

A few months later, newspapers in Britain, and then in America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand broke the story that Anne Perry had served nearly seven years in a New Zealand jail because she had helped a friend kill her mother in 1952

She had visited New Zealand to recuperate from a nervous disorder and other health problems Since her health remained frail after the sentence, she continued her eduaction at home in England where she took on her stepfather's name About 17 years ago she began writing mysteries

The story of the murder came about when a New Zealand movie director announced the project, *Heavenly Creatures*, based on the sensational murde.

As part of his story on the movie, a New Zealand writer began finding out about the two young women involved in the bizarre murder It was his trail that led him to England, and to Anne Perry

With TV cameras and reporters on her doorsteps in her cottage in Scotland, Anne Perry slowly talked about the murder. She said she had foolishly, but utterly, believed that either it was her friend's life or that of the mother's.

She was also taking medications at that time which caused suspension of judgment, she explained That drug has been long withdrawn from the market

Though she had been atoning each day for her "horrendous crime", and had found consolation in religion, she did not come forth to disclose her part in the murder because she was afraid that people may judge her "too quickly and too much".

Perry has said that the critically acclaimed *Heavenly Creatures* has not understood her story adequately, but the producers of the film say that by and large their movie has been faithful to the events.

In the movie, the two girls — Julie Hulmes, from Britain, and Pauline become inseparable friends — and there is hint of lesbianism

When Juliet Hulmes (Anne Perry) is sent to a sanatorium because of her failing health, the friendship becomes stronger. When Juliet returns from the sanatorium, she finds her mother in bed with another man; the division between the mother and daughter becomes wider

Juliet is further upset that her parents are going to divorce and her mother is marrying the lover.

As the Hulmes prepare for divorce, they decide to leave Juliet with relatives in South Africa for a few months Pauline presses her mother to let her go with Juliet

When Honora, the mother, makes it clear that she will not allow her 15-year-old daughter to leave home, the two girls began to imagine one solution· the murder

Anne Perry says that while many of the things in the movie are true, filmmaker Peter Jackson did not get the motive for the murder right. At least she (Juliet) sincerely thought her friend was being tortured by her mother and may even be killed

Though Perry has refused to see the film, she criticised Jackson and writer Frances Walsh for taking cinematic liberties

But Jackson defends the movie "The friendship was for the most part a rich and rewarding one," he says, "and we tried to honour that in the film It was our intention to make a film about friendship that went terribly wrong "



Pierre Vinet

A still from *Heavenly Creatures*: Friends in crime

catalogues, copies of advertisements from old issues of *London Illustrated News*, museum artefacts, vintage books, but mostly from good films and a large collection of modern books about every aspect of the 19th century

"I love writing and I feel time is treading on my heels I usually work at least some part of everyday, frequently all day, except on Sunday.

"I never work on Sunday because of my religious convictions," she says "I also think it is common sense"

Anne Perry was an air hostess for five years and a sales person for several years before turning to full-time writing She says she survived the initial rejections and small sales because she lived a very frugal life. Besides, she has never married. "Life becomes lonely at times," the novelist who is in her early fifties, says "But don't married people also feel loneliness from time to time?" ■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Autobiography of a Woman

I lie across a bed
Like a cow
Chewing the cud

I cower about
Throughout the day
Like darkness

I'm fading out
Like a cake
of soap

I feel like
floating away
in the rain

I want to root
Out the ocean
Even as I think
Of all the slime

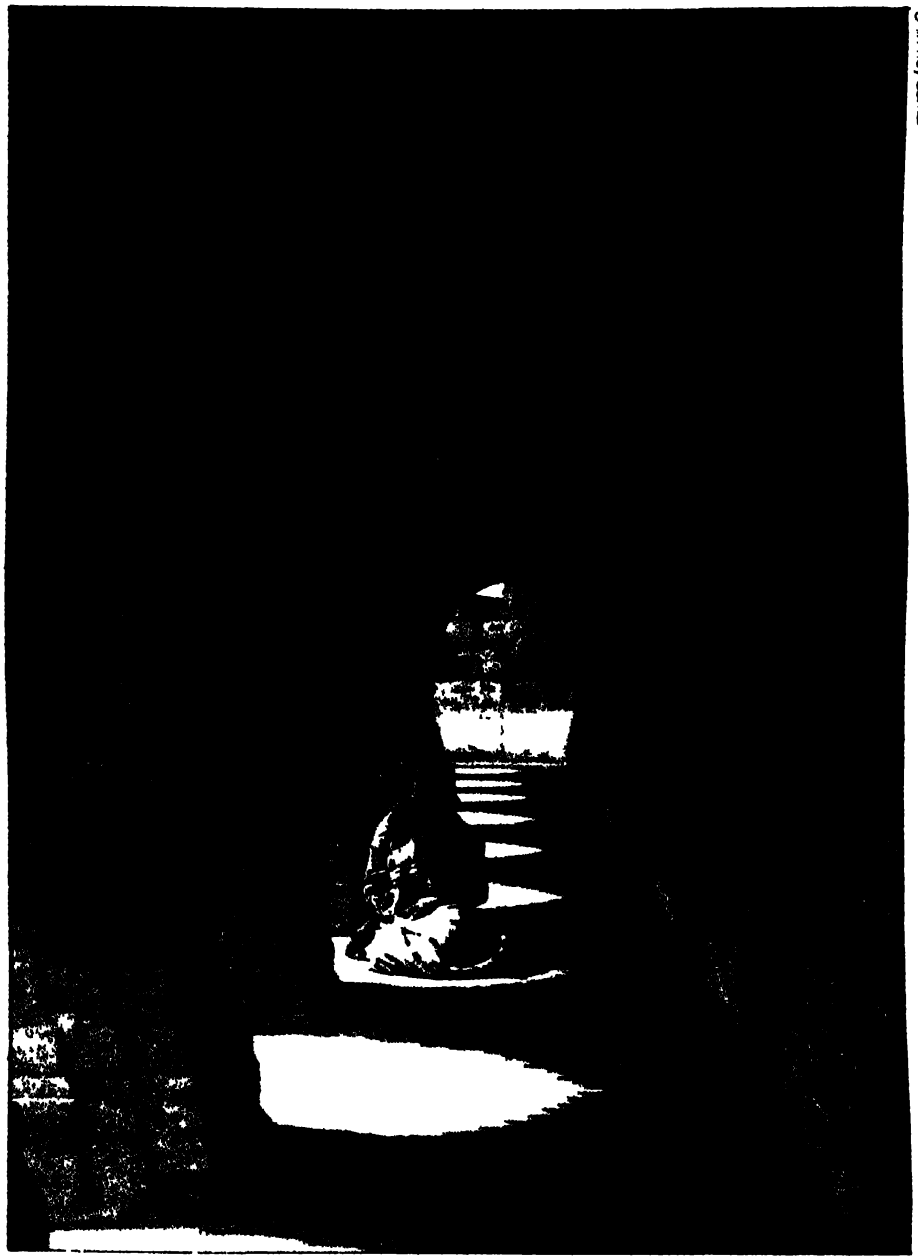
My poems caress me
Like light snow

Champa Vaid
(Translated from Hindi by Krishna Baldev Vaid)

Beginning

There are no signs to tell me from
where the road begins,
There are no marks to say where
the trial ends
I make my debut
Unsure and uncertain,
But that does not worry me
For no journey
However great or small,
Successful or disastrous, Began
with more than a step
Tomorrow I may come to a dead
end
But today I've made a start:
The terminus may not be
guaranteed
But at least the beginning has been
established.

Sonal Parmar



Chinmoy Sarkar

Question

Leaves
whirling down in eddies
Street signals
blinking permission for pedestrians to pass
Women soliciting
peddling their aging charms
Zig-zag garlands of light
wavering in the water
like broken dreams
At the crossing of five streets
above our dark heads
a question mark
poised like a sickle—
Where to?
A whole sum of earned insights
now tells us that there is no place
to go
So we stand clutching our question mark
like a still in a movie

Sripriya

THE COM
Card yet (I
regularly C
gle to



What is your idea of perfect happiness?

What do you dislike most on your appearance?

My ribs: they are too prominent

THE MAN.
THE MACHINE..
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garments of joy.
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JCT
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16 JULY 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Mystic Mind

■ J. Krishnamurti talks about human consciousness being in a state of crisis and the growing need for change ('Seer Magic', June 16).

Sri Aurobindo had identified this oncoming crisis as an evolutionary one and talked about the emergence of a faculty higher than the mind called supermind which, according to him, was the future guiding principle of man

Krishnamurti reinforced this teaching in a form that was more suitable for an accomplished, intellectual and technologically advanced people

He spoke in a language shorn of metaphysical nuances. And this made his thoughts provocative, teasing and modern at the same time.
Nilanjan Chatterjee,
Jamshedpur

■ The focus of the cover story was Pupul Jayakar rather than Krishnamurti. In fact, it was boring having to read about the personal achievements of the queen of culture.
Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore (Orissa)

■ No doubt the cover story was a provocative piece of writing. But wasn't it a bit beyond the understanding of the common man?
P. Das,
Jamshedpur

■ Some time back Pupul Jayakar had edited a book called *Within the Mind* containing some invaluable articles from renowned scientists and Krishnamurti's interaction with a group of American psychiatrists.

Had you included an extract from this book, it would have opened up new vistas on the study of this seer.
T.K. Ray,
Ranchi



Pupul Jayakar: In quest of culture and consciousness

■ The cover story came as a pleasant surprise, used as we are to reading only about fashion, glamour and stories of the rich and super-rich in the Magazine
Sunil Banerjee,
Calcutta

Women in Love (with Women)

■ For some, homosexuality is not an aberration, it is a way of life ('Ladies' Lady', June 18) Through the medium of films Pratibha Parmar has exploited a 'clandestine' relationship.

At least, she is honest and courageous enough to admit her sexual preferences.

Homosexuality is so common these days, even in India, that a telefilm called *Adhura* is being made on this subject. It remains to be seen whether Mandi House gives the green signal to Ashish Nagpal's venture.
Devraj Singh Kalsi,
Kanchrapara (W.B.)

■ Who are we to look down upon people with different sexual choices? Just as we find such people unnatural, they too, could be finding us unnatural.
Arthur Manly,
Patna

INSIDE



Alisha Chinai: Baby Doll?

PAGE 4

POP SINGER Alisha Chinai accuses music director Anu Malik of sexual harassment. There have been similar cases in the past Is that a paradox in Bollywood?

PAGE 26

WHO'S THE number one in Hollywood?

SECTIONS

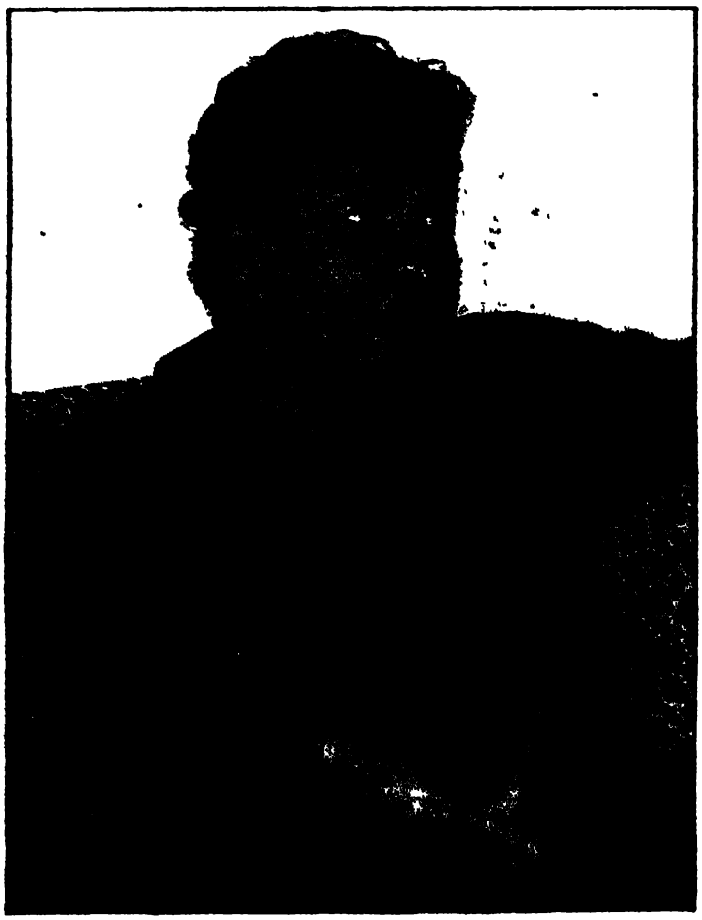
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Cover Alisha Chinai photograph by Jitendra Arya, Anu Malik photograph by Gautam Patole

COVER STORY

CRYING WOLF

When Alisha Chinai accused Anu Malik of sexual harassment, nobody was amused. That was no way to treat a lady— if what she said was true. It also threw up the question again of 'honesty among thieves'. ***Anil Grover*** *gives past examples of pots and kettles in the film industry, an industry which chiefly thrives on the black: money and vessels. And they all go with their eyes open: it is no place for good little babydolls...*



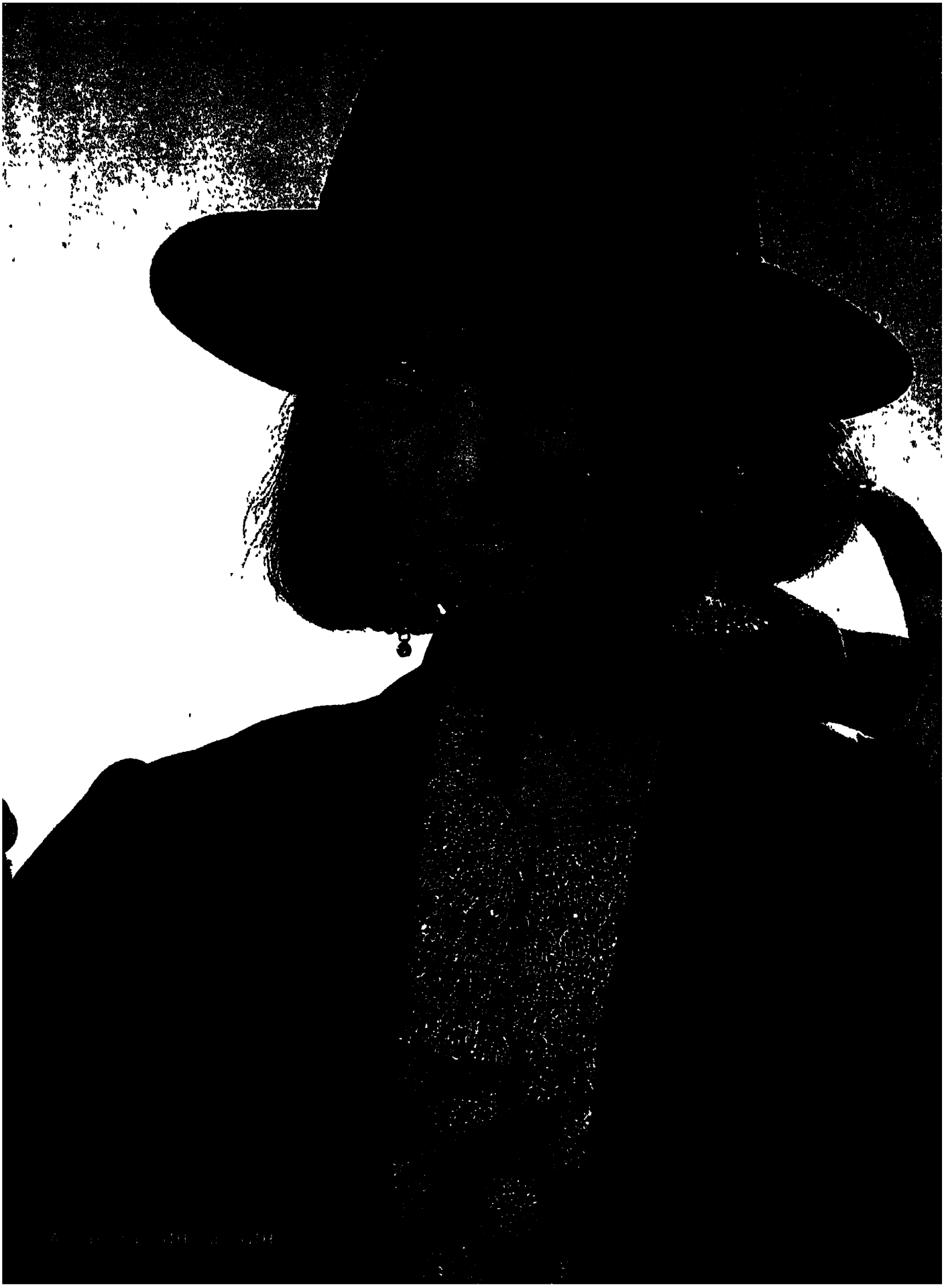
Anu Malik: 'LML, baby, LML'

Sexy, sexy, sexy, mujhe log bolen,
Hi sexy, hello sexy, kyon bolen,
Neeli neeli aankhen meri, main kya karoon,
Honth mere lal lal, main kya karoon;
Husn ko chhupa kahan, chehra yeh le jaaoon kahan,
Romeo hazar aage peechhey dauden ..

—Alisha Chinai sings to Anu Malik's tune and Indeevar's lyric in *Khuddaar*

WHO CRYING? BOLLYWOOD PLAYBACK SINGER and pop performer Alisha Chinai, who began as *Babydoll*, went on to clone herself on Madonna — voice, numbers, image, T&A, and all — hit the Hindi pop charts with horny numbers as *Kaate nahin kat-te din yeh raat (Mr India)* and *Sexy, sexy, sexy (Khuddaar)*. Chinai who established herself with *Bombay Girl* and outrageous songs like *Ruk ruk ruk (Vijaypath)* and is well on her way to soaring heights (with a much-delayed mode change to 'more sober') with *Made in India*.

Wolf who? Hindi film music director Anu Malik, son of late master Sardar Malik (remem-



ber *Saaranga tere pyar mein*?), who got his big break with *Ek Jaan Hain Hum*, wild-fired the film industry with a brilliant *Sohni Mahiwal* and a *Mard* of a movie later Receded from the limelight thereafter (though did the music for Alisha's debut album, *Jaadu* in 1984 and then roared back in 1994, specially with *Chura ke dil mera (Main Khiladi Tu Anari)*, and a host of other lifted/adapted/original hits

So, what's all this about crying wolf and all that?

The latest reports on the recently divorced Alisha Chinai and her hitherto favourite music director Anu Malik speak of Malik sexually harassing Chinai and Chinai spilling the beans on him (or squealing, as they would prefer to put it within the industry) and threatening legal action

Surprise Number One Who squealed? Alisha Chinai? You can almost hear the tch-tch reverberating

Pooja Bhatt: Like a virgin?





Parveen Babi. Cut-off age, 14

in the studios of Bombay *Sau sau choohe khaa ke billi Haj ko chali*, they must surely be saying

Surprise Number Two Is Chinai taking her image-change too seriously? Isn't she the one who has, all her career, been crying herself hoarse that the Indian world can't handle her sexuality, that what she loves about her mentor, Madonna, is her sexual honesty, and all the rest are just in a teddy bears' picnic?

Surprise Number Three Wasn't there something raging between Chinai and Malik years back? And hadn't Chinai laughed off those queries with a keep-guessing chortle and then added that they were great pals, and he did make a pass now and then, but all in good fun and he knew that she would bonk him on the head if he ever tried to get serious Perhaps, she was just being 'professionally correct'

Surprise Number Four Malik did get serious, after all?

Surprise Number Five Hear the recent number from *Haathkadi* again (lyric Dev Kohli, the guy who has about the same time given 'family' lyrics as in *Hum Aapke Hain Koun !*) and try keeping your eyebrows in place at the irony

Tuned by Anu Malik and sung by Malik and Alisha Chinai, it has the lady making the aggressive moves with *LML, baby, LML* (Let's Make Love) and Malik rejecting the sexual harassment with *GTH, baba, GTH* (Go To Hell)

Then, Chinai gives him the full treatment in the last stanza
Kyon tu mujh se door hai,





Manisha Koirala (left): Looking up to godfather Subhash Ghai

Lagta hai majboor hai,
Is mein koi raaz hai,
Koi baat zaroor hai,
Baat koi aur hai, poochh ke rahoongi,
Bada kamzor hai, sab se kahoongi

Stung to the quick about his machismo, nay, potency, Malik retorts

Main tujh ko batlata hoon,
Rang apna dikhlata hoon,
Kas ke bahon mein tujhe,
Tere hosh udata hoon,
Jaayegi kahan tu, tohmat laga ke,
Baby tujhe deta hoon, chhutki baja ke

And the roles are reversed, now you have Malik charging, *LML, baby, LML* and Chinai turning coy with *GTH, baba, GTH!*

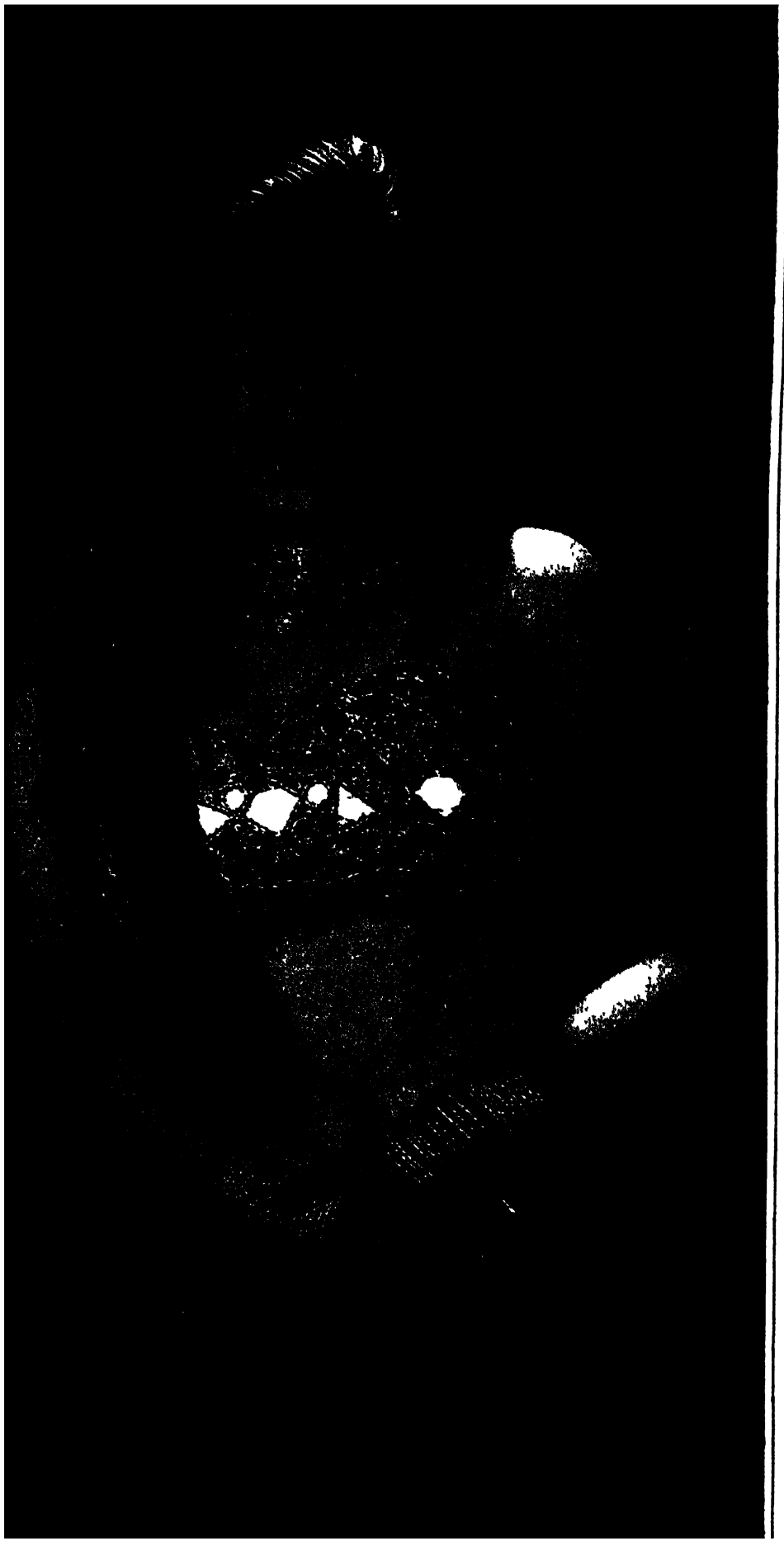
Surprise Number Six You've heard about life imitating art and art imitating life But here's art imitating art

Forget the image, or change of it, doesn't Alisha Chinai know which industry she is working in? Is she really a babydoll lost in the Bolly woods?

Certainly, at any given time, in any given circumstance, if what Alisha Chinai says is true, that was no way to treat a lady Anu Malik behaved exactly as the MCPs and Wolves in the industry do, and deserves fullest condemnation

But, in Hindi film lingo, *saanp ke bill mein koi haath daalta hai?* Let's put it another way can one hope to take a dive in a pool of muck and come out clean and shining

And this is an industry which aspirants enter with their eyes more open than a night watchman's, and can hardly pretend to hear 'BC' and 'MC' and think it refers to Bharatiya Chetna and



Mamta Kulkarni: Couldn't come cleaner.

Missionaries of Charity

No one is condoning what Anu Malik may have done, but having consciously stepped into a hornet's nest more than a decade ago, is there any point — in this pro-choice era — of screaming and running with the sting brigade chasing your behind?

Let's put it more bluntly you don't step into a boxing ring to have a bout with 200 Mike Tysons all at once and hope to come out with a nose covered with strawberry icecream

Surprise Number Seven Alisha Chinai did not know all this? She is a *Bombay Girl*, a today-woman who not only knows her onions, but her potatoes and lemons, too

It is an industry full of pots and kettles and an industry that thrives on, actually draws its lifeblood from, the black money and vessels It is *not* an industry about handspun cotton and computer graphics, it is all about tips and toes It is showbiz

Is it any surprise, then, that Alisha Chinai gets that kind of reaction even after accepting that Anu Malik did a very wrong thing?

Going further, the whole incident once again throws up that question of squealing in a world in which the casting couch is practically the only furniture visible or available

Just the other day, starlet Vaishnavi frankly admitted that the situation was such that most of them had to grace the casting couch and anyone denying its existence was lying Mamta Kulkarni, who went on record on the cover of *Stardust*, is no liar, however, and screeched in the headline that she was a virgin, and even looked it

A few years ago, Pooja Bhatt said point blank, "There were no virgins in the film industry," and promptly sent even staid newspaper assistant editors rapping out gleeful editorials

Even about 15 years ago, Parveen Babi had said much the same thing as Pooja Bhatt, except that she qualified "no one" with an age bar, "above 14" Sure, these things were not spoken about as boldly as in this MTV age, or even in the Parveen Babi era, and not at all in the days of the Nargises and Madhubalas and Meena Kumaris and Waheeda Rehmans and Hema Malinis and Mumtazes and Zeenat Amans and Jaya Pradas

And the question of 'honesty among thieves', much as one hates to even use that phrase

It is a very strange world there And when you wag a finger at one person





Rajesh Khanna (left) and Sabia: Not taking it lying down

in the industry, you are actually pointing a finger at the entire (*correction* almost entire) industry, male and female There, money has no colour and sex has no gender

So, it is not a sexist or feminist issue at all If Chinai files a police diary or a legal suit, she may get her justice (and peace), and we are all with her. But she can hardly expect any shock, outrage or cascading tearfalls (some cover stories, yes) from the general public

Alisha Chinai admits as much in her interview to another magazine, she admits having waited eight years and then eight months after each incident of molestation and violent passes "It takes guts and courage to turn the fear, the unnecessary guilt and the shame into something more productive. I thought no one would believe me. After all, it is his word against mine and after all my sexy videos and my raunchy image, there is the character evaluation clause that has gone against every single case filed But the fact remains that you are free to represent yourself or project yourself in any way you choose and be spared from the stress of worrying about whether you will be harassed [sic]"

If all that she says is true, yes, we are with her

But the moot point remains the film industry does not have one Anu Malik, it is full of Anu Maliks If you think you can fend for yourself in a world which is completely different from ours — and there have been a handful who have successfully done that — very good for you Most succumb for their own vested interest, some survive by continual evasive action, but hardly anyone cries wolf (literally) from the rooftops

That is where we talk of the Bollywood principle of 'honesty among thieves' ***Not to say, that that is the right principle.*** To talk about premarital and extra-marital affairs an bigamy and trigamy which are rampant in the industry would require more newsprint than produced in the whole of Korea

Is that merely the collective feverish imagination of gossip journalists? should not convince even those who think vanishing cream was invented by P C Sorcar Jr

Go through old issues of these m

A few years ago, Pooja Bhatt said point blank, 'There are no virgins in the film industry,' and promptly sent even staid newspaper assistant editors rapping out gleeful editorials. Even about 15 years ago, Parveen Babi had said much the same thing as Pooja Bhatt, except that she qualified 'no one' with an age bar, 'above 14'

MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER

Two perfect examples of Anu Malik-Alisha Chinai numbers, both written by Anwar Sagar They do not require translation, and would probably be unprintable then

Lu-lu-lu-lu-lu-lu-lu, li-
li-li-li-li-li,
luli-luli-luli-luli-luli...
Akeli main aayee, akeli main aayee,
Hoja tayyar hoja, hoja tayyar hoja,
Dulhan dulhe se bole,
Hoja tayyar hoja, hoja tayyar hoja.

Main teri rani, tu raja mera,
Main tera geet, tu baja mera,
Baja bajane ko, jam ke bajane ko,
Hoja tayyar hoja, hoja tayyar hoja.

Raat toofani hai, barah baje hain,
Thak thak ke log sare, sone lage hain,
Darwaza band hai, khidki khuli hai,
Khidki se aaja, sej saji hai,
Main teri rani, tu raja mera,
Main tera geet, tu baja mera,
De dhanadhan karne ko, de dhanadhan karne do,
Hoja tayyar hoja, hoja tayyar hoja

Ghungta utha ke, andhere mein saajan,
Chhanka de choodi, khanka de kangan,
Rakh de dil ko, dil ke oopar,
Maar ke kankar, tod de gaagar,
Main teri rani, tu raja mera,
Main tera geet, tu baja mera,
Dum dumadum karne ko, dum



dumadum karne do,
Hoja tayyar hoja, hoja tayyar hoja

Gore gaal pe til hai kala,
Khol de mere kamre ka tala,
Tere paas hai kamre ki chaabhi,
Kamre mein dekhenge picture Bobby,
Main teri rani, tu raja mera,
Main tera geet, tu baja mera,
Tan tanatan karne ko, tan tanatan karne do,
Hoja tayyar hoja, hoja tayyar hoja

(*Film* Gambler)

Kal saiyyan ne aisi bowling kari,
Ek over bhi main khel paayee nahin,
Chauthe hi gend mein out huee,
Paanchwa gend main jhel payee nahin

Pehla gend pada uska mehnga,
Tooti choodi, sarka lehnga,
Ball damdaar thi, tez raftaar thi,
Balla sambhale hue main tayyar thi,

Kya karti mohe woh jhatka laga,
Kya karti mohe woh jhatka laga,
Run koi bhi main jod paayee nahin.

Dooja ball jab usne mara,
Dola dola gora tan sara,
Ball choli pe padi, main saiyyan se ladi,

Bouncer gend piya daalo na ghadi ghadi,
Dhire dhire se bowling karo sajna,
Dhire dhire se bowling karo sajna,
Main sajni hoon koi lugai nahin

Teeje ball ne haalat bigaadi,
Julmi tha woh purana khiladi,
Ball ko ghisne laga, mujh ko takne laga,
Dil mera darne laga, woh moa hansne laga,
Phir kas ke jo maari gend usne,
Phir kas ke jo maari gend usne,
Aayee hichki main par chillaayee nahin

Chautha gend gajab ka dala,
Peechhey hat ke khud ko sambhaala,
Choodi toot gayee, bindiya chhut gayee,
Meri to gili udi, haye main thandi padi,
Bedardi ne out mujhe aisa kiya,
Bedardi ne out mujhe aisa kiya,
Der tak hosh mein main aayee nahin

Kal saiyyan ne aisi bowling kari,
Ek over bhi main khel paayee nahin,
Chauthe hi gend mein out huee,
Paanchwa gend main jhel payee nahin

(*Film* Vijaypath)

zines and you will find each and every story having come true eventually, including those vehemently denied and sometimes accompanied by violent reaction

Take the best examples of reports dismissed as 'rag journalism rubbish', even inviting legal suits, they all turned out to be cent per cent true

Take the case of Dilip Kumar's love for Kamini Kaushal or Madhubala or, much later, the messy tie-up with Asma Khan, take the case of Zeenat Aman's top-secret affair (and secret marriage) with Sanjay Khan and her being beaten up by him constantly, or Dharmendra's bigamous knot with Hema Malini; or Raj Kapoor's torrid thing with Vyjayanthimala till their common doctor friend, Dr Bali, rescued her; or Shammi Kapoor's dangerous liaisons with all 'new faces', specially his godfathering of Mumtaz. Or, Saira Bano's 'rebound marriage' with



Shobha De, then the editor of *Stardust*, put it best while answering a query if whatever they published was at least *half* true. She said: 'It is only 10 per cent of the truth. If we published anything more than that, it would be pornography.' And this was said sometime in the mid-Seventies, some 20 years ago!

Dilip Kumar after Rajendra Kumar let her down

Remember Rekha and Vinod Mehra's underground marriage? Or Sridevi and Mithun Chakraborty's registered marriage (the certificate of which, too, was unearthed by *Cine Blitz*)?

And we are not even talking about the staple diet of Bollywood as enshrined in the Three Musketeers' motto, and followed to a nicety in filmdom one for all and all for one!

Shobha De, then the editor of *Stardust*, put it best while answering a query if whatever they published was at least *half* true She said "It is only 10 per cent of the truth If we published anything more than that, it would be pornography " And this was said sometime in the mid-Seventies, some 20 years ago!

There have been certain cases of outraged industry women raising an alarm. Nowadays, they don't name names, but give enough evidence about whom they are talking. Nowadays, they are a lot bolder and since society too is a lot more 'tolerant' now, they can speak out and not incur damages to their careers

But nearly 20 years ago, one remembers a sensational interview, even by today's standards, by Imtiaz Khan, a zooming villain then, to *Cine Blitz* He talked in graphic detail about his unbridled libido and talked even more explicitly about Rekha, her likes, dislikes, and insatiable appetite for the hotter things of life

There was no response from Rekha herself, but even being a starlet and sex symbol in an MCPs' world, the industry did not spare Imtiaz He was quietly and quickly hounded out of the industry That 'honesty among thieves' syndrome working overtime, you know

Much later there was a charge of 'attempted rape' against top star Rajesh Khanna by newcomer Sabia, unproven and uncontested Forget the fact that Sabia was the daughter of Ameeta, a 'side actress' (as the second string used to be called) for decades, who ought to have known better than to expect anything else in Bollywood

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ADMISSION OPEN

Sure enough, Sabia rightaway became Sabia Who.

More recent memory is of Manisha Koirala making noises about her godfather, Subhash Ghai—an occupational hazard, so to speak, for all filmy godfathers—even while *Saudagar* was being readied for release. She had to virtually hibernate, but all was forgiven when she made some noises again, this time entirely in favour of Subhash Ghai, one of the industry's most powerful presences

Since then, of course, the all-over-the-place Koirala hardly has any time to make noises about anyone Things obviously have changed with the times, too.

With the *Made in India* album, Alisha Chinai also has it made, and soaring success will probably give her no time to make any noises, either.

Good for her she is talented, she is in the industry to do her job, she has the right to project the image she thinks is good for her and her career, and you just can't keep a good woman down

And good for everyone, too If in Anuland, one Malik stands accused of sexual harassment, and is proved to have been a big bad wolf, too bad for him, the industry and its image



Rekha: Playing with fire

And if Chinai teaches him an exemplary lesson, she might just help in cleaning up the stables, haystacks included That will have been the greatest contribution Alisha Chinai will have made to the film industry She will have converted the stables into an anti-septic clinic, a place of worshippable work, a place where the talented and serious professionals would be giving their all to their vocations only

Till then, as Ketan Mehta might have said, but did not *Oh Darling, Yeh Hai Bollywood* ■

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VIEWPOINT

DANGEROUS LIAISONS

***Joanna Coles** on how to take the extra out of extra-marital sex*

If only it were true that family values were in our genes That human beings really were a pair-bonding species, instinctively nesting together for life like geese or swans or doves

If only it were true, as Desmond Morris supposed in *The Naked Ape*, that the purpose of human sexuality is "to strengthen the pair bond and maintain the family unit" How much easier life would be

Instead, we appear to live in a state of natural and permanent sexual tension Our promiscuous nature wrestles with our public veneration of a monogamous social order

The good news, as Robert Wright surmises in his new book, *The Moral Animal, Evolutionary Psychology And Everyday Life* (Pantheon) is that we are at least programmed to fall in love

The bad news is that we are not designed to stay there

Wright's book has taken America by storm, making the cover story of the *Time* magazine, a sure sign of hitting a nerve in a country where 'quickie' divorce is now available at the press of a few buttons at a hole-in-the-wall machine

The author's central theme is the way evolution has shaped human love and his conclusion is not optimistic

The more sophisticated we become, the less we are likely to want to stay with one partner

"Men and women have always been designed to make each other miserable, but these days they are specially good at it," writes Wright Promiscuity tends to be determined more by the logistics of opportunity than by the level of moral fibre

Neither has the arrival of women in the workplace, capable of providing for themselves, dulled the allure of rich and powerful men

The hunter-gatherer's trophy catch has simply been replaced by the money and success of the super-achiever The more successful the man the more likely he is to change his partner and to increase the spread of his monogrammed genes

Or as J Paul Getty Senior married five times, once put it "A lasting relationship with a woman is possible only if you are a business failure"

But what does this mean for a culture based on monogamy? Are the sexes to remain in permanent combat, women hunkering down with the children while men window-shop, subconsciously driven by the fact "that each new mate offers a chance of pumping genes into the future"?

If most people's goal is to maintain a stable relationship is there not a way of fooling our genetic instincts of keeping our sexual impulses sufficiently satisfied to undermine the desire to stray?



The main enemy of monogamy is sexual boredom If we can find a way of alleviating it within the long-term relationships there are likely to be many more long-term relationships around and far fewer broken homes

But almost no serious research has been conducted on how to combat sexual boredom among cohabiting couples Terror of AIDS is not sufficient inducement to keep people from straying And anyway, it is a wholly negative one

David Goldmeier, a consultant at St Mary's Hospital, London, is one of the very few experts researching positive reasons for staying within the bounds of one sexual relationship

But it is tough going In spite of its name, the study of sexual boredom and how to banish it from the *boudoir*, is not sexy, at least not in terms of research budgets or well funded projects

Instead, the government prefers to spend money on limiting the damage of promiscuity and marriage breakup, while the study of its underlying causes are sadly ignored

Some prescient advice, based on hard research on how to maintain sexual interest in a long-term partner would surely add invaluably to our net national happiness. Is it not time that this crucial area is moved from the glib, quickfix solutions of the problem pages to the realm of serious research?

(The Guardian)

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



The moon's last quarter helps you to get work done, says Ganesha, but health could pose a few problems, specially as you will be in a constant state of tension July 19 and onwards, personal matters are also spotlighted Trips and collaborations keep you busy

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Sales, bargains, right from sari to suit, a car to a scarf, will have you agog with excitement This is very definitely a time to meet people and be cheerful Important deeds and documents will be signed, sealed and delivered That means you are being increasingly successful

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Sun-Saturn fine placing helps you to be at your inspirational best and leads to money inflow so to say Right timing, fruits of labour, homely comforts, good food and better company, is the way it goes There will be some criticism, but that's just the way life and people are Take it in your stride

Cancer

June 21—July 20



A clear concentration on journey, partnerships, demand, sales, profit, and your marked ability to put an idea and message across vividly Therefore, an interesting week of opportunities and challenges Remember, the crash-bang-kill of Wimbledon tennis and be a champion

Leo

July 21—August 21



Mars-Pluto force you to take mighty important decisions, prepare an action plan and count your pennies Monetary transactions will be fast and furious On the personal side, your feelings will surge Children, research, education will have a pivotal role in your life Expenses will multiply

Virgo

August 22—September 22



You will swing in extremities, be it moods, play, work or pleasure Fortunately, your friends and dear ones will adjust Try to go easy on them Personally, it is a time to connect with people, the more the better Home will require your time and energy You will manage to do justice

Libra

September 23—October 22



Focus on work will help you to cut your way through If dissatisfied, switch job, or add another string to your bow Transport and communication are the two wheels of success for you, and alliances at all levels are more than possible Venus' influence makes you beautify your house

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



You will sing like a bird, act like a warrior, relax like a tribal chief, and love like a king You will charm others and sweet talk them into the impossible, thanks to Pluto Alliances and friendships will be the name of the game News from a distant place will encourage you A week to go places

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Your words will have power, and if you are a poet, lawyer, doctor, actor, judge or religious head, so much the better House and assets will be available, and that should help you a great deal Invest wisely please Time to socialise and reach out to people and places

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



By using your considerable organising ability and investigatory powers, you will win the game All is not fate Remember, effort also counts New assignments and work come to you now In personal life, too, changes are clearly ordained A facelift for the home

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



New position and better situation is a distinct possibility for Aquarians, thanks to Sun-Saturn trine or superb placing Responsibility, work pressures, dealings with workers and colleagues, hiring/firing of people, keeping of pets, new projects, are the salient features

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Once again, job, romance, children, speculation, buying/selling and to top it, all creative ventures are strongly focalised, says Ganesha A breakthrough period for you, so work at it It would be wise to take expert advice in all money matters/transactions/selling Be valiant

BIRTHDAYS

July 16: Moon trines sun. This, says Ganesha, gives you pep, push and go. News from a distant place warms your heart. Get set to travel.

July 17: Sun trines Saturn, and should your personal horoscope be strong, you will progress by leaps and bounds. A birthyear to achieve the impossible.

July 18: Moon squares Mercury-Venus signifies that you will have to face difficulties, both personal and professional, but these can, and should be overcome by patience.

July 19: Mars trine Uranus gives you full scope to develop your ideas and thus achieve your maximum potential.

Opportunities for making money and having a wild fling.

July 20: This could be a year of wish-fulfillment, specially in your work area Your efforts will be recognised and that is saying a lot.

July 21: Love and appreciation, children and romance, wining and dining, comforts and luxury are just meant for you. This is a year to move forward.

July 22: Moon-sun sextile leads to tremendous emotional happiness and you could well be the envy of the world. Be magnanimous. Your achievements will be considerable.

[redacted] TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

[redacted] FLIGHTS

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted] AGARTALA					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC-742	1050	4 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1, 3, 5 7
[redacted] AIZAWL					
PF-705	0730	2 4, 6 7	PF 706	1510	2, 4 6 7
[redacted] BAGDOGRA					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1, 2 3 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 2 3 6 7
[redacted] BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
[redacted] BHUBANESWAR					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4, 6
VF-106	1735	1, 3	VF 105	1635	1 3
[redacted] BOMBAY					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI-306	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2-103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1830	daily
AI-681	2330	1			
[redacted] DELHI					
IC-263	0700	daily	S2-025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2-026	0845	1, 2 3 4 5, 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	4S-806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC-811	2055	1 3 5
S2-006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
[redacted] DIBRUGARH					
PF-737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
D2-181	1135	1 5 7	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
[redacted] DIMAPUR					
IC-257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
[redacted] GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
PF 735	0730	1	D2 183	1620	2 4 6
D2 181	1135	1 5 7	IC 230	1620	daily
D2 183	1135	2 4 6	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5

[redacted] FLIGHTS

[redacted] AMMAN

RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted] HYDERABAD					
S2-023	1045	1, 3 5	S2 024	1525	1, 3, 5
IC 777	1615	1, 5 7	IC-778	2115	3, 5, 7
IC 769	1615	2, 4 6	IC-770	2120	2, 4, 6
[redacted] IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3, 5, 7	IC 256	1250	3, 5, 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC-257	1520	2 4
[redacted] JORHAT					
IC-213	0910	3, 7	IC 213	1315	3 7
[redacted] LILABARI					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
[redacted] LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1, 3 5	IC 811	2005	1 3 5
[redacted] MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	1 2 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1740	1 2 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
[redacted] NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
[redacted] PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
[redacted] PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
[redacted] RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1805	2, 4 7
[redacted] SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6, 7
[redacted] SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2, 6
[redacted] TEZPUR					
IC 213	0910	3 7	IC 213	1315	3 7
[redacted] TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
[redacted] VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
[redacted] VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
[redacted] ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

[redacted] INTERNATIONAL

[redacted] AMSTERDAM

KL 876	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7

KB-105	0850	2, 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 5, 7	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 5, 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5, 7

IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-696	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5

BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1 2 3, 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1, 5 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2 3, 5, 6 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5

RA-214	1030	4, 7	RA-213	0945	4, 7
IC-747	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-748	1455	1, 3, 5

BA-142	2040	3, 7	BA-143	1450	

SU 538	1755	4	SU-537	1555	

KB-106	1105		KB 105	0810	2 6
KB-106	1325				

SQ-415	2345	2 5	SQ-416	2230	2, 5

LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	

AI-306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	6 45	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7-35	3006
3003	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	5-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16-15	2382
2303	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs , Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23-30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2308
2019	6-20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
2309	22-00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	2310
5049	23-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11-35	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9-30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16-05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	6 30	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7-55	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7 55	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 30	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only		

Up	Time	Sealdah	Time	Dn
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6-55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8-20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-25	2859
2021	6-50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21-00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16-20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12-10	2842
7003	8 10	**Falaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19-40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13-45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21-25	8112
8005	20-55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Nagpur	8 30	8410
2821	6-15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15-10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16-10	—
	11 05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10-45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (a Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22-15	—
6316	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakha panam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13-45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13-45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THE DREAM COTTAGE

It is many years since I left Maplewood and I wouldn't be surprised to hear that the old cottage has disappeared. Already, during my last months there, the trees were being felled and a new road being blasted through the mountains It was going to pass just below the cottage

There were no plans to demolish the building but it was already shaky and full of cracks, and a few more tremors such as those produced by passing trucks, drilling machines and bulldozers must eventually bring it down .

When I moved in, it had been nestling there among the oaks for over 70 years It had become part of the forest. Birds nestled in the eaves, beetles bur owed in the woodwork A jungle cat lived in the attic Even during my residence, some of these denizens remained And I was there for- . how long? Nine or ten years, I'm not sure It was a timeless sort of place Even the rent was paid once a year, at a time of my choosing

I first saw the cottage in the late spring When the surrounding forest was at its best — the Himalayan oaks and maples in new leaf, the oak leaves a pale green, the maple leaves red and gold and bronze, turning dark green as they matured Our maple is quite different to the North American maple — only the winged seed-pods are similar, twisting and turning in the breeze as they fall slowly to earth, so that the Garhwalis call it the Butterfly Tree

There was one very tall, very old maple above the cottage and this was probably the tree that gave the house its name. A portion of it was blackened where it had been struck by lightning but the rest of the tree lived on, a favourite haunt of woodpeckers The ancient, peeling bark seemed to harbour large numbers of tiny insects, and the woodpeckers would be tapping away all day trying to dislodge them

A steep path ran down to the cottage During heavy rains it would become a water course and the earth would be washed away to leave it very stony and uneven I first took this path to see Miss Bean, an indomitable old lady who had been left behind when the British left India She managed on a very small income in two small rooms on the ground floor

It was she who told me that the rest of the cottage was to let provided she could remain in the portion below Her rooms were reached by a flight of steps which also took the rush of water when the path was flooded

Miss Bean was a spry 82 who could get up the steps without any help from me She led me into her L-shaped sitting room There were two large windows and when I pushed open the first of these the forest seemed to rush upon me

The maples, oaks, rhododendrons and an old walnut, moved closer as though out of curiosity A branch tapped against the window frame, while, from below, from the ravine, the deep-throated song of a whistling thrush burst upon me

I told Miss Bean I would take the place She grew excited It must have been lonely for her all those years with the rest of the cottage lying empty, and only an old watchman and a mongrel dog for company Her own large house had been mortgaged to a local money-lender when she was left high and dry after Independence Her brother and sisters were long gone "I'm the last Bean in India," she announced proudly

It was all done on an impulse — the decision to give up my job in Delhi, find cheap accommodation in a hill-station and return to freelance writing It was a dream I had for some time and lack of money made it difficult to realise. But then, I knew that if I was going to wait for money to come I might have to wait until I was old and grey and full of sleep I was 35, still young enough to take a few risks If the dream was to become a reality, this was the time to be doing something about it.

I'm not sure what led me to Maplewood Miss Bean said it was probably preordained Or was it just chance? Chance gives and takes away and gives again It was the first place I saw and I did not trouble to look elsewhere The location was far from ideal The cottage faced east and stood in the shadow of the hill, so that while it received the early morning sun, it went without the evening sun

There was no view of the snows and none of the plains The forest below the cottage seemed full of possibilities and those large windows probably decided the issue In my romantic frame of mind, I was susceptible to magic casements opening wide

I would make a window seat and lie there on a summer's day writing poetry . But long before that could happen, I was opening a tin of sardines and sharing them with Miss Bean

And I did write a lot during those years at Maplewood, stories, poetry, books for children New people came into my life The forest grew around me And the old cottage was kind to a struggling writer.

(Sanctuary Features)

There was one very tall, very old maple above the cottage and this was probably the tree that gave the house its name. A portion of it was blackened where it had been struck by lightning....The ancient, peeling bark seemed to harbour large numbers of tiny insects

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Gaps

I lost the war
without firing a shot
Was it a war, a battle, or just a
skirmish?

I hung my head in shame,
but when I looked up
there was no one to take me
hostage,
Was I fighting a shadow-warrior
so long?

I only saw graves
whirling before my spintop eyes,
even as my heart
turned into a blooming
poppyfield

I remained a mute witness,
since for me
wars are gaps
which gossip with each other,
just amused onlookers,
while words wrestle with spaces
on the mud-pit of plain paper,
the wrestler's blue veins showing
through their interlocked muscles
as they grab each otheer,
not in summer rage
but out of winter ague

Subhojit Kar

The Hermit

The silver-haired, weathered
hermit
sits crosslegged on the lotus
As the glistening spray of the
waterfall
Cascades gently around him
And he meditates,
Under the cloudless blue sky
Gaze turned unseeingly towards
the dazzling sun
Counting his prayer beads
To find peace for me

The bridge of loneliness
Can be crossed only in my mind
In the treasure trove of my
memories,
Who have lived and faded away
from me, my heart is made up all
those

I am the hermit
locked into solitude
Lost in the realms of reality
Isolated from the world
And yet light years away from
eternity

Amrita Ganguly

Lost

The letter turns up every now and
then
When I clear the heaps of paper
That articulate portions of my life

The handwriting startles with its
familiarity
And after reading the now irrelev-
ant details
I cry, friend, why didn't you write
Your address on the letter instead
of
On the envelope which I have lost?

Sometimes, I wake up guilty,
Have I done it deliberately?
By destining that innocuous piece
of paper
To the dustbins of obscurity
Have I just conveniently
extinguished
Something that doesn't fit in
anymore
Into the scheme of things that is
me today?

V.Jayaram

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

GENES AND GENESIS

Are men and women that different? Old-fashioned feminists said human nature was one, but now 'difference feminists' say the opposite

Besides them are a whole body of Western sociobiologists who say the sexes differ so much they can be treated almost as separate species.

The aim of both, in genetic terms, is to have the maximum number of surviving offsprings But they do so through mutual exploitation

If you believe in the evolution of species, then man is also a creature shaped by the same forces as fruitflies, gibbons and gorillas. We have brains which are extremely flexible in responding to our environment — but our environmen. is not the sum of our being

Much is inherited through our genes These are the genes which have, through natural selection, evolved in a remote past when there were no condoms, computers or internal combustion engines

We are still carrying around instincts shaped in our ancestral environment but are not necessarily conscious of it Sexual attraction, for example, is something felt, not decided Emotions, say the new followers of Darwin, are merely evolution's executioners carrying out the orders of our genes

The key difference in our natures, they say, comes from the difference in our physical make-up. Females have a shorter reproductive life, few eggs and can only produce one infant a year

Males, are, well, the opposite. They therefore have to compete for comparatively scarce female resources. Females, on the other hand, have cause to be choosy about their mates as they have to invest a lot of their energy into producing and caring for a child

Hence, not just in humans, but in nature as a whole, males are almost always the wooers

They are also far less choosy Prostitution and pornography, for example, fill an overwhelmingly male, not female, need (In *The Evolution of Human Sexuality*, Donald Symons provided more evidence for this by looking at cultures around the globe, and finding that the general principle was that men tend to find sex with a wide variety of partners an extraordinarily appealing concept)

But evolution has given men genes for fidelity too Unlike in most other species, mankind has developed a high level of male parental investment This may have been because in our ancestral environment, people with better developed brains did better, and two parents gave more input to their children. both in terms of food and eduaction

Therefore, it was in our genes' interest to evolve love, both between a man and a woman and between them and their children

Man, then, has a dual nature — to procreate by having many partners, and to invest years with a wife or wives In other words, he is built for treachery To indulge in the former, he has to deceive the latter

Feminist sociobiologists, however, argue that women too are designed for deceit, though to a more limited extent In most mammals, female-ovulation is very apparent, in humans it's not

This crypto-ovulation could have evolved partly to allow a woman to cuckold her mate and still persuade him to bring up her child as his own (This could also account for the nature of male jealousy, the extreme emotion provoked by the concept of the sexual act of his mate with another man

The nature of female jealousy is slightly different Her genes, say Darwinists, require her to monopolise a man so that he invests fully as a parent, and her main underlying fear would not be so much of a simple physical act, traumatic though that might be, as of desertion caused by her mate's deep emotional relationship with another woman)

But if monogamy is an obstacle to a man in particular expressing his full nature, why is monogamy so prevalent in societies dominated by men? In a way, it isn't Nine hundred and eighty out of 1154 societies for which anthropologists have data, have permitted more than one wife, but in nearly half of these, polygamy was occasional and not the norm The answer could be that most men are better off with one wife

Monogamous societies where wealth is unevenly distributed are where males benefit from dowry Dowry generally isn't a fe ture of polygamous societies. Most importantly, polygamy means less wom en to go round. In fact, it has been argued that, in contrast to men, most wom en are worse off with monc gamy as being the co-wife of a man with wealth or sta tus, may be genetically a better bet than being stuck with poor ne're-do-well.

It may also be a better be than divorce or desertion. In occasionally polygamous societies, the women who do have a monogamous marriage have more men to choose from and can marry above themselves

The unmarried men left over are a threat to themselves and to society Here too, there is a big difference between male and female natures Females, say sociobiologists, pacify males For example, an unmarried man between 24 and 35 is three times as likely to commit murder as a married one He is also more likely to rob and to rape

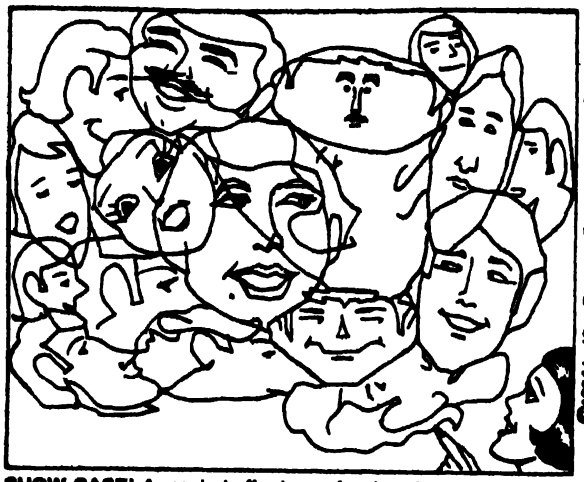
A polygamous nation, where many low-income males remain mateless, is not a place any of us would like to live in Ironically, this is the society of the West — although instead of having several wives at one time, men monopolise women one after the other in a socially destructive 'serial monogamy'.

Studying human evolution cannot tell us what is wrong or right, but it seems to show how deep differences go and perhaps this knowledge can make life, and our limitations, easier to understand

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



SHOW CASE! A movie buff, above, fancies she sees some 18 personalities in this drawing. Just how many do you see?

PENNY ANTE! If a ten-penny nail is three inches long, and a six-penny nail is two inches long, how long is a two-penny nail? No tricks here, folks. How quickly can you nail down the answer?

A two penny nail is one inch long



GROCERY LIST SCRAMBLE

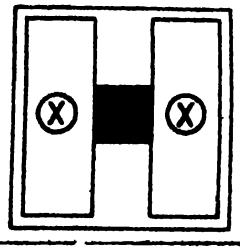
MOM wasn't fooled one bit when Junior playfully scrambled names of 20 items of her grocery list. How many of them can you identify?

1 Barde 11. Jyiel
2 Rloel 12. Yutorg
3 Mkli 13 Ceeehe
4 Sarug 14 Lectute
5 Fuoir 15 Basaann
6 Ceofef 16 Alpeep
7. Bretut 17. Ceyrel
8 Jiceu 18 Sugasea
9 Calere 19 Ciosoke
10 Reci 20 Scanks

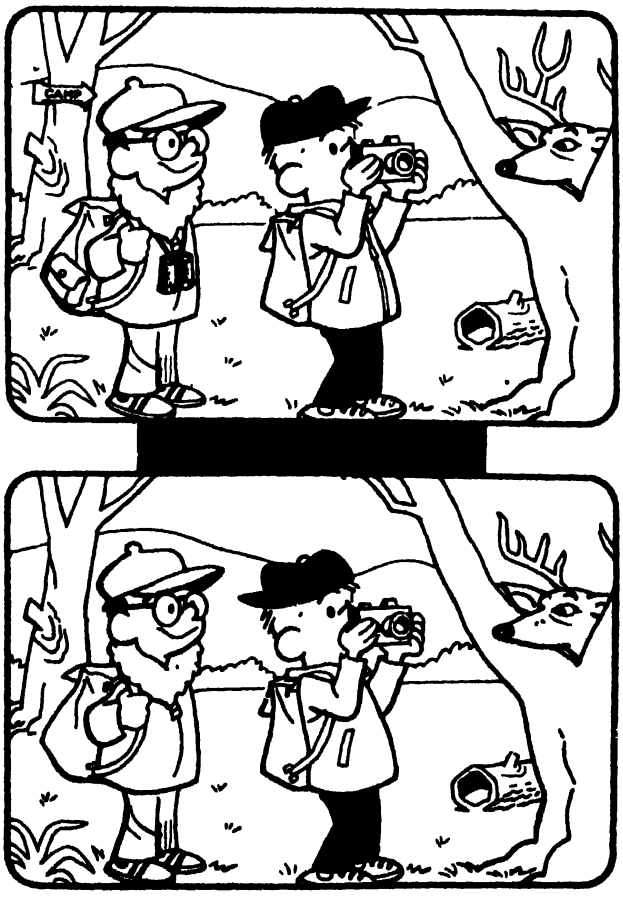
1 Bread 2 Rolls 3 Milk 4 Sugar 5 Flour 6 Coffee 7 Butter 8 Juice 9 Cereal 10 Rice 11 Jelly 12 Yogurt 13 Cheese 14 Lettuce 15 Bananas 16 Apples 17 Celery 18 Sausage 19 Cookies 20 Snacks

H-FRAME! You can have some fun with the curious H-frame diagram at right. Make some copies, pass them around, and then challenge your friends to draw a line from X to X without touching any of the boxes (lines) in-between.

To show how it's done, simply place a finger over the black square in the middle, and draw a line from one X, up and over your finger, to the X on the other side of the diagram. It's that easy.



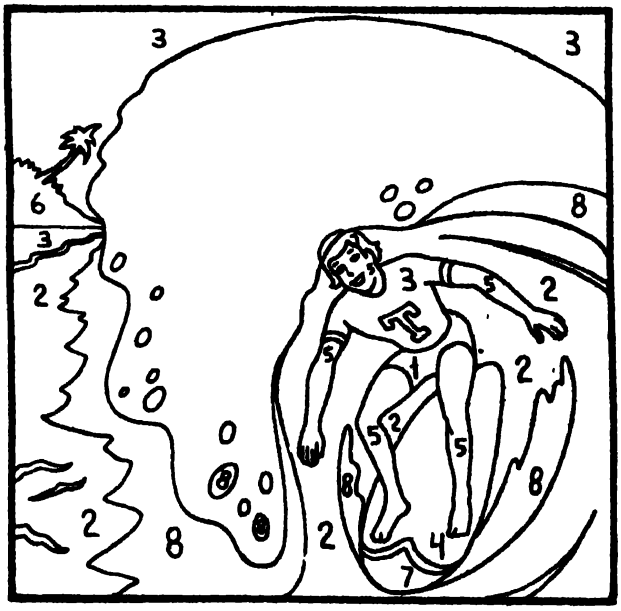
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

DIFFERENCES 1 Sign is missing. 2 Pocket is missing. 3 Binoculars are missing. 4 Cap is reversed. 5 Zipper is missing. 6 Antler is different.

FUNSPOT



SURF TRIP! Catch that wave, and ride that board! Apply the following colors neatly. 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

POLLSTER

- - - - - - - -

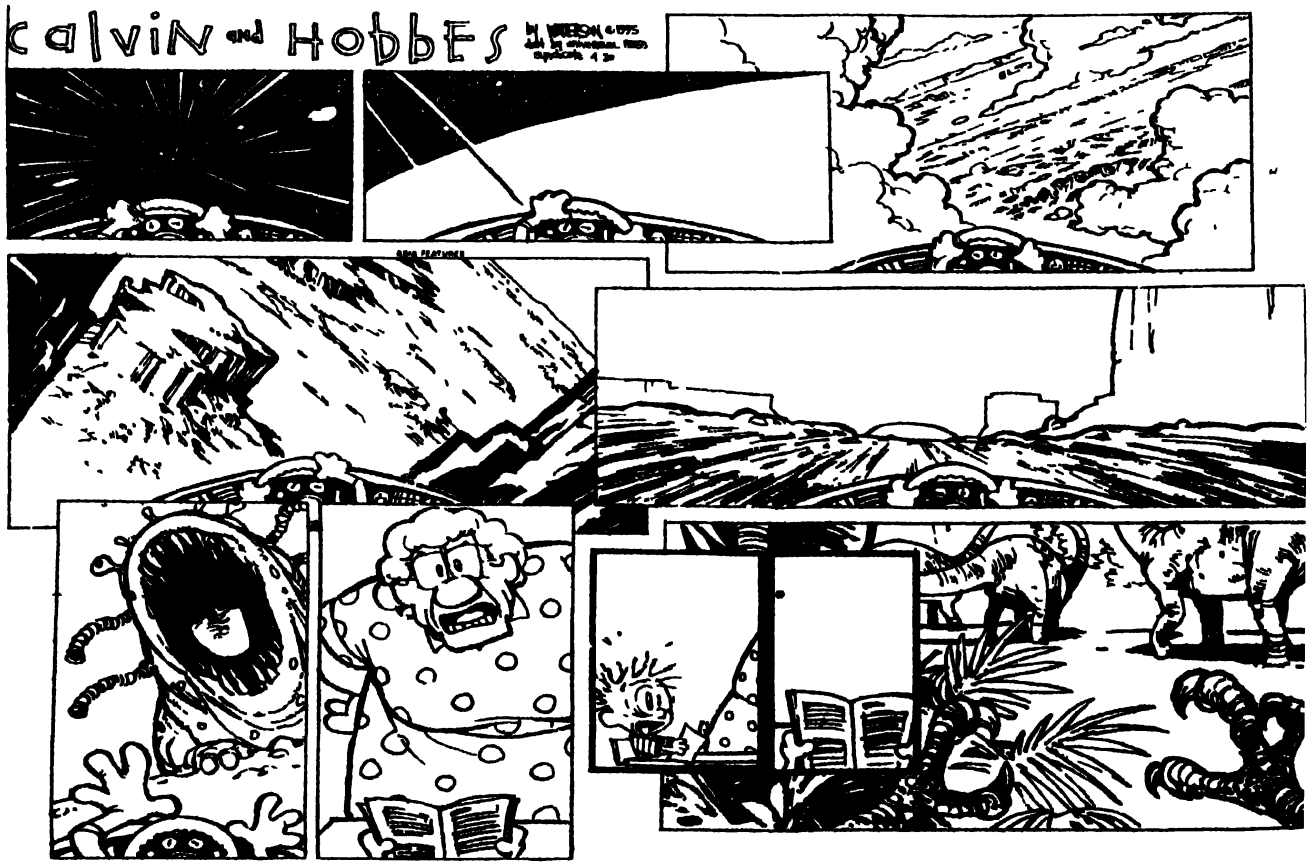
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

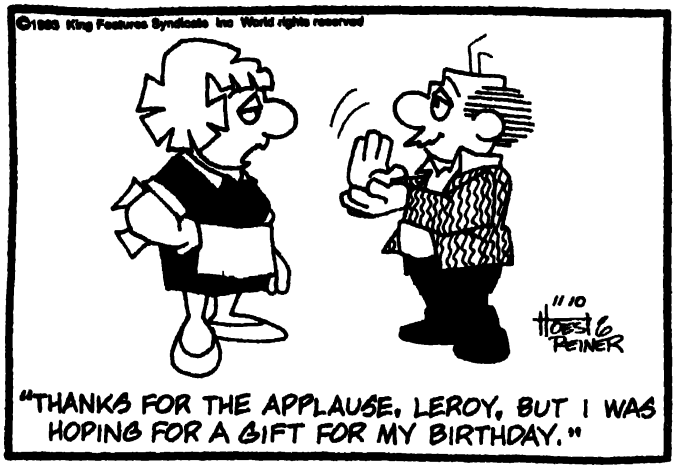
ARCHIE

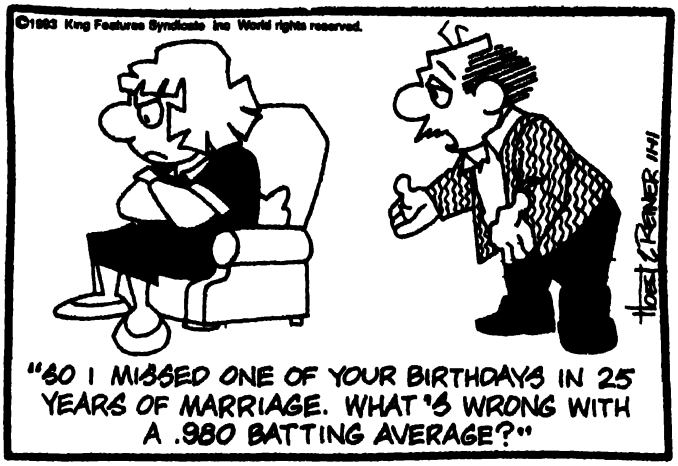


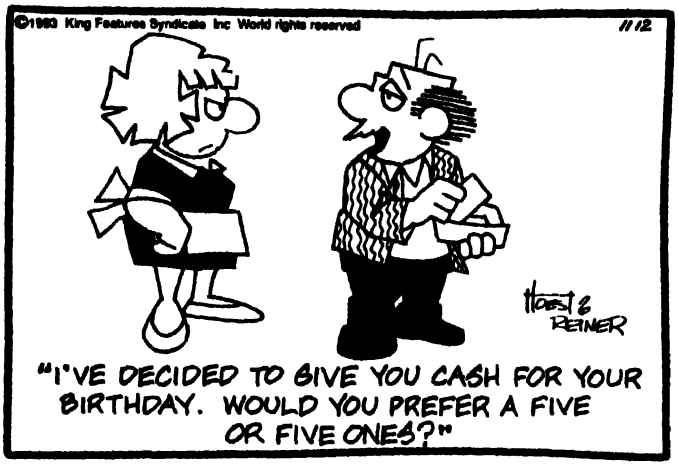
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

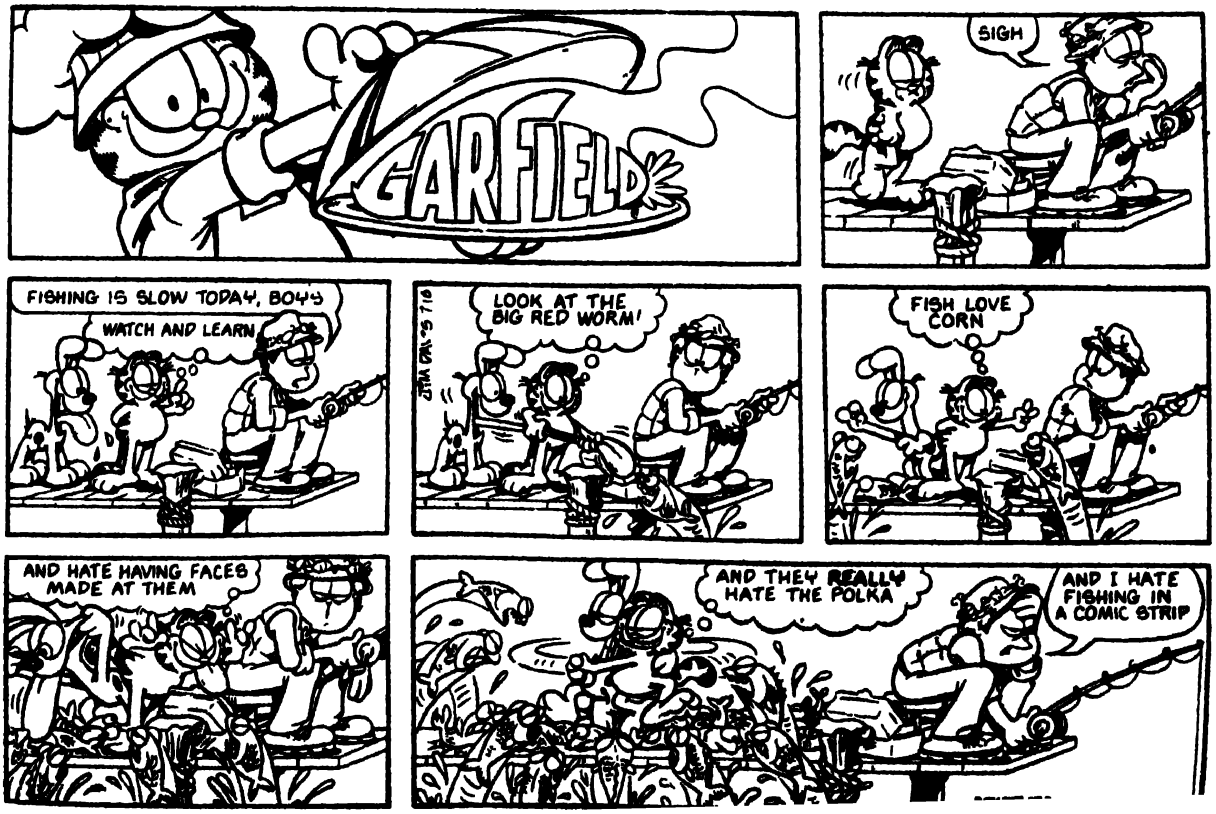






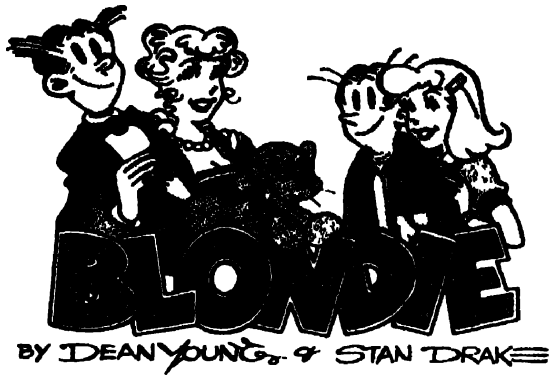


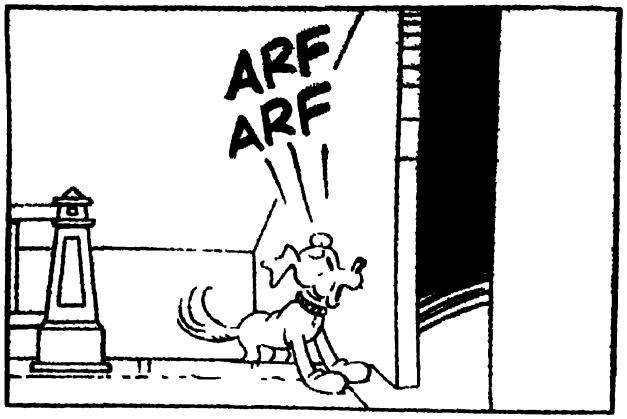
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

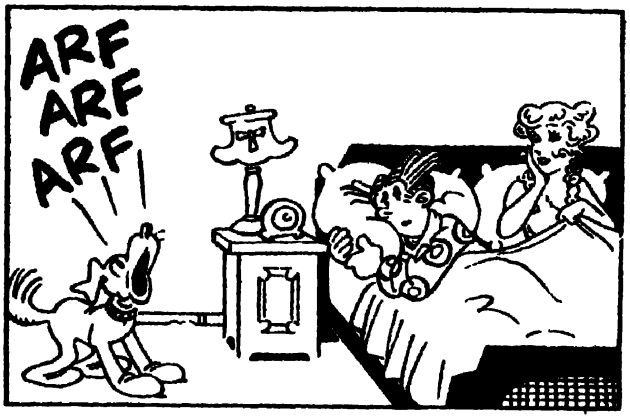


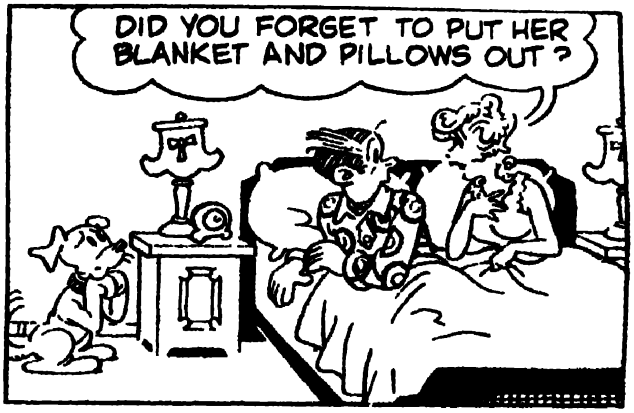
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

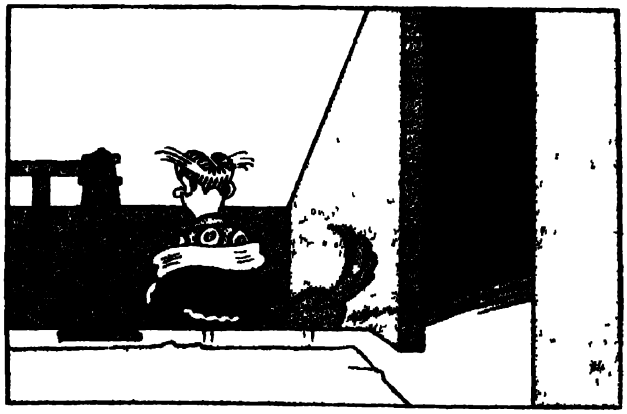






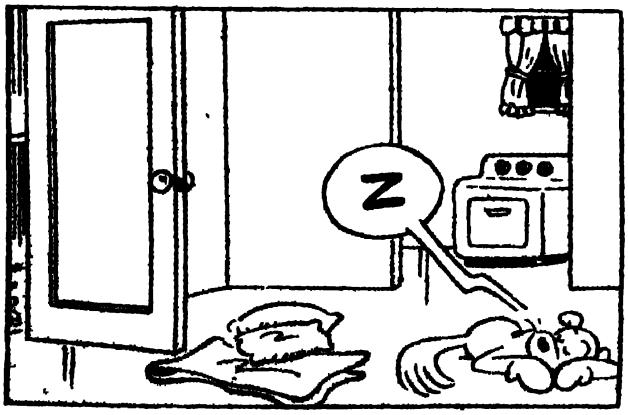












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PIN UP

STAR PLUS (AND MINUS)

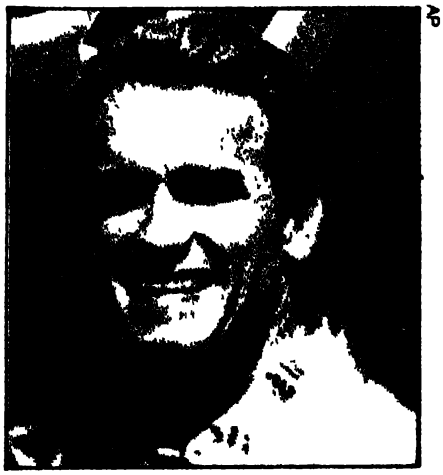
Who is the hot favourite in Hollywood? ***Mike Ellison*** *finds out*

Pity Britain's Alan Bates. There he is, flogging away in films by Claude Chabrol, Sam Shepard and Dennis Potter, but it does not seem to make much difference No matter what he does, Bates is less likely to turn heads in the Hollywood boardrooms than Glenda Jackson, his co-star in Ken Russell's 1969 film, *Women In Love*

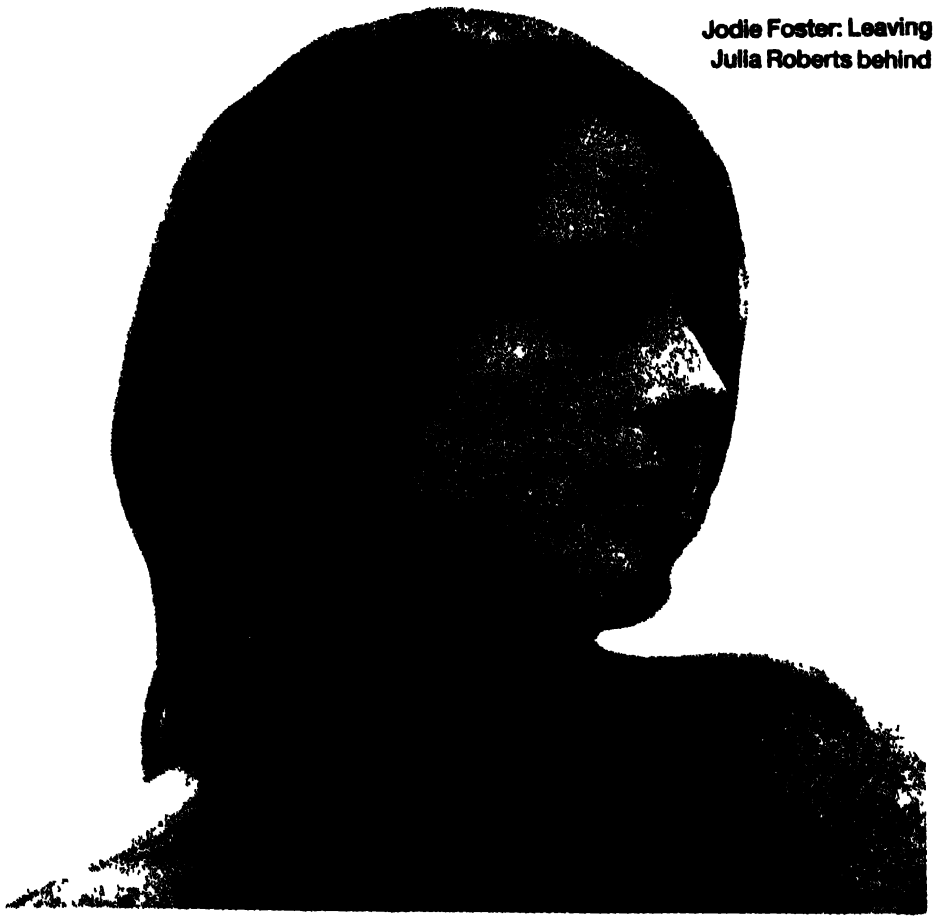
And she does not even make movies any more, restricting her performances instead to the House of Commons. Simon Callow's role in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* has not exactly propelled his career into a different orbit either. He has precisely the same standing as Jackson in Star Power '95, *Hollywood Reporter*'s new survey of bankable actors

The film trade paper asked international distributors, producers, sales agents, talent agents and studio executives to give marks out of 100 to the stars on whose names alone they can rely for a film's international success.

Bates gets 25, Callow and Jackson 26 each. The A-plus list predictably enough shows Tom Cruise, Harrison Ford, Mel Gibson, Tom Hanks and Arnold Schwarzenegger on maximum points, but Jim Carrey draws level with Kevin Costner (on 97) on the basis of one surprise hit, *Ace Ventura Pet Detective*, and two other successes, *The Mask* and *Dumb and Dumber*



Schwarzenegger: Muscles that sell



Jodie Foster: Leaving Julia Roberts behind

There are no A-plus women, and Julia Roberts' tally of points has fallen for the first time in four years, making the name of Jodie Foster the female one that film professionals most want to hear. But Roberts is still well up the A-list, along with Demi Moore and Sharon Stone

Emma Thompson, Kim Basinger, Glenn Close, Sigourney Weaver, Anjelica Huston and Holly Hunter all slid down the ratings Sigrid Ann Davidson a Cinevox International sales executive, said there were "not enough women writers, directors and producers out there — films like *Little Women* just don't get made as much any more".

Wendy Palmer, head of CiBy Sales in London, said "It was a terrible year for women There were hardly any mainstream movies that offered decent female roles *a la Fried Green Tomatoes* or *The Piano*."
Four Weddings helped Hugh Grant to the extent that he leapt by 32 points

and found a place on the A-list, an elevation which was matched only by Brad Pitt, who rose by one point fewer. But Grant and the next most bankable European actor, Daniel Day-Lewis, have some way to go before they can challenge the enduring Sean Connery on 94 points

Kenneth Branagh heads the B-plus chart even though Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* received a less than rapturous welcome last year, and Liam Neeson, who has just opened in *Rob Roy*, comes just behind Branagh thanks to the success of *Schindler's List*

More actors from outside the US are getting a slice of the action because the value of the European market now equals that of the American and because Hollywood producers fear that quotas may be introduced over the next year at France's initiative

John Travolta's part in *Pulp Fiction*, which won the *Palme d'Or* in Cannes last year, brought him back from the cinematic dead and secured a place on the B-plus list But other than Travolta, the actor who benefited most from the movie was not Samuel L Jackson, Bruce Willis or Tim Roth, but its director, Quentin Tarantino

The boy genius is sandwiched between Anjelica Huston and Madonna on the B-list, although his only screen appearance since *Pulp Fiction* was a cameo in *Sleep With Me*

Black actors have the toughest time breaking into the international



Demi Moore: $12 million star

market, specially in Japan One sales executive said "If Blacks want to make inroads into the global marketplace they have to make movies with universal themes in them."

Bonnie Voland, an international consultant, said: "When Black film-makers make films for Black audiences, it really isn't fair to say those films aren't getting their just due if they just play to Blacks."

Whoopi Goldberg is considered to bear this out because she breaches three barriers. "She's a female superstar in a man's world," said Kathy Morgan of Kathy Morgan International "She's an African-American actor who is strongly accepted outside the US, which is rare And she's comedic when the old saying goes that comedians don't travel overseas She's a very unusual superstar"

Goldberg is being paid $20 million to make two forthcoming Buena Vista movies, but that still does not match Demi Moore She is getting $7 million for *The Juror*, which is being made at the moment, but $12 million for *Striptease* — or, put another way, it costs $5 million to persuade Moore to take off her clothes

The intense light emitted by the stars is always changing, so there is always room for the bright newcomer Take O J Simpson With 36 points he was rated higher than Burt Reynolds and on the same level as Faye Dunaway But OJ is not available for a while

(The Guardian)

NUMBER WISE

When it comes to popularity in India, none can beat Amitabh Bachchan and Madhuri Dixit yet, says ***Susmita Banerjee***

He is neither young nor angry anymore But he is still the No 1 And the actor men, women and children still love to adore, admire and idolise.

Amitabh Bachchan, who towered over the Bombay film industry for nearly a quarter century, earning such sobriquets as 'megastar' or a 'one-man industry', and with more than 85 films to his credit, is still Bollywood's most popular actor, established a recent survey.

Amazing how with just one release in 1994 (*Insaniyat*) Amitabh's popularity could zoom past that of the hot shot, disco-rapping brigade of Akshay Kumar, Shah Rukh Khan, Sunil Shetty and Ajay Devgan.



Akshay Kumar: Turning women crazy



Amitabh Bachchan: Going strong at 53



Madhuri Dixit: *Hum aapke hi hain*

Is the audience getting tired of the college-going, prancing-romancing hero? Even at 53, the Bachchan magic is as potent as ever.

But poor jumping jack Shah Rukh Khan! Dame Fortune deserted him, quashing all his dreams of being at the top Going by the mega success of *Baazigar* and *Darr* he should have been flying high and the most saleable actor in tinsel town But it seems people still love to watch Amitabh in action Tch, Tch Ajay Devgan and Jackie Shroff may stop flashing their fists of fury.

Amitabh has even dwarfed the popularity of *mast, mast* Akshay Kumar who has had women swooning over him ever since the release of *Mohra* and *Yeh Dillagi* But Akshay can take heart Women (and by last reports, also gays) blush at his SA

Like Amitabh Bachchan, Madhuri Dixit's popularity has also not waned. On the wrong side of 20 and in the industry for nearly a decade now, Madhuri remains the undisputed queen of the silver screen, her No 1 position unchallenged by sizzling newcomers like Kajol, Manisha Koirala, Raveena Tandon and Mamta Kulkarni



Manisha Koirala: Madhuri in the making

Hats off to this *dhak dhak* actress — Husain's current dream girl — for grooming herself to look more and more beautiful in every film she makes and for maturing into such a sensitive and fine actress

Industry pundits even wonder if she is a female Amitabh in the making for she is the only heroine whose name can make a difference to the price of a film.

Hum Aapke Hain Koun ! is still running to packed houses and her *derriere*-swinging *Didi tera devar deewana* has become a national craze.

But who will take off from Madhuri? Karishma? She is way down in the popularity chart And so is Kajol and Raveena and Manisha (though this was before *Bombay*.)

The grapevine has it that Madhuri commands a market rate of Rs 51 lakh — making her the highest paid actress in Indian cinema.

There is no way 'K-K-K-Kiran' Juhi Chawla (with five flops last year) can touch the Dixit damsel's popularity. So move over Sridevi, Juhi Chawla and others, Madhuri is here to reign. ■

In

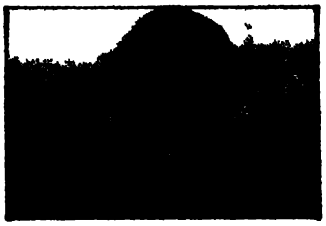
THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

Don Juan De Marco: About a young man in a mask (Johnny Depp), who has arrogated to himself the role of Don Juan, seducing every woman in sight.

He is put under the care of a psychiatrist (Marlon Brando) who tries at first to free the youth of his illusions and then begins to wonder whether there might be something to it.

Director Jeremy Leven, himself a former shrink, gives the film a comic treatment



Depp's cool and cute ways are enjoyable, and Brando, realising there is fun to be had there, has a whale of a time, specially in scenes with Faye Dunaway, who plays his wife.

He takes the movie to heights that match his impressive stature.

FASHION

Coming Klein: Fashion houses in Paris are swooning over a recent Calvin Klein presentation which has a model



It is stringed together at the neckline and falls ankle-deep in neatly pleated folds, flowing on to what looks like rooms of beautiful fabric.

Short, blonde hair, curled and swept at the side, leaves the neck long and inviting. The gown's rich satin colour is an exquisitely pleated ivory evening gown.

For someone whose fashions fit well with the American emphasis on physical fitness, the gown is meant to emphasise the luscious figure of the wearer.

BOOKS

Reeling details: This tome, *Encyclopaedia of Indian Cinema*, is the most comprehensive on the world's largest entertainment industry yet, and quite obviously a labour of love by Ashish Rajadhyaksha and Paul Willeman.

With over 1,460 entries on key films and with over 750 entries on key people and institutions with their filmographies, it covers every aspect of the industry one could possibly think of. From the student of cinema to the dilettante to the trivia buff, this book covering cinema from 1896 to 1992 is worth every single rupee of the price (Rs 995).

Having said all this, there is room for improvement: the authors show meticulous attention even in 'aka' entries, fascinatingly as 'Shankarsinh Raghuwanshi and Jaikishen Dayabhai Panchal' for music directors Shankar-Jaikishen, but do not give all of them (e g. Mithun Chakraborty's real name being Gauranga or Sridevi's full name being Anjanayelu) Ditto for spellings of names (Shekhar Kapur, Kamalahasan, Asha Bhosle) misspelt even by film buffs, but slipping on others (e g Nurjehan, Ajay Devgun).

A lot of important names are missing. you have Jahnu Barua, but not Jamuna Barua; K Bhagyaraj but not Bhagyashree; the Anand brothers, but not Suneil or Ketan; the Kapoor brothers, but not Randhir or Rishi or Rajeev or Karan or Kunal or Sanjna; the Mangeshkars but not Usha or Meena, you have the national award winning actress Sharada, but not the Shankar-Jaikishen singer-find, Sharda, Kaifi Azmi and Shabana, but not Shaukat or Baba, Balraj Sahni but not Parikshit; Dharmendra but not Sunny Deol.

Worse is the almost total ignore great cinematographers have been given. You do have cinematographer-directors like Babubhai Mistri, but not Fali Mistry or Jal Mistry, who were institutions in their own right.

Appalling is the inclusion of top actresses from Madhubala to Meena Kumari to Madhuri Dixit, but — can you believe it — not Mumtaz! Nor, for that matter *any* of the Khans, from Feroz/Sanjay/Akbar/Sameer to the current crop of Salman/Aamir/Shah Rukh.

For that matter, though it is updated till 1992, a whole body of contemporary names are missing none of the current superstars or the music directors (Anand-Milind, Nadeem-Shravan, etc), lyricists (Sameer, etc), playback singers (Kumar Sanu and gang) merit attention, it seems.

In such a voluminous undertaking, such gaps will be there and will have to be filled. But despite them, Oxford University Press (in association with the National Film Archives of India) and the British Film Institute have done meritorious service.

LIFESTYLE

Scottish heritage: **The House of Seagram, makers of brands like Royal Salute and Chivas Regal, has launched Passport, reportedly the world's fastest growing Scotch.**



Available in an attractive pack displaying the distinctive Scottish coat of arms label, it is priced at Rs 800 for 750 ml bottle (Rs 575 in Calcutta).

ALLA RAKHA RAHMAN

ad jingle-maker who began his [illegible] comfortably overtaken his mentor. His [illegible] led to an unprecedented and unparalleled [illegible] last count, at least seven songs have been redone on the Kasturi Tilak number from the film [illegible] counting the official dubbed version in Tamil and Telugu. He is also credited with [illegible] for audio rights for film songs hiked [illegible] to shoot up every time Rahman agrees, on his terms [illegible] to comment on quite a few questions.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
I don't think there is any.
What is your greatest fear?
God.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mother, sister and the *pir* who converted me to a Muslim.
What do you dislike most in yourself?
Laziness.
What is your most precious possession?
The people who love me.
What objects do you [illegible]
A number 9 comb.



What is your favourite word?

Holiday

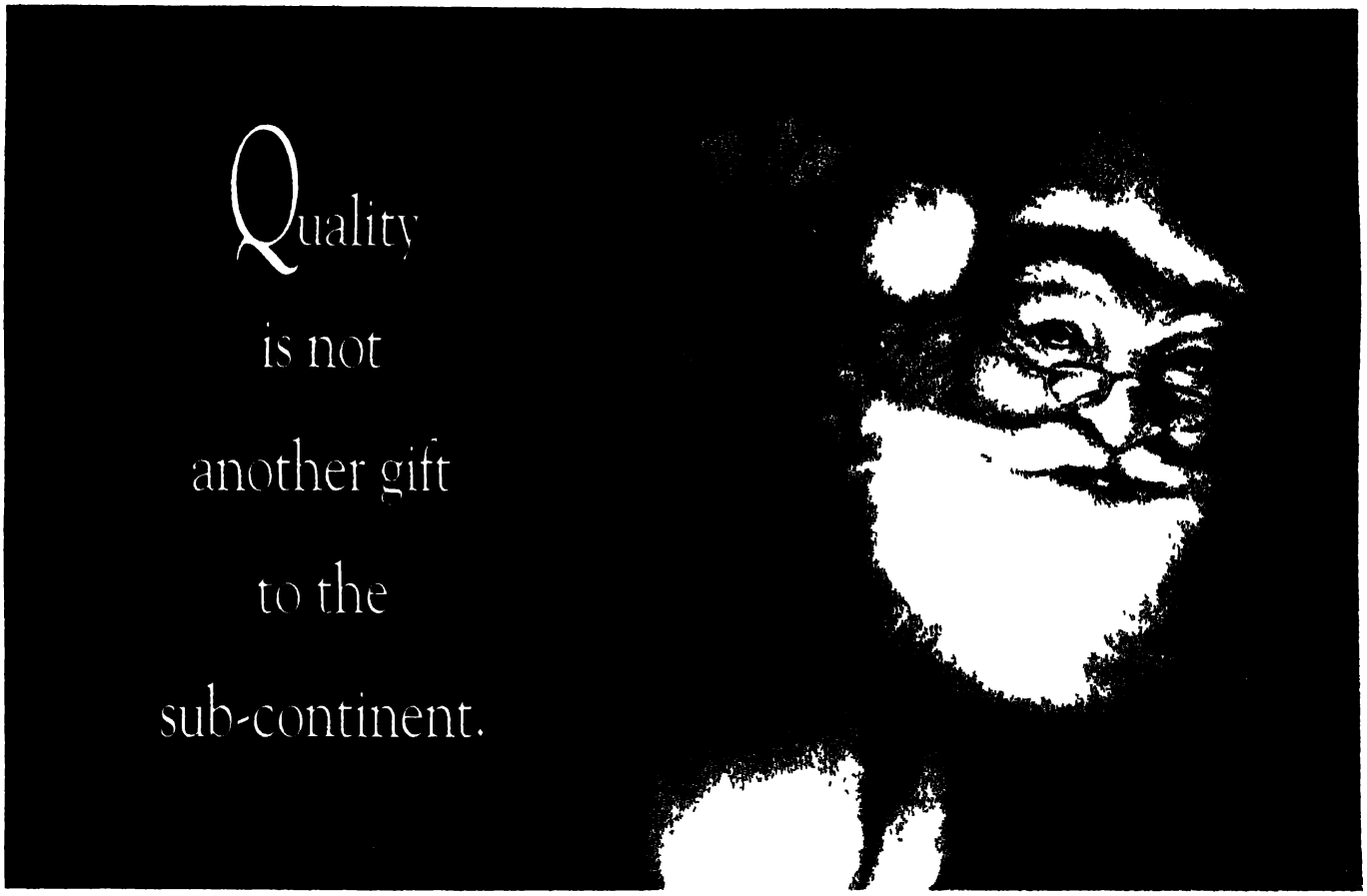
What is your favourite [illegible]
Holiday.
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Prophet Mohammad.
What is your source of sustenance?
I do not take the praise that my music gets. I put it on to the Supernatural and He takes care of the sustenance.

What do you dislike most on your appearance?

No comment; my wife will get upset

On what occasions do you lie?
When I spend time with my wife.
What is your greatest regret?
I used to regret having been born in this century.
What has been your happiest moment?
My marriage.
What brings tears to your eyes?
The poor in this world.
How do you relax?
When I say my prayers and do my music.
How would you like to die?
Like a perfect Muslim.

Quality is not what the multinationals are bringing to India for the first time. It's not a wonder gift from abroad Twenty years ago a brave new Indian company decided to go to any length to deliver quality Quality through superior technology And the auto industry was the first to benefit from it. The same commitment to quality took this relatively young company places. From fine blanking, IFB moved successfully into special purpose machines, home appliances, global trading, agribusiness and financial



services. Everywhere quality took the front seat Today, IFB quality is recognised around the world With manufacturing plants in the UK and operations in 14 other countries, IFB is breaking new ground everywhere, everyday What's more, at a time when the world is being taken over by multinationals, India can be proud of the International Indian who redefined, perfected and presented quality long before the multinational Santas hit the scene

IFB

Making quality a way of life. Worldwide.

● Automotive Parts ● Machine Tools ● Home Appliances ● FHP Motors ● Agribusiness ● Financial Services ● Global Trading

Great expectations.

Great results.

That's leadership in action.

It's not easy being No 1 Because customers expect more from us But that's the price a leader pays

At Sundram Fasteners, we thrive on the challenge Staying miles ahead of the competition – in many ways

Like continuously investing in **additional capacities** at our Madras and Madurai plants And commissioning a brand new plant at Pondicherry

Technological upgradations to meet the needs of new generation vehicles

New initiatives like **business process re-engineering** and **TPM** (Total Productive Maintenance) to help us reach global standards of excellence

Offering **total fastener solutions** – with India's widest range, inventory management packages, design advice and self-certification

Backed by **ISO 9000** certified quality management systems - India's first



That's why Sundram Fasteners is No 1 in the OEM market No 1 in retail sales And No 1 in exports

We haven't forgotten how we got there By staying tuned to our customers' needs and acting on their inputs With the vision and drive to keep us thinking ahead And moving ahead

To us, that's leadership in action

TVS High-tensile Fasteners



No.1. in more ways than one

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30 JULY 1995

The Telegraph

POSTMORTEM

Smiling on Plastic

■ Plastic has become popular because most of the items of daily use which were earlier made of metals or glass have been replaced by an easy-to-use and easy-to-carry, attractive plastic

There is no need to get alarmed about the ill-effects of plastic since recycling has already started in India and per capita consumption is also not that high — 1 4 kg per annum as against the world average of 18 kgs

India, which is on the great road to globalisation liberalisation and rapid industrialisation should not demoralise the plastic industry

The plastic industry has an investment of about $1 7 billion and is poised to become a $5 billion industry in terms of investment by the turn of the century

An estimated 1,000 tonnes of plastic waste is received for sale to reprocessors everyday at plastic collection centres across the country Delhi being the nucleus market for plastic wastes in North India, has the largest plastic waste market in Asia — with about 5,000 dealers and more than 200 reprocessing units nearby

Santosh Kumar Sharma,
Kharagpur

■ We only think of short-term gains We never look to the future We don't think of saving our ecology Plastic has so engulfed us that we just cannot do away with it But your cover story was an eye-opener Next time we touch any product of plastic, we will instantly remember what harm we are doing to our future

Supravat Banerjee, ,
Jamshedpur

■ Since its advent, plastic has been an instant hit More for the reason that plastic can be used to make a large number of pro ducts replacing costly metals

Dipankar Kolay,
Amta (Howrah)

■ The cover story made interesting reading We look forward to such informative stories rather than fashion and rich people's fetishes

Kaushik Maity,
Calcutta

■ Plastic is a product which is popular both with the rich and the poor For some, plastic is a luxury, and for some it is a necessity

Since there are few areas which have been left untouched by plastic, maybe, the third Hooghly bridge will be a product of plastic!

Sourav Ghosh Chowdhury,
Calcutta



Rasnbehari Das

Maneka Gandhi

■ I cannot say that plastic is not essential for modern living But its use involves dangers, too

Maneka Gandhi is being seen in a television commercial endorsing frozen, fresh, green vegetables of a particular company

Ironically, the vegetables are wrapped in plastic packets!

Tarak Banerjee,
Calcutta

'Isi Mein Dum Hai?'

■ I have lost all faith in Bejan Daruwalla's weekly forecasts I am a Virgo and I go through his column every week, but till now none of his predictions have come true

A L. Mehta,
Calcutta

Changed Person

■ I agree with some of the readers who have been complaining that 'First Person' is getting pretty boring

For one, change the questions Since the people interviewed are high achievers in life, ask them about their childhood and the struggles, if any, they went through to become what they are today

Also, include the addresses of the personalities focused so that readers can interact with them through correspondence

Partha Pratim Modak,
Howrah (W B)

INSIDE



Marlon Brando

PAGE 4

ANNA KASHFI, who insists that she is an Indian and was raised in Çalcutta, blames Hollywood icon Marlon Brando for ruining her and their son, Christian Devi Brando But a new Brando biography calls her a liar who was responsible for her own tragic fate

PAGE 26

THE STEP-WELL in Adalaj, Gujarat, is still unsurpassed in its architectural beauty

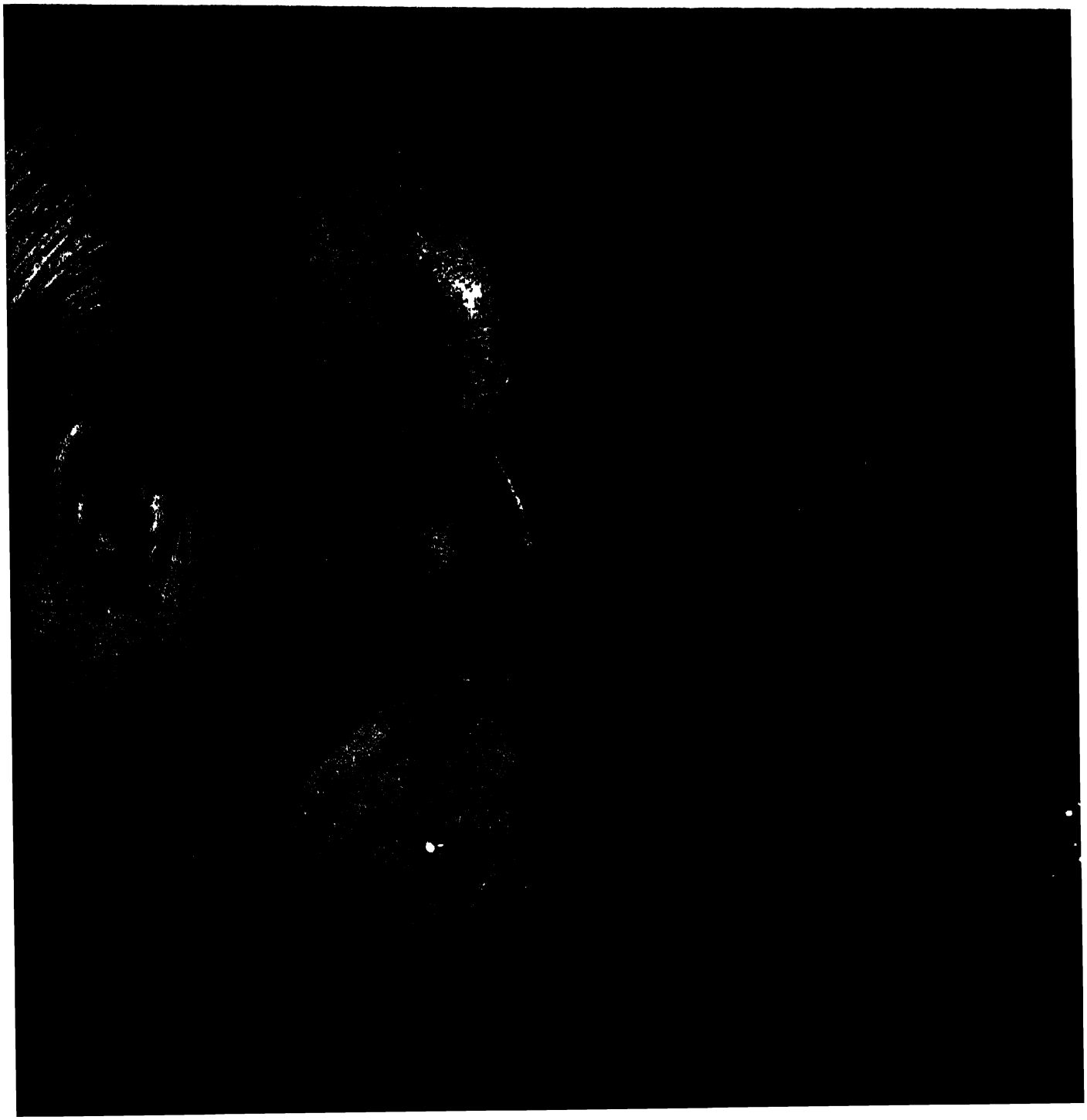
SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 FOCUS
28 POETRY
29 IN
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Marlon Brando in *Don Juan DeMarco*

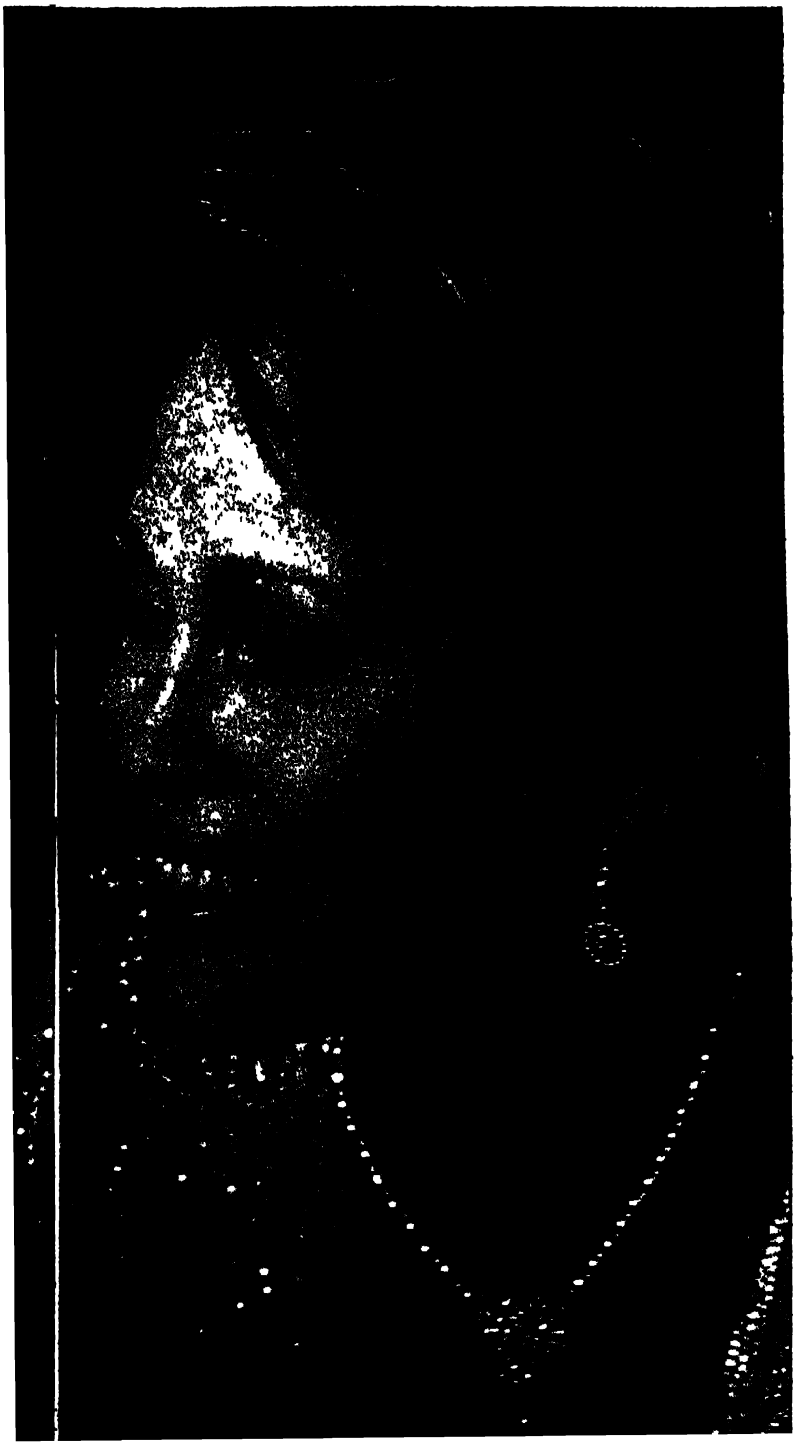
COVER STORY

THE MARLON MYSTIQUE



Anna Kashfi, who claims she is an Indian and was raised in Calcutta, blames Marlon Brando for everything that has gone wrong in her life, and that of their only son Christian Devi Brando But a new biography of the actor asserts that Kashfi was a liar and created many of her own problems ***Arthur J. Pais*** *reports*

With Faye Dunaway in *Don Juan DeMarco* Veteran vibes



SOMEWHERE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE chic tourist town of Santa Fe, in New Mexico, she lives in a trailer, getting comfort from her cats — and her alcohol. She meets reporters occasionally, but refuses to speak unless she is paid a hefty sum

The last time she gave an interview for an American television network about six months ago, Anna Kashfi got about $10,000. All that she had to do was to talk for about 10 minutes, and in those 10 minutes, she poured venom on the man who she asserted had not only driven her nearly insane, but turned her into an alcoholic, ruined her Hollywood career, and let their son, Christian Devi Brando, take to alcohol at 13 and quashed his Hollywood career.



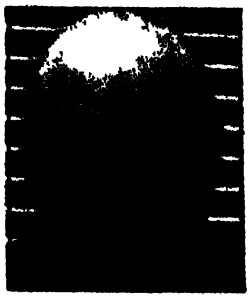
Marlon Brando and Anna Kashfi· A wedding portrait

Christian is serving a jail sentence for killing the boyfriend of his half-sister, Cheyenne, following a drunken argument

To many Americans, Anna Kashfi is one of the many women Marlon Brando came to know, and with whom he had a tempestuous relationship But her story is uniquely tragic

According to Peter Manso, the author of *Brando*, the bestselling biography of Marlon Brando released early this year, Anna Kashfi snuffed her budding movie career by devoting herself to Brando initially

But her own short-fuse temperament, fondness for alcohol, and her determination to keep their son all to herself created a lot of problems for her Manso's book came out at the same time Brando himself published *The Songs My Mother Taught Me*



'She is fake and just used the so-called Indian connection to impress Brando,' says a Hollywood source. 'She knew nothing about India, truly. Otherwise would she have named her son Devi? She would have opted for Dev'



Brando with son Christian (centre) and second son Miko

Brando's will be ever infamous for its reticence, while he speaks little about the problems that he has caused unto himself and others, there is little about the likes of Anna Kashfi

There is a spate of books on Brando released and re-released recently Among them is Paul Ryan's *Marlon Brando*, an excellent study of the star and the factors that led to his downfall But Manso, who has written a definitive biography of Norman Mailer, and whose articles have appeared in *Vanity Fair* and *Playboy*, has written a far more engaging and thorough book than anything ever appeared on Brando'

Marlon Brando has refused to speak on Manso's voluminous book

Anna Kashfi, who arrived in Hollywood from Britian with dreams of making it big in movies, was born in Calcutta, according to her own accounts, and moved to England when she was a teenager

But her story has been disputed widely She had not been able to explain adequately how she got the name Kashfi

"She is fake and just used the so-called Indian connection to impress Brando," says a Hollywood source "She knew nothing about India, truly Otherwise would she have named her son Devi? She would have opted for Dev "

Introduced to Brando by director Edward Dmytryk, she became his girl friend in a few months — and pregnant in no time Though Brando was not prepared to marry anyone, he changed his mind because he did not feel like letting her abort the child Nor did he want to have an illegitimate child They were married in a secret civil ceremony in 1957

The marriage ran into trouble in no time Within a few weeks after they got married, William Patrick O'Callaghan, a Welsh factory worker told reporters that Anna was his daughter That her real name was Joanna, and that she had never stepped on Indian soil

He could not explain how she had a wheatish complexion "There must have been some gypsy blood in our family somewhere along the line," he is supposed to have joked

Dmytryk said he knew that Anna Kashfi had an Irish name on her passport, but he assumed that she was an Anglo-Indian

Brando told Anna Kashfi that she had betrayed him, but he was not going to dissolve the marriage He merely wanted to get to the bottom of the truth The private detectives he employed could not get Anna to say anything revealing

Brando's sister, Joycelyn, thought that Anna Kashfi had deluded herself into thinking that she had been born in India

To this day, Anna Kashfi has maintained that she was not only born in India, but had a brief and unhappy marriage to an Indian, too When Brando began championing the cause of American Indians in the Seventies and refused to accept an Oscar for this work in *The Godfather* as a protest against the treatment of American Indians in Hollywood movies, Anna Kashfi issued a statement that she, too, was an Indian — an Asian Indian — and that Brando had exploited her and ruined her life

Joycelyn told Manso "She had adopted that identity — that she was Indian from Darjeeling and raised in Calcutta "

While Brando withdrew from her for most hours of the day, Kashfi tried to win him over, but to no avail She thought she was intellectually inferior to him, and began taking classes at the University of California "so that she could discuss philosophy with him"

But even that did not help Meanwhile, the newspapers were running long stories about how the two were quarrelling, and were miserable Some of the pieces were utterly hostile

to Brando

Hedda Hopper, the most celebrated of Hollywood gossips liked Anna Kashfi "My heart aches for the girl," she wrote "She doesn't deserve the rough treatment"

When Hedda Hopper's piece appeared, Brando got angrier Why did Anna speak to the reporter, he asked Hadn't he told her that "reporters are all scum" They are "hired buffoons, scribblers, assassins"

Manso believes that Brando's perpetual womanising caused a lot of strain on Kashfi and led to numerous quarrels between the two For all practical purposes, the marriage ended in less than a year after it was officiated

Brando, The Biography highlights some of the bitter fights

✔ Initially it was Marlon Brando who had limited visiting rights When Anna Kashfi convinced the court in late 1959 that Brando was creating chaos in her house because of his bad temper, the court restricted Brando's

A SHOT IN THE ARM

Marlon Brando may not have the kind of box-office clout some of the older actors like Paul Newman and Robert Redford have But after a spate of indifferently made movies, he has a winner in *Don Juan DeMarco*, a small budget comedy which has made good profits

Brando took the part mainly because Francis Ford Coppola — who directed him in *The Godfather* and *Apocalypse Now* — produced the film

He plays Jack Mickler, a highly respected psychiatrist who has fallen in bad times Into his life comes a young man (Johnny Depp) who claims to be Don Juan, the world's greatest lover, who had won over 1,000 women

But this Don Juan is distressed and sad; he has lost his most precious ladylove and is convinced that there is nothing left for him in life

How will Mickler, whose life itself is at its lowest level, help the-modernday Don Juan? As he tries to understand the mind of the young lover, Mickler is forced to examine the importance of love and passion in his own life as he rekindles the spark long since lost with his wife, Marilyn (Faye Dunaway)

Will *Don Juan DeMarco* revive Brando's career?

"It all depends on Brando," says author Peter Manso and a long-time Brando watcher. "If he has been really serious about his career, he would not let it deteriorate after the huge sucess of *The Godfather*.

If only Brando can cut down his weight, he can have a strong new career, his admirers in Hollywood say He has lost about 30 lbs in the past few months, but at 260 lbs he is still very, very overweight.

"It is not just the problem with his weight and slightly arrogant attitude," says an influential Hollywood agent "But he is carrying too much of an emotional burden

"All of us carry some emotional scars but Brando carries most The fact that one of his sons is in jail, and the fact that one of his ex-wives, Anna, continues bad mouthing him, has crippled his ability to perform to the best of his ability"

With Johnny Depp and Faye Dunaway in *Don Juan DeMarco*: Deep performances by each





visiting hours She also objected to Brando bringing his girlfriends with him when he visited son Christian In 1960 she told the court that two-and-a-half-year-old Christian Devi had already acquired such phrases as "go to hell" and "f___ you" The judge told Brando "You are a great artiste, and have the right to your eccentricities I know you want to have a secure, healthy child You are not going to have one if this bitterness continues"

✔ But as Kashfi began to drink heavily, the court gave the custody of the boy to his father But she continued causing problems for Brando, walking into his house at all odd times, and surprising him in the bedroom in the presence of a lover On one occasion, a furious Brando bound her hands and feet, and did not release her for half an hour till the police took her away

✔ On many occasions Kashfi was so drunk that her son, now a teenager, who would visit her every week, would beg the neighbour to help him to put her to sleep "She would get up in the middle of the night," a former neighbour told Manso, "and rush into his bedroom and snatch him up from a deep sleep and slap him and yell at times hysterically for him to apologise He kept saying, "Well, Mommy, I would, but I don't know what I am apologising for." And when he apologised, she would scream at him "What are you apologising for? What did you do? In 1971, Brando and Kashfi were awarded joint custody of Christian, who had just turned 12

✔ Christain Devi Brando became an alcoholic when he was around 13. Brando would later say: "I found a bottle of Jack Daniel's and other liquor bottles under the furniture in his room "If you are going to smoke pot and you are going to drink, do it at home," I said I told him that I don't approve of it, though"

✔ When the relationship between the father and son deteriorated, Anna

MISS TAKES

About 15 years ago, Warner Brothers approached Marlon Brando to play a small but significant part in the movie, *Superman*. So high was Brando's stature just then — following *The Last Tango in Paris* and *The Godfather*, Warner offered him $5 million and the percentage from the movie's box-office gross

The movie grossed over $400 million worldwide and Brando took home more than $50 million.

But many do not know that Brando lost $11 million from *The Godfather* deal 20 years ago. When the film was completed, Brando was not only pessimistic about the film's box-office potential, but also needed money urgently to pay for his legal problems with his ex-wife Anna Kashfi.

He had been paid $1 million for the movie and was eligible for box-office points.

But Brando did not have the patience to wait for the movie's release; he urgently needed $100,000, and forced his agent to renegotiate the contract. Paramount Pictures, the producers of *The Godfather*, gave in, but insisted that Brando won't have any part of the box-office.

The Godfather not only earned solid critical praise, a slew of Oscars, but also made a big killing at the box-office

According to conservative estimates, Brando would have made at least $11 million had he not renegotiated his contract. To date, Brando blames Anna Kashfi and the other women in his life for his loss, Hollywood insiders say.



With Al Pacino in *The Godfather*



When Hedda Hopper's piece appeared, Brando got angrier. Why did Anna Kashfi speak to the reporter, he asked. Hadn't he told her that 'reporters are all scum'. They are 'hired buffoons, scribblers, assassins'

her wedding Her drinking worsened She often claimed that men loyal to Brando beat her up "It looked as if she was being beaten," a friend told Manso "But, in fact, it was because she was always falling down when she was drunk and stoned "

✔ She made one solid effort in 1975 to get the custody of her son She told the court that she had become sober, but Brando's emotional problems continued During a skiing trip at Sun Valley the previous winter, Brando had thrown a just showered, towel-clad





Kashfi attacks Brando outside a Santa Monica courtroom after a custody hearing

Kashfi bolted to Mexico with Christian Devi Brando hired a top-notch private detective who managed to get the mother and child back to America Meanwhile Kashfi wrote the book, *Brando for Breakfast*, in which she gave a totally negative picture of the actor He was the worst husband, worst father, and worst human being, she argued

In 1974, Anna Kashfi married again, but her husband died a few years after Christian to the terrace, then locked the door, keeping the boy outside in 15° F When Christian demanded to be let in, she alleged, Brando "dropped his pants, pressed his buttocks to the glass, and yelled 'Here, climb into this '"



Marlon Brando (left) in one of the classics, *Mutiny on the Bounty*

Anna Kashfi, however, had no luck with the court

As years progressed, Christian Devi Brando turned out to be one of Hollywood's loneliest celebrity-sons Following his own comeback through *The Godfather*, Brando tried to get his son small parts in movies But Christian did not impress anyone in Hollywood His problems continued to grow, and then came the murder of his half-sister's boyfriend

Today, Christian is in a jail in California, and it would not be at least a few years before he is released What will happen then is anybody's guess

"The story of Marlon Brando, Anna and Christian Devi Brando is enough to fuel a mini-series," a Hollywood agent says "I wonder why nobody has thought of it "

HELL OF A MARRIAGE

An extract from ***Nellie Bly's*** *book,* Marlon Brando Larger than life

"Marlon leaves a lot to be desired as a romancer"

— Anna Kashfi

In October 1955, at 31, Brando was introduced to Anna Kashfi in the Paramount Studio commissary She had a small role in *The Mountain* He asked to be introduced She claims she had never seen any of his films and did not recognise him He followed up with a phone call to Paramount publicist Harry Mines, looking to date her

In her memoir, *Brando for Breakfast*, the demure Miss Kashfi recalls that she declined — unless she could bring a traditional *amah* or chaperone Brando agreed But it was Brando who brought the chaperone, his friend producer George Englund (One wonders why, if Miss Kashfi felt she needed a chaperon on her date with Brando, she would feel safer with another bachelor along Perhaps it can be attributed to the strange ways of the East)

In her memoir, Miss Kashfi claimed to be the product of "an unregistered alliance" between Devi Kashfi, "a professional architect," and Selma Ghose, and was born September 30, 1934 in Calcutta When she was two years old, she says, her mother married an Englishman, William Patrick O'Callaghan, and she was educated at a convent school in Darjeeling in the north of India She further claimed that at 18 she briefly attended the London School of Economics, and her mother and stepfather relocated to a small seacoast town in Wales

She was discovered at a party in London by a Paramount scout and soon found herself acting opposite Spencer Tracy in *The Mountain*, which was filmed in the French Alps When the production moved to the Paramount lot in Hollywood, she moved with it



France Nuyen tangles with a photographer on her return from a Caribbean holiday with Brando

According to Kashfi, she and Brando had dated for several months before they made love One night, in her apartment, he carried her into the bedroom When she asked if he had rape in mind, she claims he answered "Rape is just assault with a friendly weapon" Kashfi reports that he "is not well appointed" and refers to his sexual organ as "my noble tool"

In January 1956, Kashfi signed for *Battle Hymn* opposite Rock Hudson, while Brando left for Japan

MARILYN MONROE

In 1955 he also drew close to Marilyn Monroe After his blazing success in *On the Waterfront*, she had pressed Samuel Goldwyn for a part in his next film, *Guys and Dolls* She hoped one of her first independent projects would star Brando and Charles Chaplin

Asked to define sex appeal, Marilyn said, "There are people to whom other people react and other people who do nothing for people I react to men, too personally, I react to Marlon Brando" Marilyn never fulfilled her desire to work with Brando, but, according to biographer Anthony Summers, they did have an affair

Marilyn spoke of him to a friend as "sweet, tender" A photograph taken of them together at an Actors Studio benefit in December 1955, after the world premiere of *The Rose Tattoo*, shows Marilyn and Brando looking dreamily happy together

The friendship faded, but Summers claimed that in 1962, in the last days before her death, Marilyn would spend hours talking on the telephone with Brando

Anna had been hospitalised with tuberculosis at the City of Hope Medical Center in Duarte, California "Marlon was there constantly," recalls columnist Cindy Adams "No dark glasses, no back doors, no hiding Spoke to patients, gave autographs, hit the cafeteria Yet (he) lied to reporters that he even knew Kashfi"

Something about seeing Kashfi laying there in bed, weak and helpless, seemed to stir memories of his mother According to Kashfi, he began bringing her some of his late mother's possessions — "earrings, a brooch, her Bible, on one visit he brought the pillow she had died on (two years earlier)" He also shared memories of Dodie, including, according to Kashfi, a tale of urging his friend Carlo Fiore to seduce his mother while they were living together in New York

Fiore himself was there when Brando told her "I wish my mother was alive I wish she was here to meet you I'm sure you'd both love each other You are so much alike" And the ominous words "Yet- it's better that my mother is dead If she had lived, I could never have loved you She wouldn't have let me go" Kashfi later discovered that the latter thought was not original, but lifted from a let-

Extracted from Marlon Brando Larger than Life* by Nellie Bly; Pinnacle Books; distributed by India Book Distributors; special Indian price Rs 135

ter from D H Lawrence to Frieda

Had she known that the thought was not original, she might have understood that this is a man for whom the line between authentic emotion and *acted* emotion often seems blurred

While she was hospital-bound, Kashfi claims, Brando, asked her to marry him and she accepted Ultimately, she would come to believe that "Marlon yearned to share himself with another person but that he could not and cannot"

That March, Brando left for a research tour of South-East Asia for his film for the United Nations Assistance Program

At his press conference in Singapore, Brando called fan magazines, "scavengers, against whom the libel laws give no protection" He complained, "I have enemies in the film world, because I don't want to follow the dictates of certain companies or give interviews to columnists I don't know " He criticised America for being "shoddy, vulgar, and commercial " He also met with local government and film dignitaries He praised Asian reporters for their "intelligent questions instead of the foolish emphasis on my sex life which I have to tolerate in the United States " The UNESCO movie never happened

On April 23, 1956, Brando arrived in Tokyo to begin filming *Teahouse* His co-stars were Glenn Ford and Louis Calhern Brando played Sakini, the Oriental houseboy

Brando and Glenn Ford loathed each other Louis Calhern died during filming Calhern was found dead in his hotel room on May 12

When Kashfi was released on Thanksgiving Day 1956, they celebrated with dinner at the home of Marlon's sister Jocelyn and her second husband, Eliot Asinof Marlon moved Anna into an apartment in the same West Hollywood building where Marlon Sr was living

A week later, while in New York for the premiere of *Teahouse*, he bought Anna an engagement ring of four clusters of pearls on a platinum band But when he brought it back to California and slipped it on her finger, he asked her to keep the engagement a secret from his family and reporters

According to Kashfi, Brando has always kept two cars In their courting days, he took her out in a battered and unkempt Volkswagen The white Thunderbird convertible that Sam Goldwyn gave him for *Guys and Dolls*



Rita Moreno Brando had a tempestuous affair with her, here she is in hospital after a car accident



Testifying on behalf of his son in court

was reserved for "private occasions behind the public eye"

According to Kashfi, Brando returned from filming *Sayonara* in Japan having completely embraced the Japanese way He wanted her to wear kimonos, to dress and behave like a geisha, specially when it came to attending him

And about a month after he returned from Japan, she found a woman's black wig on his bedroom headboard He admitted it belonged to Rita Moreno There was a quarrel, a separation, a reunion A renewed engagement And Brando was soon off to Europe for pre-production on his next Fox film, *The Young Lions*, while Kashfi began filming *Cowboy* with Jack Lemmon and Glenn Ford

Around this time, Carlo Fiore, concerned about Anna's jealousy, tried to discourage the relationship Brando wouldn't hear of it, but he wasn't willing to give up any of the other women he was seeing either

"With women, I've got a long bamboo pole with a leather loop on the end of it," he told his friend "I slip the loop around their necks so that they can't get away or come too close Like catching snakes "

In late September, Anna Kashfi discovered she was pregnant and they decided to marry One night she and Marlon were awakened in bed by violent banging on his front door It was Rita Moreno Anna said, "It's her or me Make a choice — right now "

The wedding on October 11 1957 was at his Aunt Betty Lindemeyer's house in Eagle Rock Screenwriter Peter Berneis and his wife Ina were the witnesses Among the guests were his friends Kathy and Louis L'Armour But his father was barred

Anna recalls that her friends the L'Armours drove her to Betty Lindemeyer's house She had a premonition that she shouldn't be doing this, and L'Armour assured her that she could still back out But she went forward

But not immediately First, she decided, she had to have a nosegay of Madonna lilies But the closest place for the lilies was San Francisco, and that took two hours Meanwhile, everyone drank champagne and "by

the time the lilies arrived," Kashfi recalls, "I was tipsy enough to have said, 'I do' to a baboon"

Anna yearned to be married in a Buddhist ceremony because she admired its simplicity and symbolism Marlon claimed that no Buddhist monk could be found in Los Angeles and offered to arrange for a Zen ceremony, which, Kashfi "felt to be ill-suited to my temperament" They compromised on a Presbyterian minister, Reverend J Walter Fiscus, pastor of the Little Brown Church in the Valley in North Hollywood

The groom wore a dark suit, opera cape, and homburg, the bride wore a green and gold sari

She discovered that Brando had not made any plans for a honeymoon, but his friend Jay Kanter offered them the use of his Beverly Hills house There they spent their wedding night, until she contacted her friends the L'Armours and arranged to spend the next week with them at their house in Palm Desert L'Armour and Brando spent hours target shooting with 0 38 revolver

In the outside world, news was breaking that a William Patrick O'Callaghan was claiming to be Anna's father, a claim that she vehemently denied According to her, he was her stepfather, her name was always Anna Kashfi and she only adopted Joan O'Callaghan for immigration quotas

Although Marlon stood by her, she grew to feel that she saw less of him now than before they were married

Anna grew rapidly disenchanted with her movie star husband She told Heda Hopper "Marlon leaves a lot to be desired as a romancer He's just plain clumsy and that's the truth If he were not a film star, he wouldn't get to first base with women"

Kashfi seemed to revel in belittling her husband in the press She told another reporter "Living with Marlon is like an afternoon at the races — short periods of orgiastic activity followed by long periods of boredom and anticipation He's almost never home" She added "He attracts women like faeces attract flies"

Brando attended the 1958 Academy Awards with friend George Englund Anna, eight months pregnant stayed home She did not get to see him lose

Domestic life *chez* Brando was tumultuous The staff, consisting of a cook, two gardeners, a chauffeur. and Anna's personal maid turned over



France Nuyen with whom Brando had a longterm relationship

frequently They discharged one cook when they found out she was raising extra money by offering guided tours of their house, with dinner for 50 cents a head "Fifty cents per person!" Marlon said, "I should think the traffic would bear a dollar"

According to Carlo Fiore, when the Brandos quarreled, Anna displayed a "frightening" rage "During one argument, she came out of the bathroom with a huge bar of soap in her hand and let it fly at Marlon," he recalled, "It got him between the eyes and cracked in half Stunned, he staggered back and almost fell" On another occasion, Fiore says, Anna left baby Christian alone in her car parked on Wilshire Boulevard while she confronted Brando in his office, "beating at him with her fists, in a frenzy of rage"

On May 11, Mother's Day, 1958, Anna gave birth to a son, Marlon named Christian for his friend Christian Marquand She wanted to name him Devi, after her father They compromised on Christian Devi He called the boy Christian or Chris, she called him Devi

According to Kashfi, when she was breastfeeding the weeks-old baby, Brando returned home with the 18-year-old France Nuyen, who berated her for eating curry while breastfeeding, and took her last mango from the refrigerator Kashfi ordered him to get her out of the house The two of them left

According to Brando biographer Charles Higham, Nuyen denies the episode described by Kashfi

Nuyen told Higham that "Anna was completely out of the picture in Marlon's life when I met him again For six months, I resisted him, but his humour, cleverness, and little-boy qualities finally succeeded in winning me over He made me laugh He was very sweet"

Trapped in her unhappy marriage, Kashfi began to abuse alcohol and barbiturates She also lashed out at Brando himself, pulling his hair, throwing dishes at him, heaping him with verbal abuse.

The Brandos were headed for an eventual divorce, but according to Kashfi, their respective studios, MGM and Paramount, prevailed on her to delay any action so as not to affect their current films

Kashfi made one more film, *Night of the Quarter Moon*, with John Barrymore, Jr and Julie London, at MGM in 1958 Her Japanese maid, Sako Milligen, looked after Devi One afternoon in September, on a break from filming, Anna was napping at home while Sako swam in the pool Anna awakened to find Sako floating face down in the water She summoned the police,

fire department, and Brando's business manager Somehow in the confusion word got out that it was Anna who had drowned Brando raced home, walked into the house and came face to face with his wife "Good God," he said, "you're still alive"

The death of Sako and her husband's reaction crystalised Anna's feelings and she fled that night, with her son She soon moved into a house in Coldwater Canyon

According to Kashfi, Brando soon surrendered himself to a parade of women, video-taping the encounters via a camera at the foot of his bed

Halfway through the production of *One-eyed Jacks*, Anna filed for divorce in Santa Monica Superior Court She charged Brando with causing "grievous mental suffering, distress, and injury" Anna's friend Kathy I 'Armour supported her claims of mental anguish She flew with Devi to stay with friends in Hawaii

Anna's petition for divorce was uncontested and became final on April 22, 1959

The settlement was a relatively generous $60,000 cash with $500,000 to be paid out over the next 10 years She also received $1,000 a month for child support until their son was of age and medical and dental coverage of over $500 a year

In mid-August, at two in the morning, Brando would later tell the Santa Monica court, "while I was home in bed, (Anna) came in and flung herself on the bed and bit me three times and slapped me I tried to restrain her and got her out of the house, but she went to get in her car and tried to run over me I went back in my house and locked the doors She threw a log through one of the windows and came back into the house through the windows I held her down on the bed and tied her up. I then called the police I told them I would not press charges and asked them to escort her home She refused but the police persuaded her"

GODFATHER RETURNS

Marlon Brando's comeback film, Don Juan DeMarco, *is not a movie to remember, except for the brilliant performances by Johnny Depp and the veteran actor, feels* ***Derek Malcolm***

There are times when star power really is the thing, and it would be churlish not to celebrate the return to the screen of Marlon Brando in *Don Juan DeMarco* It is not a film to remember for anything much else, except perhaps that Johnny Depp stands up to Brando as the best young actor in Hollywood

Depp plays a young man who plans to kill himself because his one true love cannot stand the thought of his previous 1,503 conquests He is a latter-day Don Juan, so convinced of his identity that he wears the clothes of the period and is prepared to defend his honour with a sword

Naturally, the police who prevent him from killing himself in the nick of the time, get him to the nuthouse as quickly as possible Here Dr Mickler (Brando), a psychiatrist on the point of retirement, decides that one more case will not do any harm He is given 10 days to evaluate his delusional patient and recommend something other than the custodial treatment all other shrinks demand

Gradually, the doctor discovers that he is getting the treatment Listening to the young man's stories of passion, and watching nurses - male and female — falling hook, line and sinker for his patient, he goes home and finds himself courting his wife (Faye Dunaway) again

That's clearly the point of Jeremy Leven's film, which is almost a moral tale padded out to make a full-length feature Possibly it has its roots in some sort of experience, as the first-time writer-director has served time as both a Harvard professor and as a clinical psychologist

The presence of Brando and Depp is the bull point and, since we seldom see him nowadays, it is Brando's performance we look at most closely He is now as big as a whale and a bit self-conscious about it, to judge by the often diplomatic camera angles

But he does allow himself a joke at his own expense, when he comments to an almost equally tubby police inspector that they must both have gone to the same bakery And, right at the end he even allows himself a little jig of joy as he and his wife realise what Don Juan has accomplished for them in the way of emotional renewal One wondered if their legs could carry the body through it But they do, and very nicely too

Elsewhere, he warms to his part with a lightness of touch and incipient sense of humour that seldom fails If this was to be his epitaph on screen it would be a genuinely charming one, since the film is sentimental but rarely cloying

As for Depp, the part seems made for him, and he plays it without narcissism or camp You even begin to believe he may be who he says he is, and certainly that there would be no harm at all, as the psychiatrist suggests, to allow him to think it

At times, the film skates on thin ice There's the bed scene between Brando and Dunaway which one desperately hopes will not develop into an awkward sexual spasm, and the sequence in the restaurant where the couple revaluate their marriage with roses, jewellery and one of those embarrassing bands to serenade them

Thankfully Brando is good enough to transcend any awkwardness even if he is not, by any stretch of the imagination, Cary Grant By comparison Dunaway looks a little congealed in the sauce of it all But she keeps her end up without blushing and looking rather like a she-wolf thinking of dinner

The whole, though no great shakes as cinema, is romantic without being supersweet and, despite the weight of its leading actor, avoids the heaviness of most Hollywood attempts to spring a tear It is also the rare phenomenon, a good story decently told

But it is the acting that counts, and that, thanks to Brando and Depp, makes this sort of thing effortless and a good deal more sustaining than it might have been in other hands

(The Guardian)

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says time to move forward, physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, sometimes at the cost and risk of leaving the past behind August 1, 2 and 5 are particularly indicated for putting plans into operation Romance, journey, ceremony, and publicity are expected

Taurus

April 21—May 20



You can afford to be a person of affluence and leisure Changes in the homefront, office and shop are destined Buying and selling was meant just for you Long-term plans, immigration, the wherewithal for a whole new wardrobe keep you busy Socially, this could be an active period

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Now you can show the world how active you are as a host, teacher, writer, TV person, salesman, film star friend and sweetheart There will be a royal touch to everything you do and say, and that, will make the difference News, views, messages, trips and letters bring joy

Cancer

June 21—July 20



Your repertoire and range will cover everything from the platonic to the passionate to the pragmatic You will attract money to you, as moth to light Expenses and workload will be awesome but you will manage Friends prove their worth, sweethearts play true

Leo

July 21—August 21



Smashing power, outstanding success, the ability to heal and hurt others, the capacity to lead from the front will be yours Money, journey, transactions, new ventures, great adventures, the luck of the draw make it a great week Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday prove exciting

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Though expenses will shoot and make you uncomfortable, you will bounce back, because income will augment and friends will be willing and able to help A journey at short notice is very probable Alternatively, do expect important visitors You will be introspective

Libra

September 23—October 22



You will play with a bigger heart and thus win the game of life and love Clinch deals, take decisions, venture forth, throw a party, circulate fast as that is the best way to succeed this week The extra edge of sustained effort will now be your strong point You will negotiate with skill

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Volcanic passion and paradoxically, sweet reason will be fully manifest by Scorpios thanks to the moon conjuncting Pluto Time for a high in career, profession and job, and even to some extent, business Prestige and status soar Right time to ask for help from superiors and friends

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



You could move to the outer rim of perfection itself, so great will be the drive and determination The focalisation will be on partnerships, work, romance, collaborations, trips, marriage and even divorce Time to score Those with the media make a grand success of it

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



The trend of commitments and assignments, funding and finance, buying and selling, trading and business will be the dominant one A home away from home is also possible The blocks of your mind will be removed enabling you to think with rare clarity and foresight

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Ganesha says, bricks and blessings, sweet and sour encounters, are destined for you However, thanks to Jupiter, you will get what you want and that is the last word Wedding bells, engagement, collaborations, partnerships at all planes, are the salient features of the week

Pisces

February 19—March 20



You will be a 'gambler in the roulette of life'' and luckily you will make it big, thanks to the sun and Jupiter There could be a marked change in your work and play Pets, projects, colleagues and boss will take charge of your life and you will have to go along with it

BIRTHDAYS

July 30: **Mars sextile Jupiter means the energy of Mars and the good luck of Jupiter will result in a grand success of efforts. Avoid depression and worry.**

July 31: **Mars sextile Pluto affords opportunities in the field of art, science and commerce, and that is saying the world. You will move and manoeuvre ably.**

August 1: **Moon sun sextile shows fulfilment, be it in matters of the heart, promotion, prestige, honours or plain fun. Those in arts and crafts have an extra edge.**

August 2: **Moon-Mercury sextile means skills, dexterity, tact and trips Therefore you will manipulate others into doing what you desire.**

August 3: **Venus-Jupiter trine stands for love, comforts, money, harmony, sex, and above all, creativity Since this is allied with the luck of Jupiter, success is certain**

August 4: **Moon's first quarter has a complex relationship with Mercury, therefore, be not hasty and quarrelsome, or you will have to face the consequences**

August 5: **Moon-Jupiter conjunction brings luck in matters regarding children, romance, marriage, research, travel, collaborations and signing of new contracts**

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

[redacted]

DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-741	0620	1, 3, 4 6	IC-742	0850	1, 3
			IC-742	1050	4 6
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1, 3, 5, 7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5 7
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2, 4, 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1 2, 3, 6, 7	IC 722	1250	1 2 3 6 7
[redacted]					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
[redacted]					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2, 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
VF-106	1820	1 4 6	VF 105	1720	1 4 6
[redacted]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0905	daily	D2-101	0835	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-306	1730	5
9W-212	1945	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2-103	1935	daily
AI-309	1930	6	IC-274	1830	daily
AI-681	2330	1			
[redacted]					
IC-263	0700	daily	S2-025	0810	1, 2 3 4 5 6
S2-026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI-682	0925	1
IC-612	1700	1, 3, 5	S2-015	1115	1 3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3, 5	4S-806	1130	1, 2 3, 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1720	1, 2, 3 4 5 6	S2-005	1855	1 2, 3 4 5 7
			IC-611	2055	1, 3 5
S2-006	1930	1 2, 3 4 5 7	M9-301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC-264	2210	daily
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1620	1 5 7
D2 181	1135	1, 5, 7	D2-183	1620	2 4 6
D2 183	1135	2, 4, 6	IC-702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S-816	1205	2, 4, 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S-812	1205	1 3, 5	4S-811	1635	2 4 6
IC-701	1240	1, 4 6, 7	PF-738	1740	3 5
[redacted]					
IC-257	1140	2 4	IC-257	1520	2 4
[redacted]					
IC-703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC-704	0920	1 3 4 5, 7
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2, 4 6 7
PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	D2-181	1620	1 5, 7
PF-735	0730	1	D2-183	1620	2 4 6
D2-181	1135	1 5 7	IC-230	1620	daily
D2-183	1135	2 4 6	4S-811	1635	2, 4, 6
4S 816/811	1205	2, 4 6	4S-812/815	1635	1 3, 5
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	PF-736	1730	1
IC-229	1310	daily	PF-738	1740	3, 5
[redacted]					
AIZAWAL					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	1045	1 3 5	S2 024	1525	1 3 5
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2, 4 6
VF 106	1 4 6	1820	VF 105	1720	1 4 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC-257	1140	2 4	IC-257	1520	2 4
JORHAT					
IC 213	0910	3 7	IC-213	1315	3, 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC-811	2005	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1045	1 2 4 5 6 7
			IC-766	1620	1 4
D2-172	1740	1 2 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	2 3 5 6 7
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4, 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1805	2 4 7
IC-812	1700	1 3 5	IC-811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1805	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF-705	0730	2 4, 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC-255	0800	3 5 7	IC-256	1250	3 5 7
IC-253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2, 6
TEZPUR					
IC-213	0910	3 7	IC 213	1315	3 7
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1, 3 5	S2 015	1015	1, 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

INTERNATIONAL

[redacted]

KL-876	0345	7	KL-875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KB-105	0850	2, 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 5 7	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2 4 5, 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	
RO-076	1950	5 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG 697	1655	2 5
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3, 6 7	BG-091	1110	1 2 3 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1 5 6	IC-724	1520	1 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3, 5, 6 7	BG-093	1825	1 2, 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KATHMANDU					
RA 214	1030	4 7	RA-213	0945	4 7
IC-747	1115	1 3 5	IC 748	1455	1 3 5
LONDON					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA-143	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARO					
KB 106	1105		KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325				
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750		LZ 503	1650	
TOKYO					
AI-306	1910		AI 309	1825	

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6-45	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 35	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon , Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10-45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23-30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2308
2019	6-20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
2309	22 00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	2310
5049	23-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9-30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21-00	**Kathgodam Express**	11-55	3020
3021	16-05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5-00	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	6-30	3032
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon , Tues & Wed	7 55	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed , Arr Fri , Sat & Sun	7-55	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4-30	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only		
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues., Thurs. & Sat.	4-25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6-55	6004
8002	19-20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21-00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16-20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22 30	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13-45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11-35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16-10	—
	11-05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10-45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati - Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	—
6316	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakha panam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13-45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22-15	—
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13-45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203466-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37.

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THE OLD PHOTOGRAPH

I was 10 years old My grandmother sat on the string bed, under the mango tree It was late summer and there were sunflowers in the garden and a warm wind in the trees My grandmother was knitting a woolen scarf for the winter months She was very old, dressed in a plain white sari Her eyes were not very strong now but her fingers moved quickly with the needles and the needles kept clicking all afternoon Grandmother had white hair but there were few wrinkles on her skin

I had come home after playing cricket on the maidan I had taken my meal and now I was rummaging in a box of old books and family heirlooms that had just been brought out of the attic by my mother Nothing in the box interested me very much except for a book with colourful pictures of birds and butterflies I was going through the book looking at the pictures when I found a small photograph between the pages

It was a faded picture, a little yellow and foggy It was a picture of a girl standing against a wall, and behind the wall there was nothing but sky But from the other side, a pair of hands reached up as though someone was going to climb the wall There were flowers growing near the girl, but I could not tell what they were, there was a creeper too, but it was just a creeper

I ran out into the garden "Granny!" I shouted "Look at this picture! I found it in the box of old things Whose picture is it?"

I jumped on the bed beside my grandmother and she walloped me on the bottom and said, "Now I've lost count of my stitches and the next time you do that, I'll make you finish the scarf yourself "

Granny was always threatening to teach me how to knit which I thought was a disgraceful thing for a boy to do It was a good deterrent for keeping me out of mischief Once I tore the drawing room curtains and Granny had to put a needle and thread in my hands and made me stitch the curtain together even though I made long two-inch stitches which had to be taken out by my mother and done again

She took the photograph from my hand and we both stared at it for quite a long time The girl had long, loose hair and she wore a loose dress that nearly covered her ankles and sleeves that reached her wrists There were a lot of bangles on her hands but despite all her draperies, the girl appeared to be full of freedom and movement She stood with her legs apart and her hands on her hips and had a wide, almost devilish smile on her face

"Whose picture is it?" I asked

"A little girl's of course," said grandmother "Can't you tell?"

"Yes, but did you know the girl?"

"Yes, I knew her," said Granny "But she was a very wicked girl and I shouldn't tell you about her But I'll tell you about the photograph It was taken in your grandfather's house about 60 years ago and that's the garden wall and over the wall was a road going to town "

"Whose hands are they?" I asked, "coming up the other side?"

Grandmother squinted and looked closely at the picture and shook her head "It's the first time I noticed," she



'Yes, I remember...I remember what is not in the photograph. It was a spring day, and there was cool breeze blowing, nothing like this. Those flowers at the girl's feet, they were marigolds, and the bougainvillaea creeper, it was a mass of purple. You cannot see these colours in the photo, and even if you could, as nowadays, you wouldn't be able to smell the flowers or feel the breeze'

said "They must have been the sweeper boy's Or maybe they were your grandfather's "

"They don't look like grandfather's hands," I said "His hands are all bony "

"Yes, but this was 60 years ago "

"Didn't he climb up the wall after the photo?"

"No, nobody climbed up At least, I don't remember "

"And you remember well, Granny "

"Yes, I remember I remember what is not in the photograph It was a spring day, and there was cool breeze blowing, nothing like this Those flowers at the girl's feet, they were marigolds, and the bougainvillaea creeper, it was a mass of purple You cannot see these colours in the photo, and even if you could, as nowadays, you wouldn't be able to smell the flowers or feel the breeze "

"And what about the girl?" I said "Tell me about the girl "

"Well, she was a wicked girl," said Granny "You don't know the trouble they had getting her into those fine clothes she's wearing "

"I think they are terrible clothes," I said

"So did she Most of the time, she hardly wore a thing She used to go swimming in a muddy pool with a lot of ruffianly boys, and ride on the backs of buffaloes No boy ever teased her, though, because she could kick and scratch and pull his hair out!"

"She looks like it too," I said "You can tell by the way she's smiling At any moment something's going to happen "

"Something did happen," said Granny "Her mother wouldn't let her take off the clothes afterwards, so she went swimming in them, and lay for half-an-hour in the mud

I laughed heartily and grandmother laughed too

"Who was the girl?" I said "You must tell me who she was "

"No, that wouldn't do," said grandmother, "I won't tell you "

I knew the girl in the photo was really grandmother, but I pretended I didn't know I knew, because Granny still smiled in the same way, even though she didn't have as many teeth

"Come on, Granny," I said, "tell me, tell me "

But Grandmother shook her head and carried on with the knitting, and I held the photograph in my hand looking from it to my grandmother and back again, trying to find points in common between the old lady and the little pig-tailed girl A lemon-coloured butterfly settled on the end of grandmother's knitting needle, and stayed there while the needles clicked away I made a grab at the butterfly, and it flew off in a dipping flight and settled on a sunflower

"I wonder whose hands they were," whispered grandmother, to herself, with her head bowed, and her needles clicking away in the soft warm silence of that summer afternoon

(Sanctuary Features)



The Telegraph
magazine

is publishing poems regularly.

JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and NOT to The Telegraph, by ORDINARY MAIL. Contributions sent by registered post or courier **will not be** accepted Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper. Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned**. All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates No enquiries will be solicited

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

O JERUSALEM

Instead of roads, these days there are merely airports And if we make our own hell here on earth then airport departure lounges are certainly purgatory This occurred to me as I waited for a delayed flight which was to take me for the first time in my life to the land of Israel

I was, thanks to a bargain ticket, to fly first to Amman and then to cross the nearby Allenby Bridge which spans the narrow Jordan river, the border between the two countries

Friends had told me that since the Israel-PLO peace agreement, there was no problem in crossing the border but that in Jordan you had to call it the King Hussein Bridge and not definitely the Allenby Bridge

This did not seem strange After all, the Indo-Pakistan border crossing is known as Attari on one side and Wagha on the other

The aeroplane arrived, we boarded and four hours later, disembarked It was noon and hot I walked up to the knot of Arab drivers outside the main exit "King Hussein Bridge," I said There was no response "Allenby, Jerusalem," I tried Still nothing

They spoke among themselves and I heard the words "Sheikh Hussein" This must surely be the Arabic for King Hussein "Sheikh Hussien!" I said

A taxi driver gestured to me to follow and we set off "Welcome to Amman " said the driver, who soon pulled over and purchased a bottle of mineral water and a can of Pepsi for me

What hospitable people these are, I thought, as we set off again on our brief journey to the border

We sped past the capital, through pale, sun-bleached, stony hills to a barren brown mountainside which dropped steeply in to the haze of the great Rift Valley, down the centre of which flows the Jordan river

As we coasted down the mountainside we passed cars and jeeps standing with their radiators boiling in the desert sun Crossing the sea level mark, we descended to one of the lowest points on earth and turned north

Here there was some greenery — orange trees, and by the road, red-flowering gulmohurs, eucalyptus and even lantana bushes

An hour and a half into the journey I began to feel nervous, and half an hour later I became convinced I was being kidnapped The King Hussein Bridge was never this far away "Where is the bridge?" I importuned the driver

"No English," came the reply as we raced on through the sparsely populated countryside

Just as I had given up hope, I saw a sign in Arabic which included the words, "Sheikh Hussien" We turned left and, passing a security checkpost, drew up at the border

A man carried my luggage up to the passport check, where the official on duty's only concern seemed to be to find out if I had any children I said no "Why no babies?" he continued unpleasantly

I fixed him with a basilisk stare, and by threatening him with the fact that I was a journalist managed to retrieve my passport which he was hanging on to for no good reason

I then joined the few others waiting to cross and climbed into a bus to enter the Promised Land A narrow, green wooden bridge spanned the tiny, reed-banked Jordan The Israeli side was less relaxed, festooned with spirals of barbed wire, a young soldier in a watchtower observing us through binoculars

All the officials in the air-conditioned search room on the Israeli side of the border looked to me as though they should still be in school But then Israel has a very young population — the average age is twenty-six

They did not give me a good first impression of Israel Arrogant and rude, they went through every piece of my luggage — and X-rayed it twice I was carrying two trout-fishing reels for a friend

"This is a forbidden object," cried one boy triumphantly He was no angler but after I had mimed trout-fishing for him, he finally returned the reels to me

Exhausted, I eventually trundled past passport control with my luggage on a squeaky trolley which seemed only to go round in circles and made my way slowly to the sun-baked barrier "Aren't you hot?" asked the young man at the barrier charmlessly "Please open the gate," I replied and took direction for the taxis

A lone taxi stood before me "How much to Jerusalem?" I asked "Two Hunded and fifteen *shekels*," came the reply

"Why so much?"

"It's 120 kilometres "

The penny began to drop This could not be the Allenby Bridge It was somewhere much more distant But at least I was in the right country I climbed in and we headed south through desert hills interspersed with green oases of drip irrigation The driver knew little English, but understood when I said I had come from India

"India," he mused

"Raj Kapoor, *Ichak Dana*, Saira Banu, Dilip Kumar," I interjected

"Amitabh Bachchan," he continued, "Many, many film I have seen, great music "

I took out a cassette of *Bombay* from my luggage in a gesture of friendship and so it was that to the strains of *Kucchi Kucchi Rakkamma* I first raised mine eyes unto the hills and beheld Jerusalem — with its new housing colonies all in white Jerusalem stone, its highways, multiple traffic lights and greenery

But from my driver's reaction I can safely say that A R Rahman and Mani Ratnam will never replace Raj Kapoor in Israeli hearts

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



JOIN HUNT! Our artist says some 20 eggs are present in this egg hunt scene See how many of them you can find

CLIPSO FACTO! Pick up a handful of paper clips and count them Double the number Add 18 and divide by two Subtract the original number of clips and add 43 Resulting amount appears below

Regardless of number of clips, answer is 52

L	E	O	H	D	A	R
U	T	N	S	I	R	E
T	C	I	O	N	P	P
A	E	T	E	R	E	P
T	M	O	L	Y	T	O
O	C	E	C	A	R	R

BEPUZZLING SALAD MIX

YOU are challenged to conduct a hunt for names of seven common salad ingredients that appear in consecutive order in the diagram below Names are to be spelled by moving letter by letter to adjacent squares, up, down or diagonally These are the seven ingredients to be connected in order **Lettuce, tomato, celery, carrot, pepper, radish, onion**

All 42 letters in the diagram are to be used, each just once

Hint Begin at letter L in upper left-hand corner

How quickly can you spell out the words?

Time Limit 2 minutes

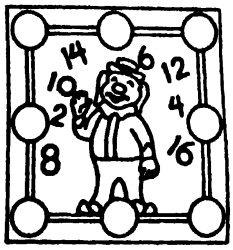
SQUARE DEAL! Given the diagram below, you are asked to insert the eight even numbers shown — 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 — to achieve a total of 28 on each of the square's four sides (Each of the eight numbers is to be used just once)

As a starter, let it be known that numbers 6, 8, 10 and 16 appear in corners

How long will it take you to insert the numbers?

Remember sides total 28

From top left clockwise 16 14 12 10 2 will do it



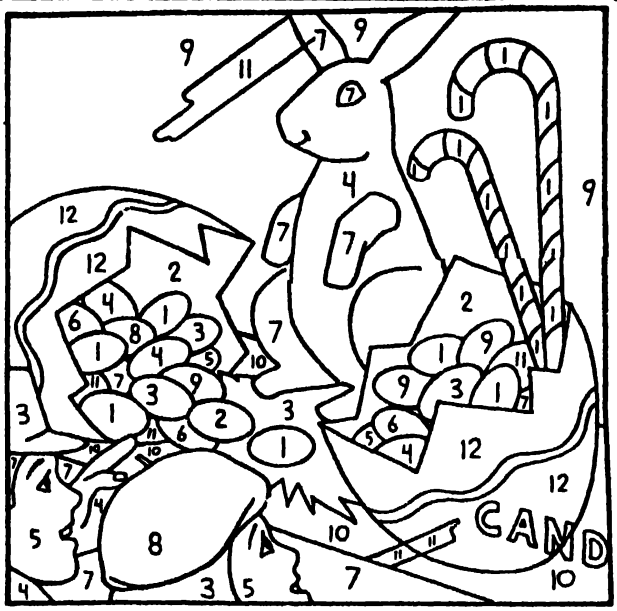
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Curlers are missing 2 Socks are shorter 3 Clothesline is missing 4 Purse is missing 5 Bow is smaller 6 Carriage top is lowered

FUNSPOT



EGGED ON! One chocolate bunny to go Code: 1—Red. 2—Blue 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh 6—Lt. green 7—Dk. brown 8—Dk. green. 9—Dk. purple. 10—Gray. 11—Lavender. 12—Pink

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

CLOTHING

- - - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

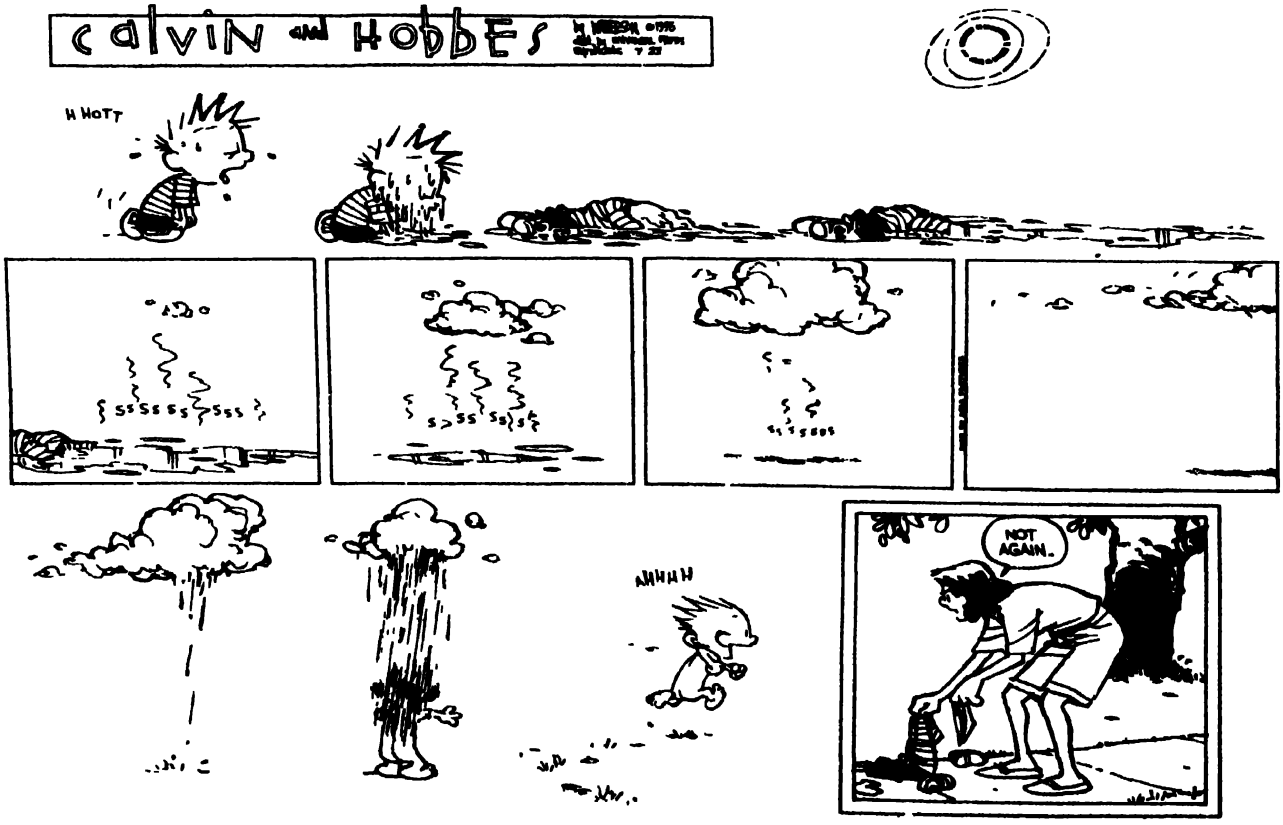
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome Clog hint

COMICS

ARCHIE

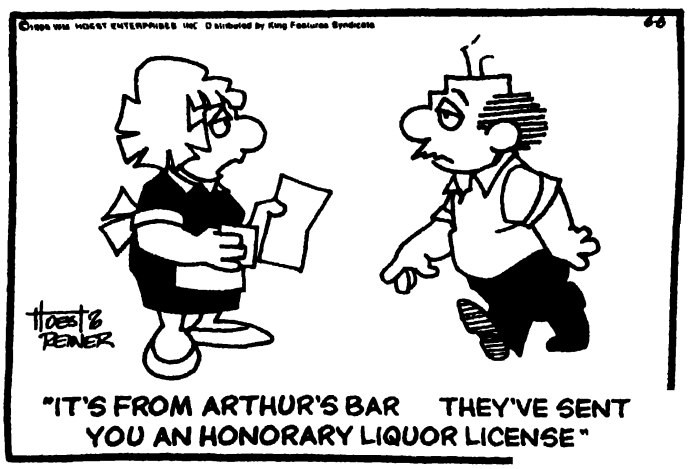




THE LOCKHORNS



"MISS HOTCHKISS, PLEASE BRING ME THE LOCKHORNS' FILE DRAWER"



"IT'S FROM ARTHUR'S BAR THEY'VE SENT YOU AN HONORARY LIQUOR LICENSE"



"DON'T RUN OUT ON ME, LORETTA TAKE A TAX!!"



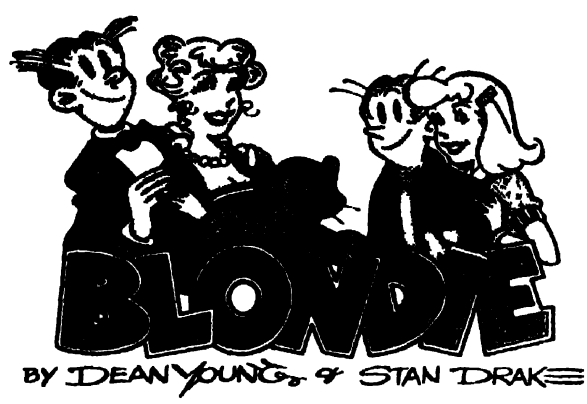
"IT'S ONLY A SCRATCH, LEROY, BUT IT'S A DEEP ONE"

GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

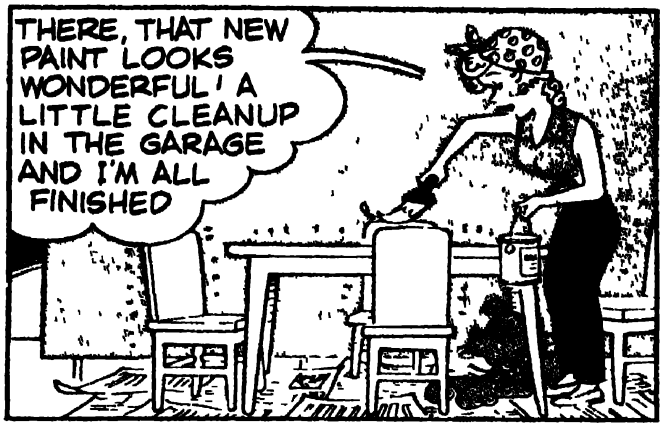


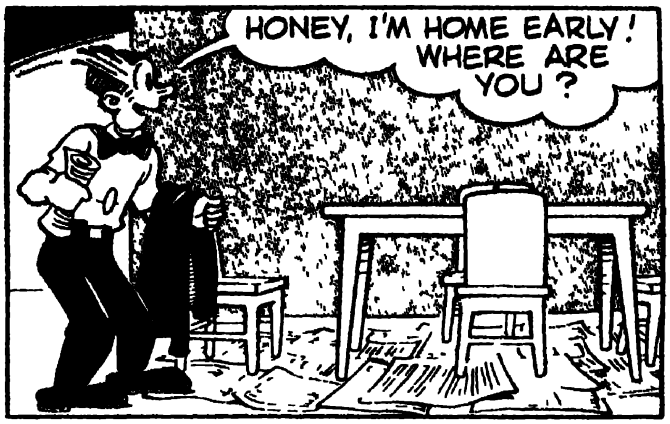
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

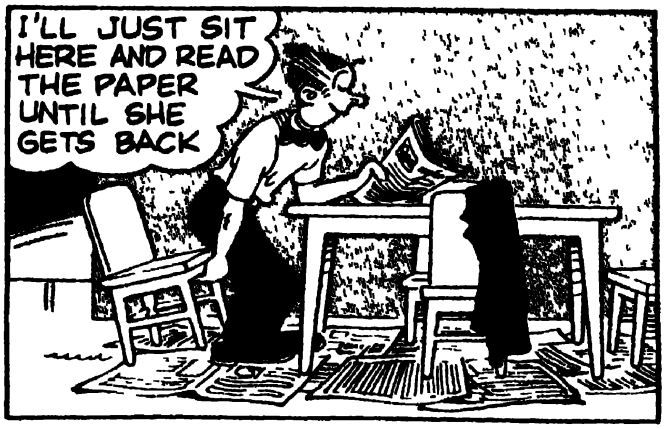




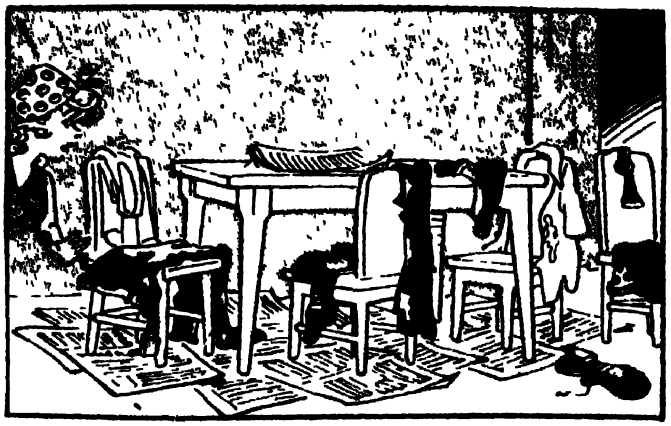




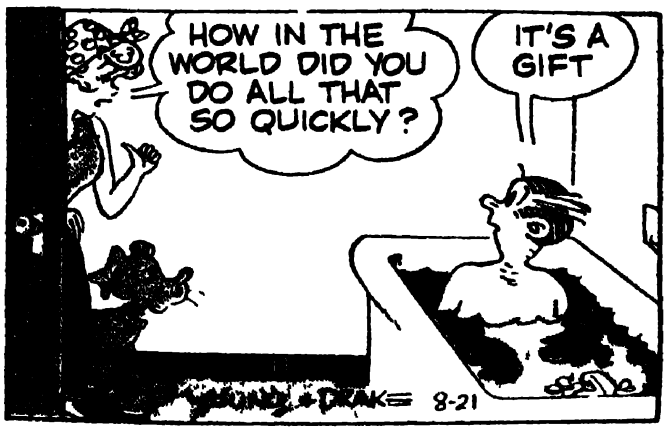








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Focus

WELL DONE



A view of the well from the top through a series of structures

The step-well at Adalaj in Gujarat is still unsurpassed in architectural beauty, romance and tradition, says ***Bhuwan Mohan***

Photographs by the author

The Indian countryside is dotted with ruins of all kinds — tombs of now forgotten chieftains, once glorious temples and palaces of *sirkar*, *minars*, mosques, *havelis*. Gujarat is no exception, but here, there are hydraulic structures of various kinds — cisterns, tanks and wells.

And of these, step-wells, locally known as *vavs* are unique to the state.

There are, we were informed, about 120 step-wells or *vavs* spread across the landscape of Gujarat, the oldest such structure being the Rani Vav at Patan, 80 kms from Ahmedabad, dating back to the 11th century A.D.

But, the one constructed in the 15th century in the sleepy village of Adalaj is the most popular among them, possibly because of its proximity to the cities of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat.

Known as Adalaj Vav, it is located at a distance of 20 kms from Ahmedabad and five kms from Gandhinagar on the Ahmedabad-Meshana main highway.

A totally unexpected sight awaits as one nears this *vav* in Adalaj which really is a *na vav*, literally meaning an "upside-down architecture of a step-well".

Initially, from a distance, it looks like any other ordinary well but as one goes closer to it, it proves to be a feast for the eyes. And, it is the right moment to ready the camera and the sight is such that you do not need to search for the objects to click.

The beauty of this architectural marvel keeps on enhancing as you step into it and start going downwards. Built of sandstones, one can enter into this step-well from three different sides which consist of octagonal (*ashtakon*) landings with huge carved colonnades and exquisitely carved niches. Its architecture is a fusion of Hindu and Muslim style which shows the influence of the earlier Solanki rulers in this part of the country.

In these carvings, the leafy creepers — typical adornments of Muslim architecture — co-exist with Hindu symbols which include animal motifs: the bird, the horse and the elephant together with *navagrahas* (nine planets) and images of Goddess Shakti.

Among other carvings on the panels are a king sitting on a stool with two *chauri* bearers, a scene showing churning of butter milk, musicians accompanying dancing females besides abstract symbols of gods and goddesses. One can also see traces of Bud-

Hindu and Jain influence on some of the pillars and walls.

Like many other ancient structures, the legend behind the origin of the *vav* is as much interesting as its architectural beauty and is shrouded in mystery and romance. In the past, the area between the present day Mehsana and Adalaj—called Dandai Desh—was ruled by Rana Veer Singh of the Vaghela dynasty.

Around this time, Mohammed Begda, a Muslim ruler of a neighbouring province attacked Dandai Desh and killed Rana Veer Singh. When the victor's eyes fell on Veer Singh's wife, Rani Roopba—an enticing beauty true to her name—he sent a proposal for marriage.

The heartbroken and subjugated but determined queen did not succumb to the pressure but played safe and agreed to the proposal on condition that he complete a five-storeyed water *vav* as a sign of devotion Begda, hypnotised by the glamorous charm of Rani Roopba, agreed to take on the challenging job

Construction of the 500-year-old step-well had, in fact, begun years ago under Rana Veer Singh, the slain king, but the work had to be abruptly stalled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Begda re-started the project with great enthusiasm and left no stone unturned (literally as well as figuratively) in order to complete the work in a record time so that he did not have to wait long to marry Roopba.

When the five-storeyed exquisite edifice, costing more than five lakh gold coins, was complete but for the dome, the unsuspecting ruler renewed his proposal to Roopba and asked her hand in marriage.

Roopba did not say a word and returned to her palace in grief. Begda took this silence as an affirmation. However, next day she took a final round, inspecting closely the monumental structure and once satisfied, went and stood at the top storey, in the area overlooking the well.

Saying a final prayer, she flung herself into the water and was immediately drowned. Roopba, in a true tradition of *ekapativrata* (vow of one husband only), preferred to commit suicide than marry a second time. Thus, Rani Roopba's *jal samadhi* has sanctified the place and the village folks flock around the well, carry its sacred water back and use it for purposes of worship just like the sacred Ganga water.

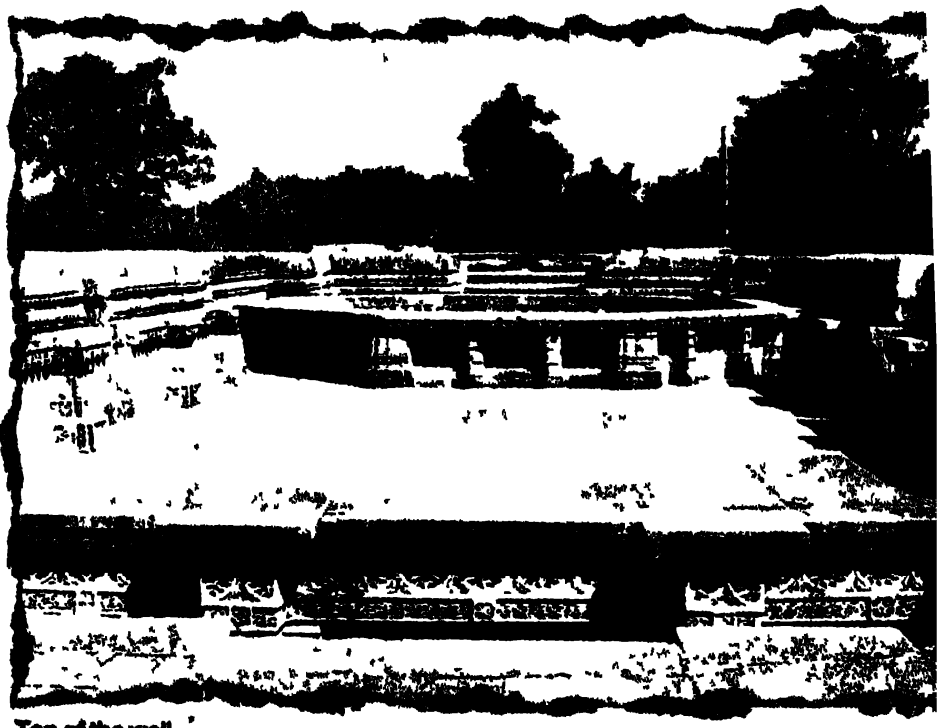
Overcome with rage and shock at the unexpected turn of events, Mohammed Begda ordered to stop further construction. The dome was, therefore, never built. Fortunately, Begda, did not insist on demolishing the monument—probably because Roopba had cleverly, and with immense farsight, employed Muslim masons to do the construction and decorated it with Islamic motifs.

The ornamentation here is derived from the mosque and funeral-halls of the 15th and 16th century Gujarat *sultans*. On one of the storeys one comes across a little Hindu shrine, surreptitiously hidden in an obscure corner. This was probably deliberately done to escape the attention of non-believers and vandals.

to reach to the water level when a pulley was already serving the purpose?

To this, several answers may come to mind. Maybe, such a big pulley was not available then and this was the only alternative. Another is that, while one person can draw water using the pulley, here many persons at one time can reach the well and fetch water. And yet, there could be some other answers to this vexed question, but instead of unveiling this mystery, I preferred to immerse myself in the grandiose of its architecture.

Besides this, another niche here houses an *ami khumb* or a pot that contains the water of life, and a *kalpa vriksha* or a tree motif made out of a single stone-slab. These sites attract villa-



Top of the well

The main attraction for the visitors is, of course, the pool of water at the lowest level at about 100 feet below the ground. Not too long ago, young men used to show-off diving feats from various heights for the visitors and earn money in return.

But now, all that is no longer allowed, specially ever since the *vav* became a protected monument under the auspices of the Archaeological Survey of India.

Upon looking straight up one can see the pulley, as used in the conventional wells, that was once, and can still be, used for hauling up water. One question comes to the mind. What was the use of making such gigantic steps

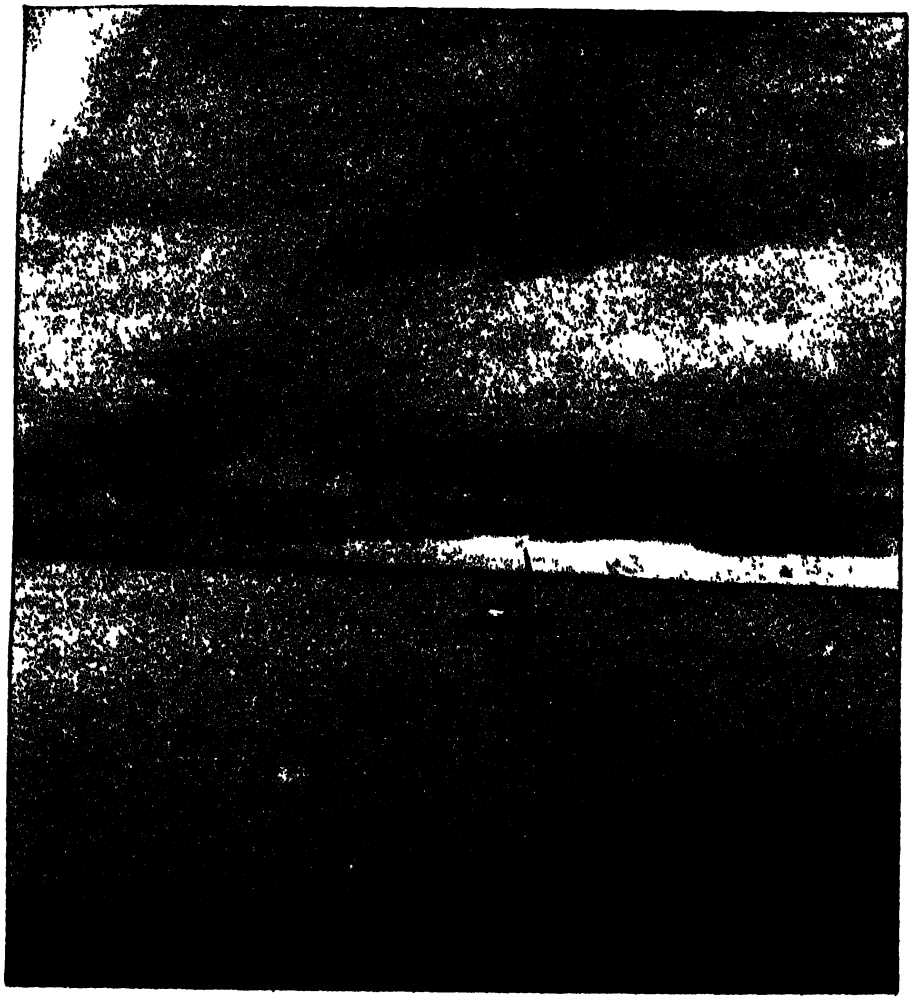
gers on religious and auspicious occasions like marriages and sacred thread ceremonies.

The entire edifice is enclosed in an oversized boundary in which trees, plants, and shrubs have been planted. Here, in the vicinity, there are graves of six masons who were instrumental in erecting this step-well. It is believed that when Mohammed Begda asked them if another, a better *vav* was possible, they had replied in the affirmative.

This proved to be their undoing and they were instantly put to death. And, that is why perhaps, this hydraulic structure, among mynad such structures in Gujarat, stands unrivalled even today reflecting the romance, purity of

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Sad Song Blues

(for Mohit)

I have walked these beaches,
tried hard, hard to keep the
ocean's water
Within the clasp of my palms
Dust and memories, linger And I
have mercifully aged
Harsh sand grains rub the ugly
knots on my hands
Have I learned any? Am I wiser for
the sojourn in the sand?
Never a seeker after knowledge, I
have buried my toe in sand,
pushed the next shaky step into
salt water,
weed, grime, and a bit of life

I loved, merely
I never found such a thing, just
love
Not pure, never simple But, who
knows?
Yes, the stars danced as the winds
carried the ocean's wrap
I was witness to the moon raking
in the wild, wild harvest
The waves licked the oceans edges
on moonless nights,
the slow drudgery of a passionless
act
It is better to die than live by habit

The joys are there
A life to live And, love?
The wise man rolls on sand,
gathers no moss, no sparks of new
knowledge

There is no such pure, or simple,
stuff

Bijoy K.Sahoo

The Torn Shirt

Loved the colour of that torn
shirt
Breath of fresh air, once upon a
time
shakens me now,
embarasses me
Where have they all gone?
Lost to the birds and the bees, that
torn shirt, a skeleton now
How do I escape from its clutches?
Loved the colour of that piece of
cloth
straddled on a hanger
Memory still azure, like the new
suntinted Maruti
I remember morosely the glazed
colour of
that torn shirt
Cringes now in this twilight hour

Loved really, memorably the
colour of that favourite
shirt, on display in the hanger
Aspect now of my nakedness, my
sordidness

Shankar Chakraborty
(Translated by Ananya Shankar Guha)

Nikkah

At ten
A black purdah took over
Her bright little face
A sea of dreams
Died down beneath
That dark veil
Sunlight denied
Her darkness served a cause
It arrested the musk of her skin
From spreading into the swampy
bylanes
Of the city
Through the small eye-holes
She sometimes marvels at the sun
Movements restricted
On the nikkah day
She laughed a lot
Hugging her childhood
puppet-bride
She found her own self trapped
In its helpless blue eyes
Durga Prasad Panda

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS



Dolores Claiborne The central character of Taylor Hackford's film is a middle-aged Maine housekeeper (Kathy Bates) who is believed to have murdered her boss — and years earlier, her vicious, alcoholic husband

In the midst of all these rising suspicions, Bates has a fascinating sense of balance and neutrality She suggests the reserve and stoic endurance of Americans from small towns who are outwardly conventional, but powerfully individual inside

Towards the end, life, which looked good for a while to Kates, somehow seems to have gone wrong

Jennifer Jason Leigh, as the heroine's impudent daughter, lends tragic intensity to her parts

Screenplay is by Tony Gilroy from Stephen King's rambling novel and the dark-toned cinematography by Gabriel Beristain is deeply moving

LIFESTYLE

So what's cooking?: **If you are planning to knock off a few calories from your rich, oily meals this is for you!**

Square Automation Private Limited has come up with a steam cooker – Cooklite, claimed as the first of its kind in India.

The cooker is ideal for the health-conscious, calorie-watching segment. Equipped with an imported timer and an automatic shut-off facility, Cooklite has a transparent body made of durable polycarbonate to absorb high temperatures.

Priced at Rs 1,650 in Bombay and Rs 1,750 in other regions, this product may be a quick way to eat light.



Tough ones: **News for the sporty types; Phoenix has launched a new range of sports shoes called Tuffs. Tuffs is a cool combination of trendy, imported designs, high quality PV soles and leather/synthetics uppers.**

Phoenix, having a 25 per cent share in the sports shoe market in India, plans to target the middle income segment with prices ranging from Rs 350 to Rs 700.



BOOKS

Shadows on a Wall On a fishing trip in Slovakia, a small boy discovers a limousine lying at the bottom of a river Inside are a few dead bodies of Hollywood stars, a young director and a famous rock musician

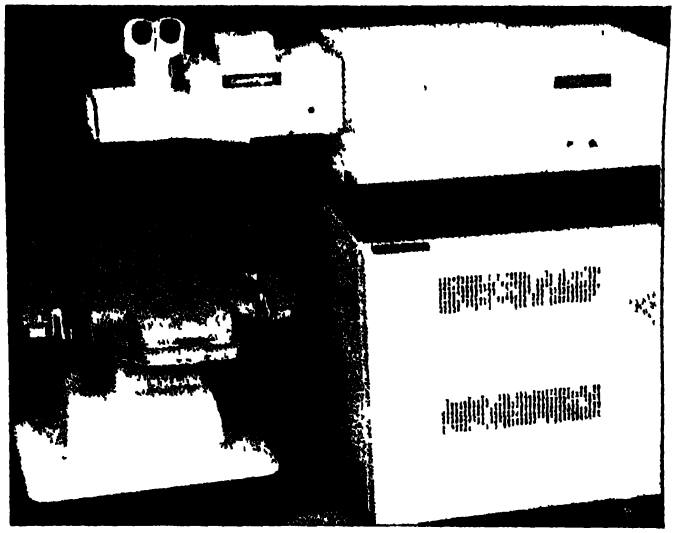
This happens in the midst of shooting a film about Napolean, *Shadows on a Wall*, which is millions of dollars over budget and has a producer who cannot be traced

Ray Connolly spins a compulsive tale on the making of a 100 million dollar film which ends with chaos, murder and the collapse of a Hollywood studio

Published by Corgi Books and distributed by IBD (Bombay) Limited, the novel is priced at a special Indian price of Rs 210 (£5 99)

HEALTH

Better sight: **Manmohan Singh's India seems to be an attractive prospect for many including those in the pharma industry. Gainwell Medimart Limited, in technical partnership with Surgical Laser Technologies Incorporation of the USA (SLT), is setting up a chain of eyesight correction treatment centres all over the country.**



These Better Sight Centres (BSC) would be using the sophisticated Excimer Laser and Corneal Topography System to remove most vision disorders and thus eliminate dependence on glasses or contact lenses.

In Calcutta, Life Line Nursing Home would be housing eastern India's first BSC; by the end of July. Three well-known Calcutta-based opthalmologists, specialised in refractive surgery, will be trained by an American opthalmologist.

The Centre claims to offer a permanent cure for the deficiency and would charge a one-time fee of Rs 9,500 per eye.

VANDANA SHIVA, *one of India's foremost eco-feminists, is a votary of diversity in all forms and spheres She believes that patent laws of the GATT threaten all forms of diversities by attacking the most crucial of them all, that of biodiversity. Her biggest obsession now has become to promote the diversity of seed forms, and her NGO, Navdanya, is working fulltime on it. She is internationally known for her work in the field of environment and was honoured with the 1993 Right Livelihood Award.*



What is your idea of perfect happiness?
To be at peace with oneself
What is your greatest fear?
To be exiled from my country
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mother
What do you dislike most in others?
Manipulative behaviour
What do you dislike most in yourself?
Putting the high standards of morality and integrity — which I put on myself — on others
What is your most precious possession?
Possessions can't be precious Relationships are, and the one with my son is the most precious
What objects do you always carry?
A little piece of earth — some soil, a few seeds and beautiful symbols given as gifts by friends.
What makes you most depressed?
The narrowness and petty-mindedness of people who can afford to be more generous and broadminded in their positions.
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My double chin.
What is your favourite word?
Love
What is your favourite journey?
Within myself
What is your favourite dream?
Of having lived a life in which I did the best I could do for others
What is your nightmare?
To lose my fearlessness
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
The work I do
What is your source of sustenance?
The fact that I have extremely few needs for myself
On what occasions do you lie?
I don't
What is your greatest regret?
None

What is your most precious possession?

Possessions can't be precious. Relationships are, and the one with my son is the most precious

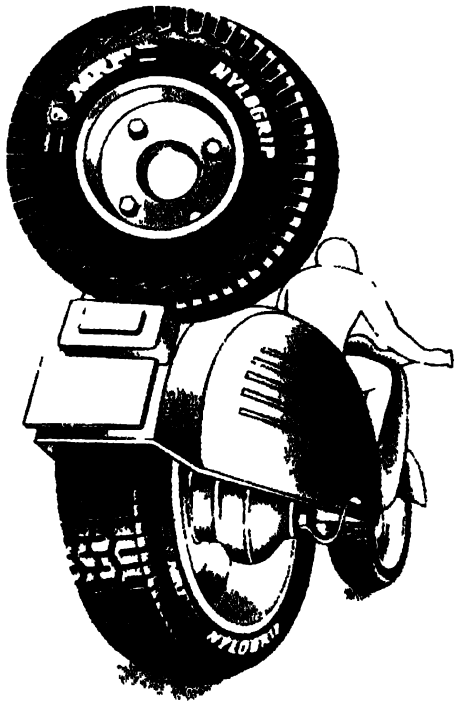
What objects do you always carry?

A little piece of earth — some soil, a few seeds and beautiful symbols given as gifts by friends

What has been your happiest moment?
When I was delivering my son
What brings tears to your eyes?
Extreme joy, an extremely beautiful spring or a tree, the generosity of the poor, like an old woman giving me a glass of water when water is scarce in her home.
How do you relax?
I relax in my work.
What do you envy most in others?
No, I don't feel envy.
How would you like to be remembered?
Not by my public profile, but by those closest to me in terms of what I meant to them.
How would you like to die?
With a sense of satisfaction that I have done all I could for the values I stand for.

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TVS

6 AUGUST 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Not Regular Merchandise

■ Despite its failure at the box-office, Merchant Ivory's *Jefferson in Paris* should not prove to be that big a disappointment for filmgoers ('Paris Mismatch' July 2)

As a period film, depicting the less publicised areas of Thomas Jefferson's private life, it should prove to be interesting to many

Merchant Ivory has made such memorable films like *Howard's End* and *In Custody*

The latter was a brilliantly crafted film, almost like poetry on celluloid Om Puri and Shashi Kapoor gave excellent performances

In contrast, Nick Nolte as Jefferson is not the best Hollywood choice

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore (Orissa)

You and We

■ I offer you a bouquet of roses for selecting the Common Man for your First Person page (July 9).

The answers were reflective of the Common Man's conscience Politicians have ruined the lives of the common people, exploited them and made them miserable

Dhananjoy Patro,
Bhubaneswar

■ I wish to congratulate the writer of your anniversary First Person It was brilliant!

Subhobroto Dutta,
Calcutta

■ The anniversary First Person was the best of all the ones featured till date I could identify myself with all the answers.

Vinay Asawa,
Calcutta



Plastic world

■ I was delighted to find myself featured in First Person along with celebrities like Sushmita Sen, Aishwarya Rai, T.N. Seshan and others.

I hope I shall continue to receive the complimentary copy of the Magazine.

Congratulations on your 13th anniversary.

Partho Pratim Poddar,
Cooch Behar

■ The Magazine tries to cater to the tastes of its diverse readers through a wide variety of subjects But the most innovative of all ideas was the interview with the Common Man, in First Person

Anindya Basu,
Calcutta

Playing with Plastic

■ A wide variety of articles are made of plastic to make our lives comfortable unbreakable jars, cups, mugs and crockery in the kitchen ('The Plastic Hood', June 25)

Jute bags have almost become obsolete Plastic has taken its place

In some places in the city, a practice is followed of disposing garbage in plastic packets. Little do such people realise what ecological hazards they are inviting for themselves.

Sometimes, PVC plastic is burnt as a means of disposal This generates chlorine which destroys the ozone layer

Despite the harmful effects of plastic, there are people who will vouch for its utility.

Mili Das,
Sindri (Bihar)

INSIDE



Jagdish Yadav

PAGE 4

Torn between the Church which has had a long and debilitating influence on their culture and the recent saffron invasion, the tribals of Chhotanagpur are almost on the verge of losing their identity

PAGE 26

FOR THE people of Balagarh, boat-making is a thriving art and business

Troubled tribals

SECTIONS

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Cover Jagdish Yadav

COVER STORY

AT THE CROSSROADS







Caught between the Church which has had a long sheltering presence, and the RSS, desiring to oust all missionary influence, the tribals of Chhotanagpur are facing an identity crisis and fast losing all links with their heritage. ***Sona Thakur*** *visited the tribal belt*

Photographs by Jagdish Yadav

SCENE IN THE DEEPEST DEPTHS OF THE SAL FORESTS, MILes into the emerald nowhere, an elegant post-modern structure in red brick and black glass looms into vision, the cross atop its spire blazing in the failing light. The sound of the Paternoster floats out on the evening air.

Scene: Miles away, deep in yet another corner of the forest-land is a less ostentatious building. The crude painting of a bow-wielding Ram on the wall proclaims its religious affiliation. The sounds of a school-lesson carry the *Ramayana slokas* being taught by rote.

Both scenes are replayed and replicated time and again all across the tribal belt of Chhotanagpur. Both buildings seem equally alien to the land, carrying in their alienness the incriminating fingerprints of a crime.

This, then, is the story of that crime; a theft so simple and yet so complete that it pillaged a people's entire culture.

For centuries, the tribals of the Chhotanagpur have lived their lives bound to the ancient rhythms of the red earth and the pouring skies. For centuries, the timbre of their lives changed as little as the texture of the land, which continues to bear the scars of the implosion which hurled it from the sun.

The men and women who walk this land belong to tribes such as the Munda, the Oraon, the Ho, the Birhor and the Asura. They have always lived close to the land, working its soil and worshipping its trees. Their world was telescoped into the little forest clearing of their village, stretching once a week to the bigger village next-door where the *haat* was held.

Identity in such a milieu was secure. Religion, culture, economy and the social structure, the various protective layers that cocoon the precious kernel of a people's identity, were all fixed to their ancient

moorings The treasure trove was intact

But, over the last half-century, each of the tissue layers has been stripped away systematically A succession of alien influences have swarmed this area, overrunning its virgin territory and eroding its valuable traditions

Ironically, the two forces that have most vampirised this area are the propagators of two religions — the Church — in its various *avatars* as Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic — and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-led Hindutva brigade

"The Church and the RSS have subsumed us Between them, they will squeeze us out of existence," says Dr Birsa Oraon, a state veterinary department employee who has set up a string of Sarna Samitis to prod the tribals into action



His fears seem well-founded If sociological signposts are to be believed, the vibrancy of the tribals' indigenous identity is fast fading The nature worship cult of the tribals or the Sarna Dharam could well be a religion of the past, with a bare 20 07 per cent of the area's tribals swearing by it in the 1981 census The traditional tribal fetes and festivals go by with not even a tourism-driven celebration to mark them Film songs are fast replacing the lilting folk songs in the collective memory as the oral tradition of the tribals breaks down And as tribal children move into the mainstream of education, fewer of them learn the various tribal tongues

A chance encounter on the road between Khunti and Torpa in Ranchi district encapsulates the tribals' withering roots The sky is gathering its darkest clouds and rumbling its anger As the world darkens swiftly, a small group emerges from the forest by the side of the highway The cool breeze carries the lilting notes of their song as they dance their way to the macadamed strip where they spend a joyous half-hour in an impromptu dance performance



For centuries, the tribals of the Chhotanagpur have lived their lives bound to the ancient rhythms of the red earth and the pouring skies. For centuries, the timbre of their lives changed as little as the texture of the land, which continues to bear the scars of the implosion which hurled it from the sun

It could well have been a scene from a Films' Division documentary or a Republic Day parade, but in actuality it was the ritualised leave-taking ceremony of the Oraon people These men and women from Churki village had come to the highway to see off visitors from a faraway village and were saying goodbye the only way they have known for centuries

Yet, even as the hosts and the guests matched each other in uninhibited leave-taking, one person sat apart



Nineteen-year-old Lawrence Vengra looked distinctly uncomfortable "Him?" scoffed the nagara-player dropping his beat for a second, "he's a Mission child, he doesn't know our songs"

Lawrence could be today's tribal everyman Having been born and brought up in the shadow of the Mission — localese for the collective presence of the Church – he has lost even those vestigial links with his tribal heritage that the generation before him had retained fitfully So, while the rest of the group there that evening — all Christians but all older — sang the songs of their ancestors, Lawrence sat apart and silent

Lawrence's silence is the quiet of a people robbed of its traditional forms of self-expression And the tribals here are only just awakening to the theft Alarmed, they are now trying desperately to once again spin, strand by gossamer strand, that fabric of their traditional identity But, these efforts are few and enfeebled

The Jharkhand movement demanding that tribals be allowed to decide tribal destiny, the Koel Karo agitationists refusing to sever their links with their land, scattered Sarna Samitis trying to resurrect the tribal religion or the Sarna Dharam, and various memoranda to the government flaying the erosion of tribal culture These instances of protest and propaganda might be sporadic, but they are indicators of a frightening identity crisis

How did it come about that the collective identity of a people was so jeopardised? The answer has long roots

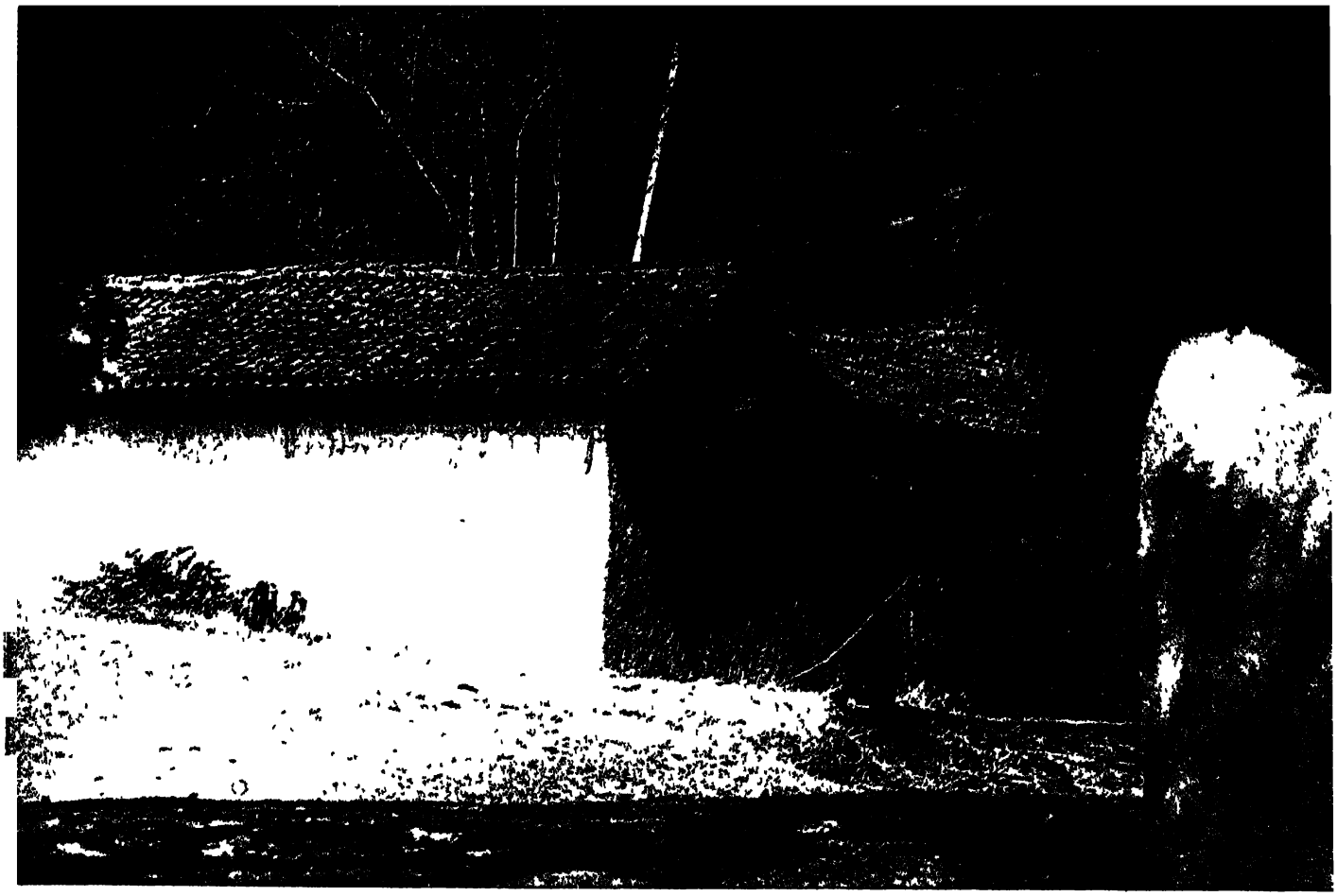
"The tribal is too gullible, too innocent and has paid for his naivete by putting his identity on the endangered species' list," says Dr P C Oraon of Ranchi's Tribal Welfare and Research Institute

Beginning with Emperor Shah Alam's *firman* of 1765 that allowed the East India Company to open up this region, the Chhotanagpur area has been breached by a succession of outsiders Drawn by the immeasurable wealth hidden in the belly of this land, these "diku" — Mundari for "outsiders" — have plundered not so much the natural wealth of the region as its cultural heritage

Seated in his office at the St Xavier's Institute, also in Ranchi, the vice-chairman of the Bihar Minority Commission, Father Bem Ekka, delves into history to trace the beginning of the tribals' alienation from their roots "In my mind, the exact point of departure was the Permanent Settlement of 1793 which not only imposed non-tribals as *zamindars* but also opened up the way for the missionaries to spread their influence" he says

For a century after they arrived late in the 18th century, the missionaries honed a fine strategy of evangelism with enticement They set up schools and dispensaries, doled out salves for the mind, the body and the soul and





added to the soldiery of Christ

And in a land that was a stranger to all modern facilities, there were many takers for the this-worldly add-ons if not for just the other-worldly philosophy The district gazetteer of Ranchi district records in 1895 that over the previous four years some 40,000 tribals had joined the Church

In fact even today, the allure of the Church is immense Suleiman Topno of Khunti has looked for work as far afield as Patna and failed to find any He has decided on a brighter destiny for his six-year-old nephew *"Isko to hum Brother bhejenge Bhookha to nahin marega* (I'll make him a priest At least he won't die), ' he says

But this union with the Church was by no means painless Written without words into the holy contract of conversion was the promise that the tribal who took to Christianity would have to tear himself asunder from his roots "I'm a priest but I admit that the Church equated Christianity and salvation with the European way of life and the message undoubtedly was that if you want our help, our facilities, give up your way of living," says Father Ekka ruefully

So, prompted by the Church, the Christian tribals deliberately induced mass amnesia in themselves — traditional rites and rituals were all discarded as pagan, the identification marks of tribal identity, from the language to the tribal top-knot were all discouraged The Christian tribal continued to lug this alien cultural baggage far into the 20th century "Why, I myself have studied Latin in the mission schools but not my own language," says Father Ekka, who is an Oraon from Palkot in Gumla district

With the triumphal passing of Independence came another era of governmental neglect for this region Although it plumbed the depths of the land and pillaged the wealth buried there, the government of Independent India gave the people little in return From hospitals to railways to schools, all milestones of modernism here languished even as the region fuelled the nation's development

Instead, it was the Church that moved in and assumed charge of the public spaces, its influence spreading beyond just those who had converted to its ways It catapulted the region's economy from the barter stage to the modern capitalistic one, it controlled the area's education and medicare network, it dictated voting patterns from the pulpit, and it decreed social mores and manners

As the Church pressed its imprint onto the very face of the land, the number of people in its fold grew Symbols and statistics both told a tale of galloping conversions to Christianity In 1961, 17 34 per cent of Scheduled Tribes in Bihar were Christians By 1981, this figure jumped to 20 07 per cent

Gradually the Mission became omnipresent Even today, the most inaccessible *qasba* town is serviced by its own church and the smaller villages have outdoor stone altars for the itinerant priests The parishes abound with improbable names like Hannah, Ernestine and Celestine and Tobias, Benedict and Zachariah *"Jai Isu"* has become the standard greeting in the deepest forest village And, for a clincher, the Ranchi telephone directory has 35 organisations prefixed with a "St" — bizarrely enough, there is even a St Olympus

As the streams of tribals flowing into the innumerable churches dressed in their best increased with each passing Sabbath, the high priests of Hindutva watched with growing consternation This was the Nineties and the one-point programme decreed by Nagpur was a terse command — "Grow"

Nursing visions of overrunning this tribal tract, the RSS*wallahs* set about neutralising the Church's influence Ironically, they used the Mission's

NEW HOPES, NEW HORIZONS

The cost-benefit analysis of outsider presence in Chhotanagpur is not altogether an account written in red.

If the continued presence and proliferation of the Church has debilitated the traditional tribal culture, it has also poured in much in terms of development

Although a part of a state that has become a synonym for backwardness, this slice of Bihar is surprisingly forward faring if the major socio-economic indicators are anything to go by.

had an education on their doorstep.

These parish schools were till Class VII, after which the children moved to the high school in the nearest *qasba* The colleges were set up in the towns. Not only did this string of schools provide an excellent infrastructure, it also created its own self-sustaining supply of teachers A graduating student was ploughed back to serve as a teacher in the parish school and so on

The outcome of this was a literacy rate that far outstripped that

Schooltime will see rows of scrubbed tribal children, immaculate in their pleated skirts and matching ribbons in their braids, heading earnestly for school Today, there is 90 per cent enrolment in the primary, both government and private, schools of the district

To add to the good news, the female literacy rate here is just as heartening at 37 per cent, again matching the all-India average. The spin-off of this has been the growing gender parity in the dis-



A patient being taken to hospital on the Ranchi-Lohardagga Road

From education to environment protection, from the wage index to women's emancipation, all indices that usually spell development are rising in Ranchi. And the Church has prompted the strides in most of these

With the Church using education as the stepping-stone to evangelism, little "Mission" schools soon mushroomed in every churchyard. And as almost every third village in the district boasted a Church, the people here

of the rest of Bihar and equalled the all-India average The literacy rate for Ranchi district is 51 per cent, a phenomenal figure given that the rest of Bihar has managaed to notch up a bare 36.38 per cent.

More than the statistics, it is the appetite for education which the "Mission" has created in this region that is most creditable. Touch any point of this district — from the urban reaches around Ranchi to the furthest Munda village beyond Tamar — for evidence.

trict and the increased participation of women in the district's soci al and economic spheres

The health-care set up was established in the same pyramidical manner as the school system, with the Sacred Heart Hospital at Mandar becoming the referral hospital of the entire region. The sight of a couple of tribal men walking 35 kms with a severely ill patient borne on a *charpoy* gave silent testi mony to the draw of the Mission *aspatals*



For a century after they arrived late in the 18th century, the missionaries honed a fine strategy of evangelism with enticement. They set up schools and dispensaries, doled out salves for the mind, the body and the soul and added to the soldiery of Christ

MISSIONARY ZEAL

Tapkara is a spread of spring-green The village at the head of the gully leading down to the Karo river is the fountainhead of the agitation against the Keol-Karo hydel project. It is also a microcosm of the area, with the dynamics behind the anti-dam stir being much the same as those that caused the current identity crisis gripping the tribals

Tapkara falls in the catchment area of the local Mission headquarters at Torpa Barely 2 kms from that *qasba* town, it is serviced by Torpa's one Church, two schools — St Joseph's for boys and St Teresa's — and one Mahila Vikas Kendra run by the always-heard-of but seldom-seen Sister Karuna Braganza.

The people of Tapkara and other little settlements dotting the road down to the river-bank have been Christians for years now Two generations here have grown up in the sheltering shadow of the Torpa Church Their young have been taught by the missionaries, their illnesses treated by the nuns and their dying absolved by the parish priest

Today, however, the threat of being uprooted from the land of their birth has laid bare the subcutaneous layer of their own culture. Impellings that had been reduced to a faint recollection in the collective memory are now resurfacing

The government's declared intention of appropriating the surrounding area for the project re-illuminated the tribals' traditional link with the earth. More than the matter of fair compensation, the tribals' resistance to the plan is based on their fear of being severed forever from a past that is already

Tribals block the approach road to the Karo



own methodology Working overtime the last few years, the Hindutva brigade has established a string of schools, hostels, dispensaries and sundry social service organisations to wean the populace away from the Church and into the saffron spectrum

Working under the umbrella of the Banwasi Kalyan Kendra, the RSS network comprises 1,161 Ekkal Vidyalayas — one-teacher schools in the interior villages — 19 Chhatrawases — residential schools — and countless Saraswati Shishu Mandirs and Vidya Bhartis

In an attempt to Sanskritise the tribal, the syllabus in all these is unstintingly saffron Take the Ekkal Vidyalaya in Gudgudia village of Lohardagga district Twenty-year-old Balkeshwar Oraon is taking his class of 30 through their paces in a building prettified with the signs of the Swastik and the Om The children's day begins with the *vandana* and ends with the *arti*, the books Balkeshwar teaches from are published by an RSS offshoot, the Shishu Mandir Prakashan, the *Ramayana* is a separate subject, the charts on the walls showing the Great Men of India includes no Muslim, and the map from which geography is taught is that of the Akhand Bharat

But, Balkeshwar does more than just catch 'em young for the RSS He also has to spread the good word around the village He displays the end-of-the-year assessment form that he has to fill and return to the BKK – it has separate categories asking that the village be graded for its *"Hindutva bhaav jagran"* (Hindutva awakening), *"Dainik shakha ki sambhavna"* (desire for a daily shakha)" and *"Arashtriya tatvon par rok"* (the checking of anti national elements, viz the Church)

"Our effort is to ensure that the tribal children don't go to Mission schools and that, after staying with us for a couple of years, they should emerge as RSS workers," says Ajay Kumar Singh, the swaggering coordinator of the Ekkal Vidyalayas

And so, today, as the Church continues to spread its sheltering wings and as the RSS tries to out-Mission the Mission, the tribal population of the area is caught between the two pincer movements

What doubles the dangers is the supreme contempt both display for the tribal heritage and way of life If the Church decrees even dress code — the traditional sartorial symbols like tattoos for women and top-knots for men have been frowned out of existence — the RSS functionaries lose no opportunity to pour public derision on the *"dhol bajana sanskriti"* of the tribals

And, the RSS has come up with the ultimate swamping technique — it is perpetuating the myth that the tribals are nothing but a lost tribe of Hindus Dr Birsa Oraon sputters with indigna-



Tribals of Churki taking part in a traditional dance

half-forgotten

Humko to utha dega, kya hamara religion ko yahan se itha sakta hai government? (The government can evict us but how will it evict our religion), asks Prem Chand Guria, who converted to Christainity some 30 years ago He has been converted and educated by the missionaries, but the pull of his forefathers' heritage is today proving too strong.

Insisting on speaking in the pidgin English that is a leftover of his "Mission" education, he spells out his peoples' indignation "No necessity electree, understand?" he enunciates carefully *Humko kerasin ka dhibri chalega Par hamara devta log, hamara grandfather log jo yahan gadha hai, unko nahin chhod sakta* (We can make do with kerosene lamps but we cannot forsake our gods and our ancestors who lie in this land)

Almost dancing in his agitation, he hurries across the clearing to a cluster of pointed stone slabs These mini-Stonehenges can be seen in every tribal village and are the commemorative stones the people put up to their dead ones "This is my family's *hargadi* (stonehenges), tell me, how can either Laloo Yadav or Narsingh Rao make me leave these?"

A woman in the crowd that has been trailing in his footsteps speaks up. "The *sakhwa* (sal) trees under which our ancestors made their *Sarna Sthals* (the tree-temples of the tribals) grow in this land, how can we leave?"

Ironically enough, the local missionaries are siding with the tribals' agitation against the project and receiving no thanks for it The July 5 protest rally in Torpa was, in fact, attended by the Mission students in uniform and local lore has it that the local parish priest's jeep was seen whizzing around the area, whipping the tribals into protest demonstrations when a delegation of government officials arrived there at the end of June

But, say cynics, their tolerant acceptance of a flock suddenly reverting to "pagan" ways stems from a motive both subtle and sinister. By siding with the tribals in this contest the locals perceive it to be a crusade for their way of life, the Church will insinuate itself further into the people's midst

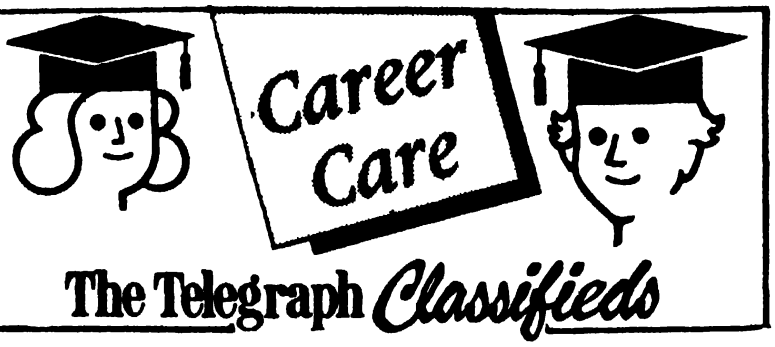
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ADMISSION OPEN

tion as he tells of this invitation he received from the Banwasi Kalyan Kendra to participate in a tribal rally in Gumla district "Speaker after speaker got up to stress how we tribals were *"Hanuman ke saput"* and so an integral part of Hinduism I was so furious I left the dais," he says still angry over the RSS bid to silently coopt his people

It is to prevent any further dilution and depletion of this sort that his Sarna Samiti is agitating for Constitutional recognition for the Sarna Dharam "Our is the only religion with no idols or priests Hence, our religion, and subsequently our culture, can be easily eroded An entry into the Constitution will protect our identity somewhat," says Dr Oraon

This bit of government action apart, the distant drum-beats of a tribal renaissance can be heard "Enlightened" tribals like the former vice chancellor of the Ranchi University, Dr R P Munda, make a production number of major tribal festivals like Sarhul and make it a point to tread the traditional dances in the street-processions A Regional Languages Department has been set up in Ranchi University to keep alive the various tri



Students of the RSS-backed Vidya Bharati school in Bishnupur, Lohardagga, help to build their own school

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Students at the RSS-run Ekkal Vidyalaya in Lohardagga

If the Church decrees even the dress code — the traditional sartorial symbols like tattoos for women and top-knots for men have been frowned out of existence — the RSS functionaries lose no opportunity to pour public derision on the *'dhol bajana sanskriti'* of the tribals

A well being sanctified according to tribal traditions in Gudgudia, Lohardagga



bal languages An enterprising soul has just captured tribal life on celluloid in a just-released a Mundari film called *Preet* And, in an ironic travesty of the Hindutva campaign, qasba walls in Chhotanagpur have suddenly sprouted slogans saying *"Garv se kaho hum Sarna hain"*

The flip side of this nascent nationalism is an animosity towards the aliens The Church by virtue of its long presence is today coming in for a dose of very unChristian feelings The anti-Mission sentiments range from the plausible — charges of land grabbing besides partiality to Christian tribals in admissions to Church-run schools and hospitals — to the implausible tale currently doing the rounds that 63 — the number remains precisely the same in every account — Christian nations met recently in the Vatican and decided to send a Church Sena to overrun Chhotanagpur

Whatever be the worth of these *bazaar* rumours, the very fact of their currency points to a groundswell against an alien presence that had, hitherto, been accepted as part of the lush landscape They are evidence of a people's superhuman effort to weed out the foreign forces and retrace their own roots ■

INNER EYE — Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21 -April 20



Ganesha says the home and the outside world vie for your time, talent and attention Children, competitive games or exams find in you a great champion Good news makes you happy particularly in the direction of rewards by insutitutions and government Trust your intuition

Taurus

April 21 – May 20



A 180-degree-turn in perspective and thinking is a possibility Changes in the home and house, office and shop, are probable Matter of immigration property, parental bonding, ceremonies, will take top priority Subtle mental processes could be at work By November it clarifies

Gemini

May 21 – June 20



Jupiter has regained direct motion from August 3, and that will most certainly help you to communicate and contact to your extreme advantage Get your travel-kit ready Employed geminis do a fantastic job and thus win well-deserved plaudits Shout your wares and get recognised

Cancer

June 21 – July 20



Time to take decisions, work to a plan, go all out for contracts tenders, assignments, new jobs (if so inclined), side business or take on more responsibilities This is certainly a power-packed week Throw a party invite friends over, join and enlist in social organisations, be charming

Leo

July 21 – August 21



You can go in for pin-point bombing and create a winning situation for yourself Your imagination and enthusiasm will culminate in grand success both at work and play That means finance and romance will join hands and that does not happen often

Virgo

August 22- September 22



Your 12th angle of meditation, contemplation, introspection is fully activated Journeys, pilgrimages, tours and commuting keep you mighty busy Religious ceremony and spiritual impulses show the way to a new path It is time of inner evolution

Libra

September 23 - October 22



Happiness and good fortune are yours in the segments of romance job, profession business, money, emotional warmth and glow Your popularity and prestige will soar to a new height Thanks to Mars the war lord in your sign you will win the game of life with an ace!

Scorpio

October 23 – November 22



This is action time, because the sun darts in your 10th angle of valour and daring and that suits you folks just fine Those in buying selling trading commission agency, management get more purchase and power Expenses will hit the ceiling But then one can't have everything

Sagittarius

November 23 - December 20



Jupiter in your sign, Western astrology, promises plenty, journey, ties, fame, a burst of self-confidence, the opening of a new branch, collaborations for business or profession, a link with the past, a long disputed matter getting resolved by court of law.

Capricorn

December 21- January 19



Venus-Mars excellent positioning gives you the skills to balance your budget, go over balance-sheets, change even management policies, streamline procedures Yes, loans, investments, capital formation, shares and hypothecation, are the other areas where you will be immensely active

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18



Ganesha says, wedding bells could peal most sweetly for the eligible and the willing Even spinsters and confirmed bachelors have a good chance! Many Aquarians will be going all out for high society, good fun, social welfare and humanitarian activity

Pisces

February 19—March 20



For the jobless or the unemployed a chance to find useful work Many Pisceans will be in for a job-hop, a change in designation, a promotion That would, naturally, mean more responsibilities and tension, but that's obviously part of the game A journey at short notice is a possibility

BIRTHDAYS

August 6: **Moon-Sun trine assures you of prestige and power in your chosen field of activity, assures Ganesha. Now is the time to cash in on past performance.**

August 7: **Moon Mercury trine favours those in flying, shipping, trading but it must be clarified that there is a danger of accidents and mishaps.**

August 8: **Uranus sextile Pluto means go in for long range planning and not measly immediate gains and fringe benefits Also, you are advised never to give up.**

August 9: **Moon sextile Jupiter leads to a million opportunities for success, and therefore you will score with at least one or two. Your efforts will be capped with triumph.**

August 10: **Full moon is conducive to plenty of movement, be it change of residence, office, or focusing on a new mate, partner, friend and so on. This is a year of changing values.**

August 11: **Moon square Pluto leads to slight upsets in the areas of work and affection Therefore, it would be best to be liberal, practical and compromising. Please try it.**

August 12: **Moon-Jupiter square suggests financial powers, emotional problems and family muddles But given grit and patience, nothing is impossible**

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC-741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5, 7
AHMEDABAD					
D2-806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1 3 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 3 6 7
BANGALORE					
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1820	1 4 6	VF 105	1720	1 4 6
BOMBAY					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI-306	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1830	daily
AI-681	2330	1			
DELHI					
IC 263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S-805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	1930	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF-737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2-181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 230	1620	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
HYDERABAD					
S2 023	0730	1 3 5	S2-024	1525	1 3 5
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC-778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1 4 6	1820	VF 105	1720	1 4 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JAIPUR					
D2 806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
JORHAT					
IC 213	0630	7	IC 213	1035	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1355	3
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2005	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1125	1 3 4 5 6 7
			IC 766	1620	1 4
D2 172	1720	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	2 3 5 6 7
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0630	7	IC 213	1035	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1355	3
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1,3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
BANGKOK					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 4 5 7	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
TG 314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6
BUCHAREST					
RO 076	1950	5 7	RO 075	1055	5 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG 698	1735	2 5	BG 697	1655	2 5
DHAKA					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG 092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG 094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KATHMANDU					
RA 214	1030	4 7	RA 213	0945	4,7
IC 747	1130	2 4 7	IC 748	1800	2 4 7
LONDON					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA 143	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	
PARO					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6 45	2312
005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 35	3006
003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
307	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat		
309	22-00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	2310
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr St Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	6 30	3032
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7 55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 30	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	7 55	1182
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13 40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	8 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10 25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure		Howrah	Arrival	
Up	Time		Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	3004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	1 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22-35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8109	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

MAJOR WILKIE GOES SHOOTING

Major Wilkie and I set off into the foothills on a cold, dew-fresh February morning, while the Siwaliks were still shrouded in mist The Major, wearing an old Army bush-shirt and khaki trousers, carried his 0 12 bore shot gun I carried his walking stick, which I handed to him whenever the going was difficult Ahead of us, sometimes behind us, as the mood took him, ran the Major's gun-dog, Flash, a young spaniel who had been trained to flush out birds for the benefit of his master

The Major was in his early sixties and lived on a pension He had been a good shot in his younger days and his verandah walls were decorated with the mounted heads of gazelles, antelope, wild buffalo and snow leopard, all shot at different times and places during his long sojourn in India

Advancing years, an arthritic arm and the high cost of good whiskey, had all combined to spoil the Major's aim When inviting me to be his house guest for a week, he had promised me a partridge shoot and he wasn't one to break his promises Though I would gladly have foregone the shoot (for I hate early risings), I remembered that the Major had oiled and cleaned his gun the night before and I did not want to disappoint him

"This is the right sort of country for partridge," he said, as he exchanged his gun for his walking stick in order to surmount a steep bank

"Plenty of scrub and fields not far off That suits 'em nicely But there's not much else, I'm afraid The deer were shot out years ago"

We had not gone far when Flash raised his head and sniffed the wind

"He's scented them," said the Major "Go send them up, boy!"

Flash ran with his nose to the ground and disappeared into a thicket of lantana bushes As he did so, a covey of partridges whirred up from the bushes Major dropped his walking stick, grabbed his gun, raised it to his shoulder and blazed away

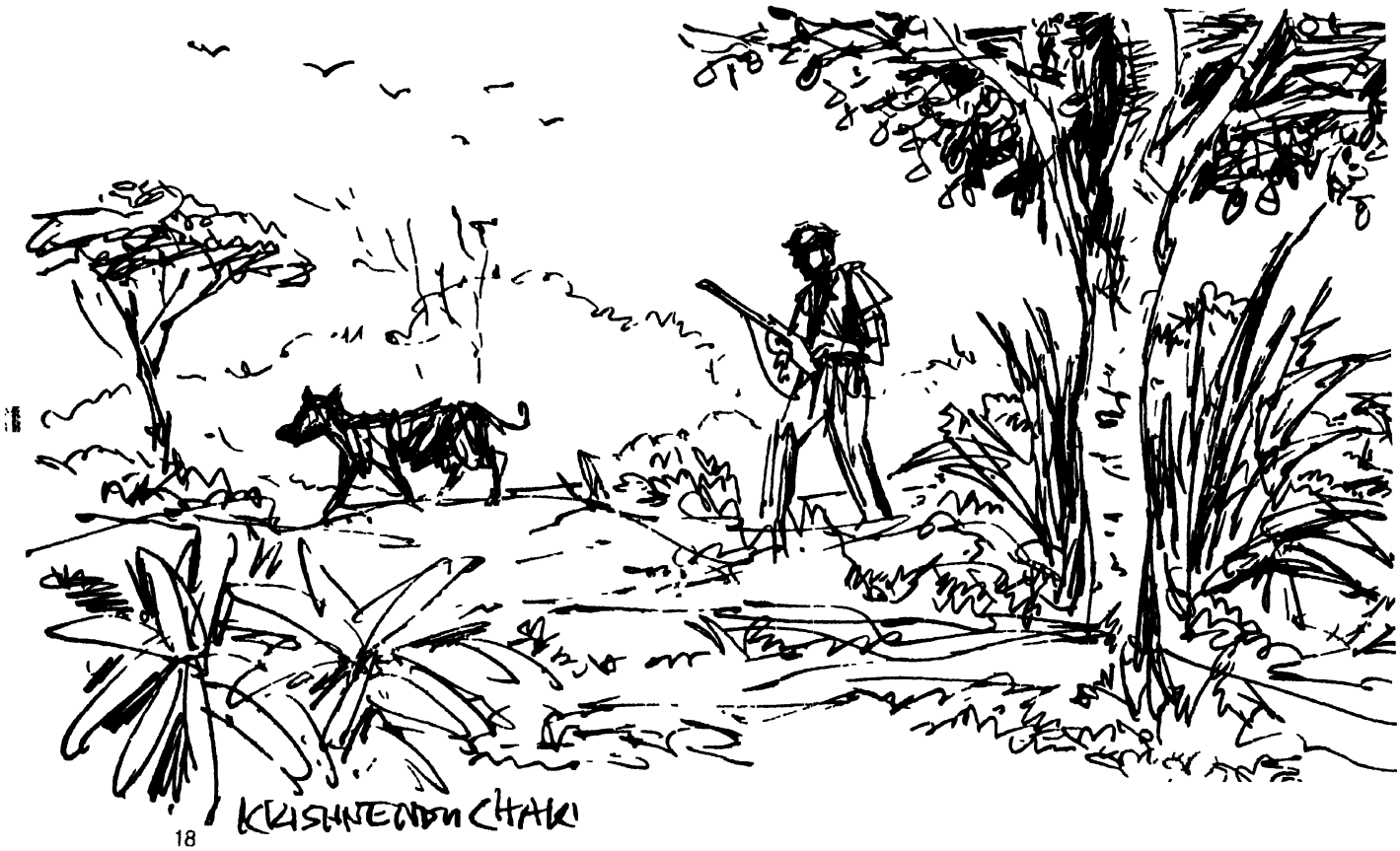
Not one of the birds fell They flew low over the bushes, swept around the contour of the hill and then settled down a furlong away

"Bad luck" I said

"Too damned far," said the Major "Out of range"

"Good boy Flash," he said, as the dog came back in high spirits, "We'll get them yet"

Forgetting his stick, Major Wilkie set off across the mustard field, calling Flash to heel whenever the dog showed signs of running too far ahead When we were well into the field, the



Flash certainly knew his job. The birds took to the air again and the Major blasted off another barrel. He missed by yards. The partridges flew swift and low over the field and settled down less than a 100 yards away. They had been shot at by the Major on previous occasions and were secure in the knowledge that he invariably missed

Major allowed the dog to run on

Flash certainly knew his job The birds took to the air again and the Major blasted off another barrel He missed by yards The partridges flew swift and low over the field and settled down less than a 100 yards away They had been shot at by the Major on previous occasions and were secure in the knowledge that he invariably missed

Flash came back, his stumpy tail gyrating with pleasure He did not expect anything wonderful from the Major but he was enjoying himself

"It's these damn cartridges," grumbled the Major, now rather red in the face "They're absolutely no good — the shot just bounces off those birds!"

"Never mind," I said, "Have another go They're not far off"

We advanced further into the mustard field, muddying our boots and trousers, while Flash went tearing through the flowering yellow mustard Up rose the birds Up went Major Wilkie's gun Off went both barrels, one after the other

To the amazement of everyone — Major Wilkie, Flash, the partridge and myself — one of the birds plummeted to the ground

"Good shot Sir!" I cried

"Go and fetch it Flash!" shouted the Major with delight And to me, "Roast partridge for supper, old boy!"

He was as pleased as if he had just shot his first partridge I could not help sharing his enthusiasm

Flash bounded forward He had plenty of experience in flushing out birds, but this was the first time, since graduating from the Sahranpur Kennel Club, that he had been called upon to retrieve one Perhaps that was why his next act was one in keeping with the character of a gun-dog He picked up the bird in his mouth and then, instead of bringing it back to us, made off with the trophy!

"Flash! Come back at once!" cried Major Wilkie

"The silly dog thinks the bird was meant for him"

"Well perhaps he deserves it," I said

"And so do I — deserve it," snapped the Major, adding in a rare moment of frankness "First partridge I've shot for years Ever since this arm started giving me trouble"

We trudged home through the fields, still faintly hoping that Flash would be waiting for us with the bird intact But we were disappointed The dog came home two hours later, looking guilty, with a few partridge feathers stuck to the sides of his mouth

"Well he certainly hasn't wasted any," I observed

The Major was too fond of his dog to think of punishing him But several minutes later, polite civilian formality gave way to some good old army frankness, and several new words were added to my vocabulary

(Sanctuary Features)



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magazine

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

A RELIGIOUS DISNEYLAND

Christian theologians, or historians as they prefer to call themselves nowadays, differ on many points But they are certain that Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem Over the last nearly 2000 years the city has developed its own sacred geography — where Jesus healed the sick, was arrested, condemned to death, and, as Christians believe, resurrected

Different churches have different opinions about the religious place Protestants by and large believe that the Garden Tomb on a hill outside the medieval city walls was where Jesus was buried, while Roman Catholics, Armenians, S rians, Greek Orthodox, Coptic and Ethiopian worshippers gather at the Holy Sepulchre in the old city which has been in existence since Byzantine times

Most of Israel's tourists are religious tourists, the large majority of them Christian They descend in air-conditioned busloads at one site after another clad in unpilgrim-like garb — sunhats, Tee-shirts and shorts, or knickers as they are known in India Everywhere signs request pro per dress, but somehow popular culture cannot be contained and knickers make their way into the most holy places

I joined a number of such religious tourists on the regular Friday walk by Franciscan friars from St Stephen's gate to the Holy Sepulchre down the Via Dolorosa, the road many believe Jesus took to his crucifix ion The narrow lanes were walled and floored with white Jerusalem stone, and very clean, with innumerable tourist shops, and confectioners' selling sweets made with vermicelli, soft cheese and flaky pastry

There were even giant pink *jalebis* Fresh figs, dates, orange and carrot juice were on sale At some points the market streets were domed and others open to the sky

I was immensely moved by the spiritual power which seemed to fill the Holy Sepulchre A stairway led to the rock which is said to mark the precise site of the crucifixation This part of the Sepulchre is in the hands of the Greek Orthodox church, hung with silver lamps mounted with glass bowls, the walls covered with paintings and mosaics which glitter

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The Franciscans stopped at each of the stages of the cross, chanted and prayed Among them was a monk from Kerala It was a struggle to stop the tourists from blocking the lane Entranced as I was by my surroundings, I was taken aback to see one of the friars attack a bystander who was in his way "You pushed me," shouted the angry young man "Yes, I'll push you," responded the man of God, picking him up by the collar and slamming him against a wall

The good citizens of Jerusalem intervened and separated the two parties This behaviour did not seem consistent with a follower of St Francis, the image of non violence But then no one, not even men of God, are perfect

gold in the dim light

The tomb itself is a small building in another part of the Sepulchre It's reminiscent of a *garbh griha* and stands beneath the Sepulchre's immense dome You have to bend down low to enter the inner chamber of the tomb in which there is room for only three people at a time to kneel and light candles at the simple altar

Not all are impressed as I was, even Christian scholars like the Irish priest and long-time Jerusalem resident, Fr Jerome Murphy O'Connor "One expects the central shrine of Christendom to stand out in majestic isolation," he writes, "but anonymous buildings cling to it like barnacles one hopes for peace, but the ear is assailed by a cacophony of warring chants One desires holiness, only to encounter a jealous possessiveness the six groups of occupants watch one another suspiciously for any infringement of rights The frailty of humanity is nowhere more apparent than here"

The churches in Israel are indeed in trouble Local Christians, many of them Palestinians, are choosing to leave the country and head to the West if they can Congregations dwindle Proselytism is forbidden by law, and many churchmen are drawn into squabbles over the *status quo* — making sure that their church maintains its control over its portion of the holy sites

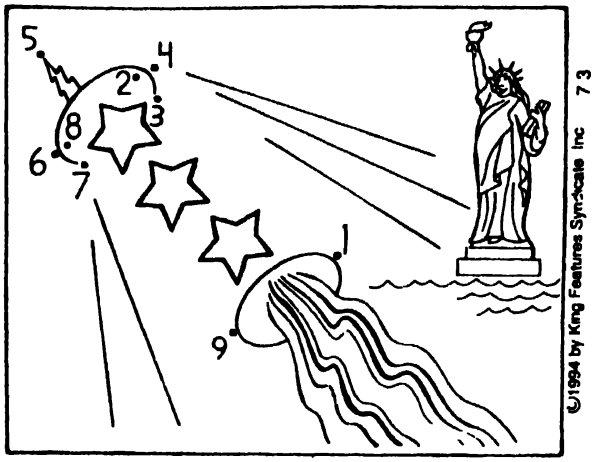
Stories abound of fisticuffs between sects money, laundering and smuggling by senior clerics Even if most of these are untrue, there is no doubt that the churchmen of Jerusalem are not working in a unified way to look after the interests of Christians

On a visit to the fifth century monastery and hermitage of St George in the Judean desert not far from the city, I asked one of the seven monks who remains there why there were no longer any Christian hermits "If we were hermits," he replied, "then who would give coffee to tourists?"

I was reminded of the comment by the Archbishop of Canterbury who, on a recent visit to Israel, said he was afraid the Holy Land might be reduced to a religious theme park In a way it already has been

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL HAL KAUFMAN



FLY BY! S ss, BOOM, b aa AH! To complete this holiday scene, add connecting lines from dot 1 to dot 2 3, etc

SAFETY NET! STAY and SAFE (a holiday wish for all) are two four letter words that may be found among letters of the word SAFETY Just for fun see if you can find half a dozen more

Seal sale fate feat fest fast east are possibilities

1 __ ___ NATION
2 _____ NATION
3 ____ _ NATION
4 _____ NATION
5 _ __ NATION

OPEN-END NATION CHALLENGE

ADD a word to complete each of these longer words ending in NATION In No 1 for instance add CAR for CAR-NATION Now go on

1 Add an auto for a flower
2 Add a musical note for a charity gift
3 Add a male deer for a form of inertia
4 Add a preposition for a voice inflection
5 Add a paving substance for an exclamatory oath

Four out of five is a good score Time limit 2 min

1 Car nation 2 Do nation 3 Elk nation
4 Into nation 5 Tar nation

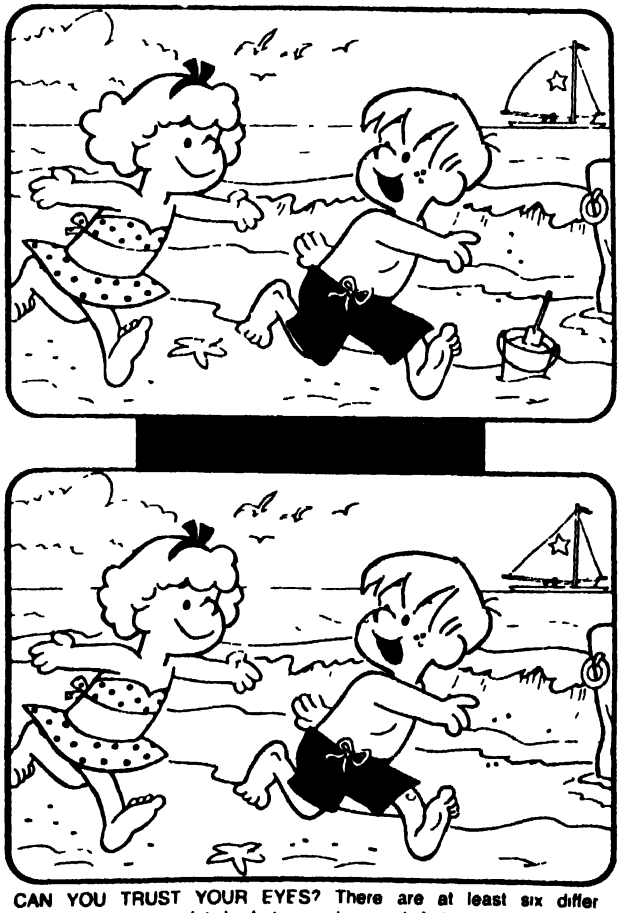
BOTTOMS UP!

Shuffle a deck of 52 cards Turn up top card, note its value (face cards count 10) Top this card with more cards to total 12 (Ex If turned-up card is a 4, add 8 cards) Turn up next card, and repeat, until too few cards remain to total 12 Set these aside

Now, count number of piles subtract 4, multiply by 13, and add number of cards set aside Alakazam! Result is total of cards at bottom of piles



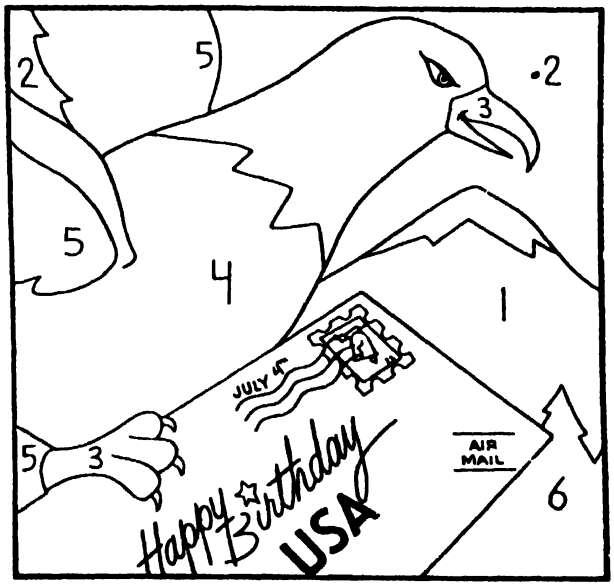
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Hair is different 2 Foot is moved 3 Starfish is moved 4 Swim trunks are smaller 5 Sail is different 6 Pail is missing

FUNSPOT



AIR EXPRESS! Hooray for the Fourth of July, happy birthday U S A Apply the following colors by number 1—Purple 2—Blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Dk brown 6—Dk green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

PROCLAIM

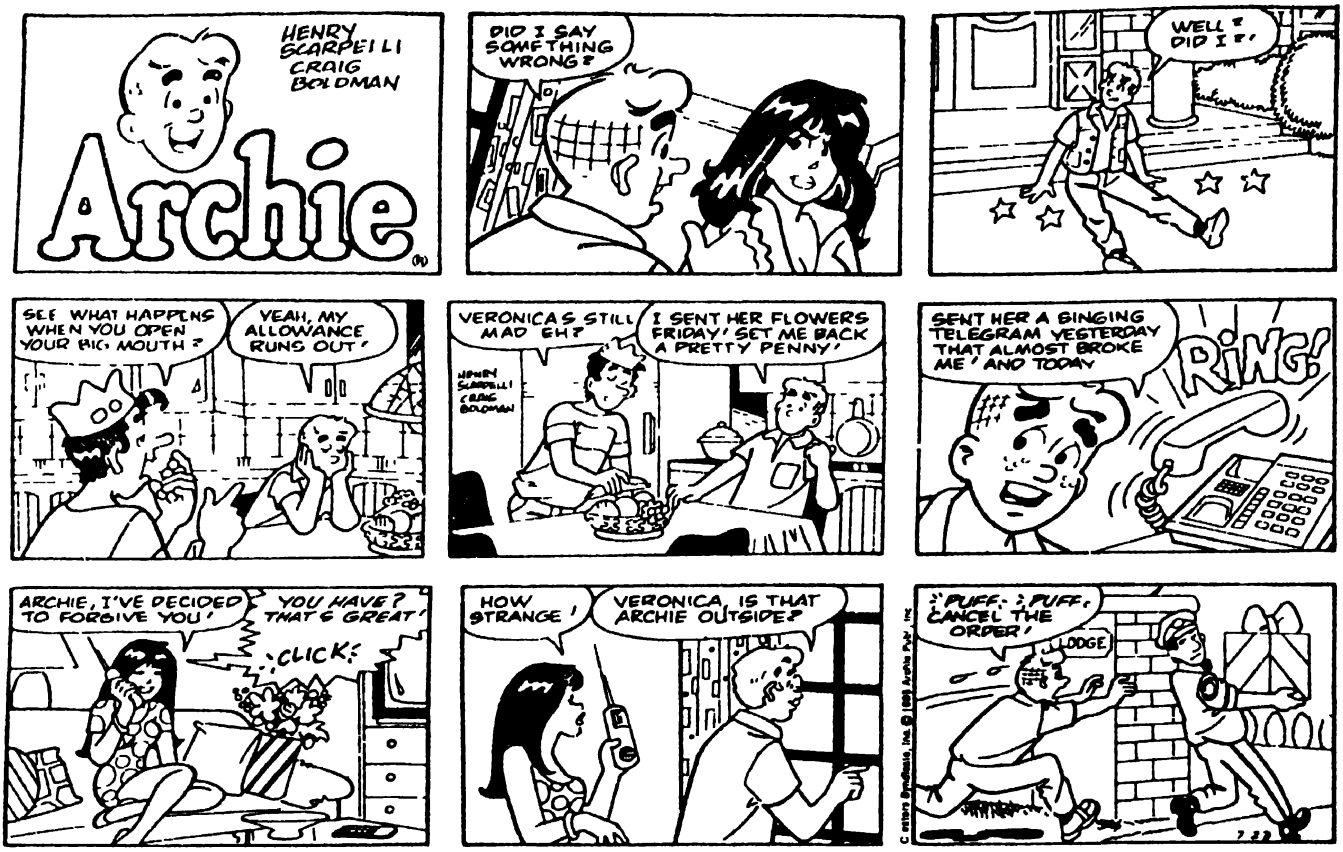
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THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

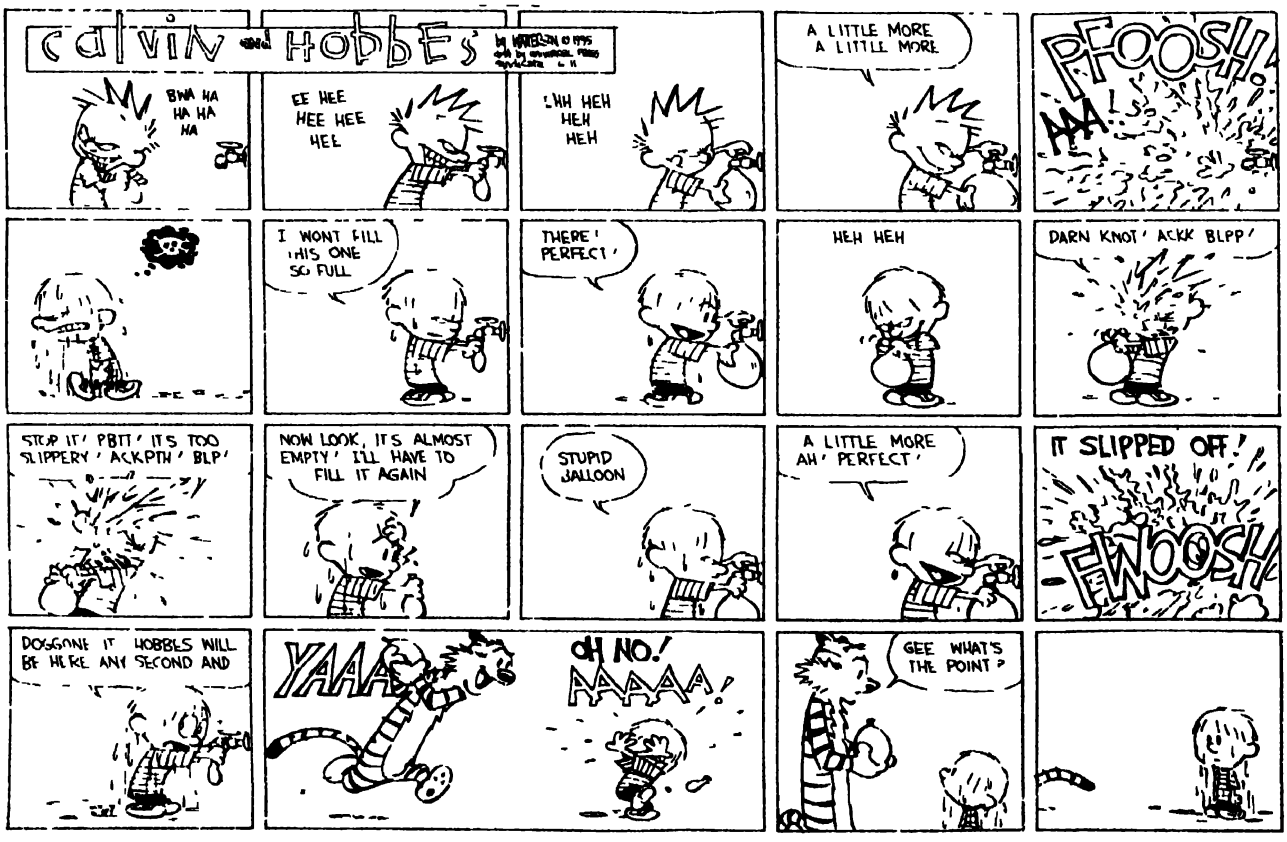
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome Mail crop

ARCHIE



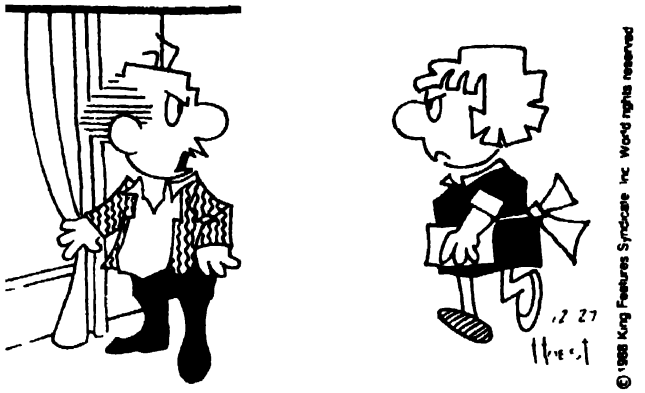
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

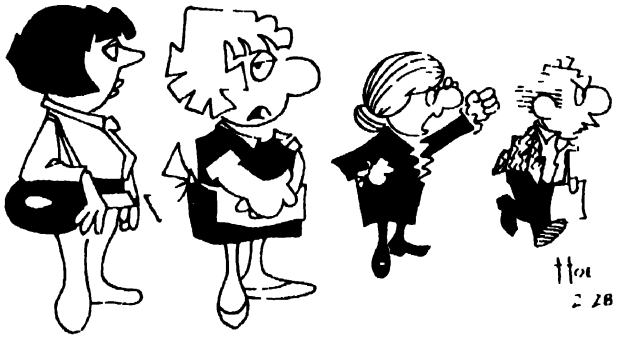


"BAD NEWS YOUR MOTHER TALKED THREE OF YOUR PLANTS TO DEATH"

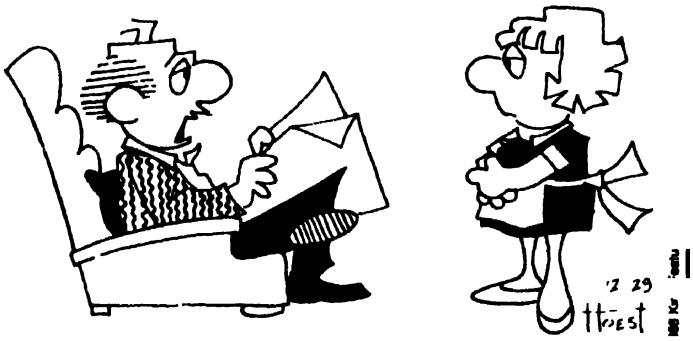


"HERE COMES YOUR MOTHER FROM HER WALK. DID YOU TELL HER NO MORE FREE MEALS?"

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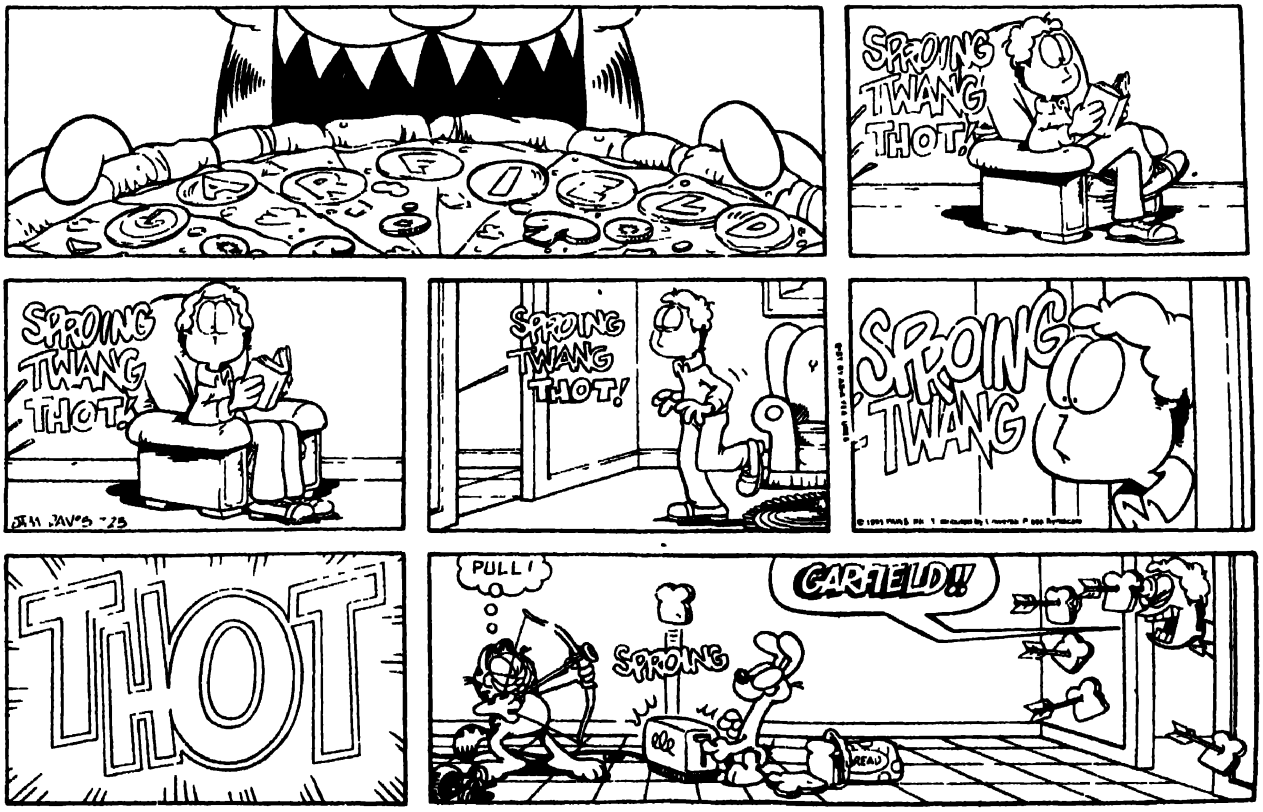


"MOTHER NEVER DID LIKE LEROY SMART WOMAN, MY MOTHER."



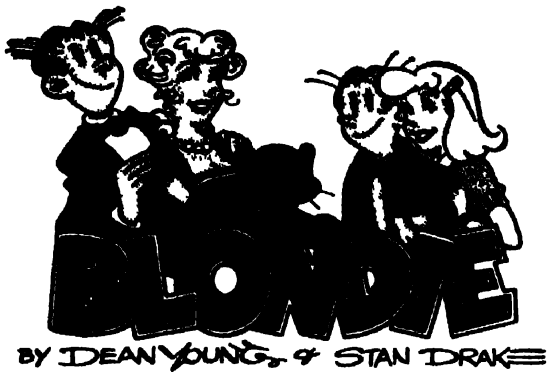
"SURE, I GUESS YOUR MOTHER CAN STAY HERE A WHILE LONGER YOUR FATHER DESERVES A BREAK"

GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

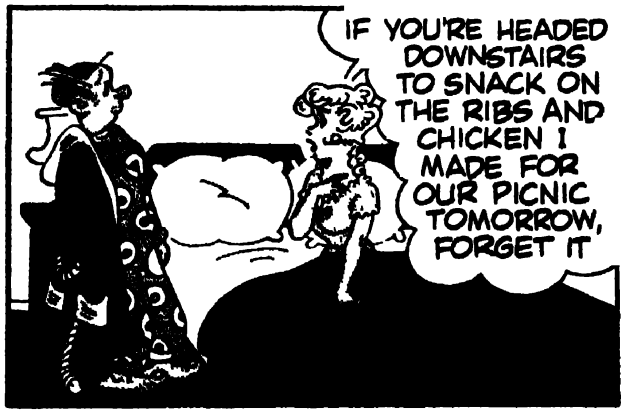


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP









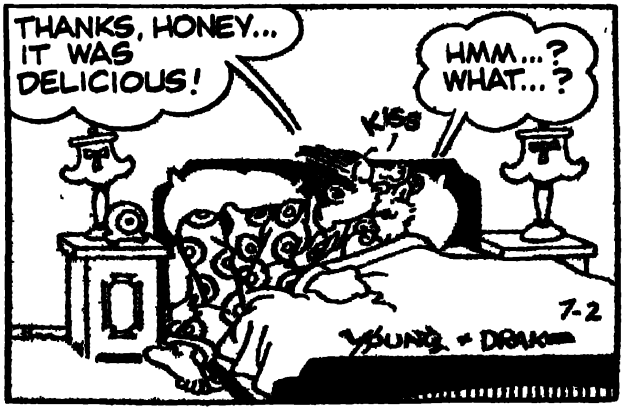








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BOATCRAFT AT BALAGARH

Kushal Gangopadhyay *focuses on Balagarh, a small town on the bank of the Ganga, which is the only place in West Bengal making boats on a huge scale*



Finished boats

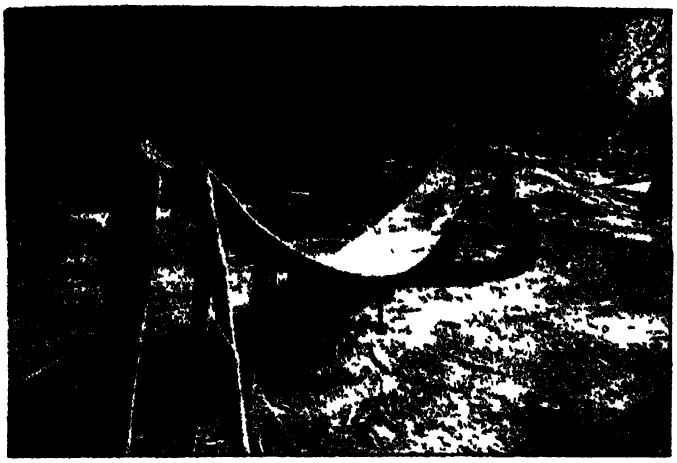
Tucked away in all its pristine beauty and quiet on the banks of the Ganga, in the Hooghly district, is Balagarh A small town famous for its boat-making industry, the only place in West Bengal where boats are made on such a huge scale

Local craftsmen claim the boat industry is about 400 years old Nemai Barik, owner of the only registered boat industry in the state, says that after the fall of the Adi Saptagram Fort in the 17th century, the boat builders shifted their venue to the Sripur Balagarh region

History also provides evidence in support of such claims Abul Fazal in his *Ain-i-Akbari* says boats and sea-faring vessels were made in Bengal Other records also state that Saista Khan, Governor of Bengal, 1664, ordered for boats from the Hooghly for the Mughal fleet

The town is dotted with workshops, 32 in all, and thousands of labourers are engaged here in building boats every year These are sold throughout West Bengal and also to neighbouring Bihar and Orissa

Boat-making here is a hereditary trade, coming down from one generation



Heat is used to curve the wood planks



Cowdung and tar mixture being applied on the joints

to another without any help of modern scientific techniques

The very inception or *pattan* of boat-making starts with measuring and fixing the first long wood strip with four joints called *sithi* Wood planks of 6" to 8" width, are used, bent by heat according to the curve of the boat, and are then rivetted by special type of two-way nails, on both sides of the *sithi* The size of a boat is measured by the number of planks joined on each side

After putting together the basic structure, the side wood pieces, called *gochh*, are fitted inside the boat with the help of large nails The gaps between the wood planks are filled with cotton threads A mixture of tar and cowdung is pasted over the joints This is left to dry under the sun for a day Then the boat is submerged in the river for two days It is taken out of the water for further tarring and other trivial oddjobs till it is ready for delivery Usually one skilled labourer takes about seven days to finish a boat of about 20' long

In Balagarh normally *babla* wood is used for making the boats, trees that are grown nearby and are also brought from neighbouring districts

The cost of a 12' and a 20' long boat is Rs 3,000 and Rs 6,000, respectively It soars to a hefty Rs 30,000 for a 50' vessel

The daily wage of the labourers varies from Rs 12 to Rs 40 depending on their skill And this profession has its own disadvantages Like many other labour-intensive industrial units, it engages child labour Ten- to 12-year-old boys from poor families are easily available to work as apprentices They are not paid in cash, but provided with a frugal meal

Sometimes, craftsmen are hired on contract for three to four months to work in other parts of West Bengal In places like Kakdwip, Rasulpur, Sankarpur or Digha, at least one expert boatmaker from Balagarh can be found

Thanks to the growing fishing industry, Balagarh's boat-making trade is now witnessing boom time The craftsmen are busy as never before Fishing activities, like catching lobster spawns in the Sunderban region, has turned out to be a very lucrative business

Fixing the first wood strip called *sithi*



Last year saw a record sale of more than 4,000 boats But the boatmen are sceptical of this sudden burst of business, atypical of the fishing community, for the vicissitudes in business are related with the ebb and flow of rivers

There will be ups and downs in the business, they believe, as there will be highs and lows in the river

For the people who worship the river such philosophy and fears are only natural Yet life carries on and so does their trade, that of crafting one boat after the other But the old saying, 'The river gives and the river takes away', they can never forget

Siddhartha Maity

PIN UP

LOVE IN THE WILD

Dirty Harry Clint Eastwood drops the gun for once and turns romantic in his new film, The Bridges of Madison County, *writes* ***Rajlakshmi Bhattacharyya***

"He was a graceful hard male animal who did nothing overtly to dominate, yet dominated completely He was a prairie wind you could ride like some temple virgin toward the sweet, compliant fires marking the soft curve of oblivion "

That is the sort of sensuality which runs through *The Bridges of Madison County,* a romantic bestseller by Robert James Waller, which Clint Eastwood brings to celluloid — donning the mantle of actor, director and producer

He plays Robert Kincaid, the camera (no, not gun) toting photographer on assignment for the *National Geographic,* sent to Iowa to shoot the covered bridges of Madison County

Losing his way, Kincaid meets Francesca Johnson, an Italian-born Iowa farmer's wife, whose husband is away for four days with their children

Well, if that is not enough to trigger off a passionate affair between Kincaid and Francesca, what is? The two make love a lot, then split again sacrificing love for duty

Meryl Streep (Francesca) was an unusual choice for the star of *Sophie's Choice,* one she would not have touched 10 years back But given her acting range that is as broad as she wants it to be; Meryl knew what she was doing

In August last year, when Eastwood rang up Streep at her Connecticut home and offered her one of the most sought-after female lead roles in years, she could not hazard a 'no'



A still from *The Bridges of Madison County*

In doing so, Streep had turned down a last minute offer from Robert Redford, to co-star with him in *Crisis in the Hotzone* which Redford relinquished soon after her refusal

And as for Clint Eastwood, it seems like a far cry from those dirty Harry days in stetson and spurs or the hardbitten city cop into which he had, for decades, been typecast

The Clint of those days would not have put up with a Robert Kincaid But the 64-year-old actor does not consider him a departure from the usual "cadre of emotionally spare rebels He is a sort of ageing hippie.. ," reveals Clint

Perhaps Clint is right, for when he uses the words 'creative' and 'independent' to describe Kincaid, he is in a way describing himself Clint has always followed his heart and makes movies, by his own admission, to suit himself which just happens to do well at the box-office

So this time round he has made up his mind to do a movie which is marked by a striking absence of crime, guts and gore

"He was very raw ," says Streep, who thinks "he's just reached a point in his life where he doesn't give a damn" At least, for once, Clint, whose profile seems hacked out of granite, enjoys losing control in the old-fashioned story of a man "desperately in love"

He is sick of uttering those smart one-liners and wiping out tons of people which, as he religiously put it in *Rolling Stone,* is something "for the new guys on the scene"

But it is not just Clint Eastwood who has something of the fictional Kincaid in him Author Robert James Waller seems to have created Kincaid in his own spitting image — tight jeans, white shirt, silver bracelet on right wrist, bohemian streak *et al* ..

Ever since the filming of *The Bridges* , Waller's first novel soared the best-seller lists His agents confirm they are coming up $8 5 million worldwide and $5 8 million in the US, a figure which is phenomenal

It puts Waller in league with those select band of best-selling writers who earn enough to turn their fantasies to fact

To keep the emotional fibre central to the movie, Clint has shot the film in sequence, allowing himself and Streep the space to develop their characters naturally

A nine-week shooting stint, the use of original locations and attention to the pace of the novel hold the promise of a different kind of story

The metamorphosis which had begun with *Unforgiven* for which Clint won an Oscar, seems to have come full circle with *The Bridges* So no longer is he the dirty, poncho-wearing 'Man With No Name' but the romantic lead in a story of true passion. ■

POETRY

After the Social Dreaming Conference

I seem to have been in the
Dreams of so many
Just as they were in mine

Dreams abound not only in limbo
But also float on the crests of the
Crashing surf,
Lightly hover over the shimmering leaves
Of the giant tamarinds
When a mild breeze springs up
On some hot summer afternoon
They also dance among the flaming red
Of the gulmohur when spring rings
The bell for the last cool drink

Dreams in fact are on perpetual
Search for dreamers,
Like thoughts vibrate in search of thinkers.

They are sometimes like
Pirandelli's characters in search
Of an author,
At other times they are
Like lost lovers in search of soul mates

A dialogue with any dream
Is like learning a bit of
What galaxies are all about

G. Chattopadhyay

The Unemployed

I have walked on broken glass
I have drunk failure's ditch water
I have felt fingers of rain and heat
Claw at my bloodied skin,
I have sprinkled the last of my
tears on barren soil

So now there are only cycles of
staleness
I have looked for a job before
And will do so again tomorrow

Sucharita Bagchi

Insipid Utterings

Left with dished out
Choices, and these
forked years,
like wrinkles on a
half-ruined face,

the visage of a day
stretched out
from the depths of nowhere,
alive
to the feel of
bed-sheets-of-the-night-before,
moving from
sleazy joints to
damp streets
with urinating men
and broken fingernails
piled up

from the cover of yesterday to
today——
caught in the jam
just the noise
of gnarled voices
choking the smile
stripped to its bones

Chandralekha Gupta



KAJOL, *the chirpy, bubbly girl who, according to herself, does not know how she entered the industry, is giving the leading ladies many sleepless nights. Daughter of former star and charming actress, Tanuja, Kajol made her debut in* Bekhudi *and blazed off to strike gold in* Baazigar, Yeh Dillagi *and* Karan Arjun. *Now her affair with Ajay Devgan being the hot gossip in the industry, she seems going great (Dev) guns on all fronts.*



What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Contentment and satisfaction. One cannot be happy if one feels that one has a long way to go.

What is your greatest fear?

Eek! Cockroaches. I hate them and despise them to no extent.

Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?

I am not influenced by anybody. Nobody is my influence or my idol. I work on my own.

What do you dislike most in others?

Hypocrisy. I also hate people telling lies. I don't bother about those who backbite, but I hate liars.

What do you dislike most in yourself?

My impatience I am also irritated by trivial matters. I make fun of people, but I fail to realise when I have exceeded my limits

What is your most precious possession?

My books. The Mills & Boon novels. I can read them 24 hours a day. Even during my exams, I used to read in the toilet sitting on the potty.

What objects do you always carry?

My Mills & Boon books again.

What makes you most depressed?

The backbiting and amount of lying that goes on in this world.

What do you dislike most on your appearance?

My paunch. Though I resolve many a time to get rid of it. I am not able to do it as I am very lazy.

What is your favourite word?

Oh shit! Though I try to stop it, it always comes through.

What is your favourite journey?

The steps up my building, because I can go home and sleep.

What is your favourite dream?

That I am freaking out in the arms of my Mills & Boon lover.

What is your nightmare?

Cockroaches. Sometimes I dream that I am in a room all alone and I wake up to find cockroaches all over me.

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

My books. I read any book which I can lay my hands on and feel that it is interesting. But romance is the foreword.

What is your source of sustenance?

If you are not getting bored, my books are again my source of sustenance I read books and think on those lines too.

On what occasions do you lie?

I do not lie. My upbringing has been such that I do not have to lie at all. I used to get thrashed whenever I used to lie as a child. So I have stopped lying from childhood

What do you dislike most on your appearance?

My paunch. Though I resolve many a time to get rid of it. I am not able to do it as I am very lazy

What is your greatest regret?

Nothing. I do not like to cry over spilt milk. Whatever I have done is totally my decision. Yes but I regret having signed *Karan Arjun*.

What has been your happiest moment?

My whole life has been very happy till date. I have enjoyed every moment of it.

What brings tears to your eyes?

When someone close to me lies and I know it, I feel like crying.

How do you relax?

Sleeping. I love to sleep all day. When I am not sleeping, I am reading.

What do you envy most in others?

Their capability of keeping their mouths shut at the right time.

How would you like to be remembered?

As a very nice human being.

How would you like to die?

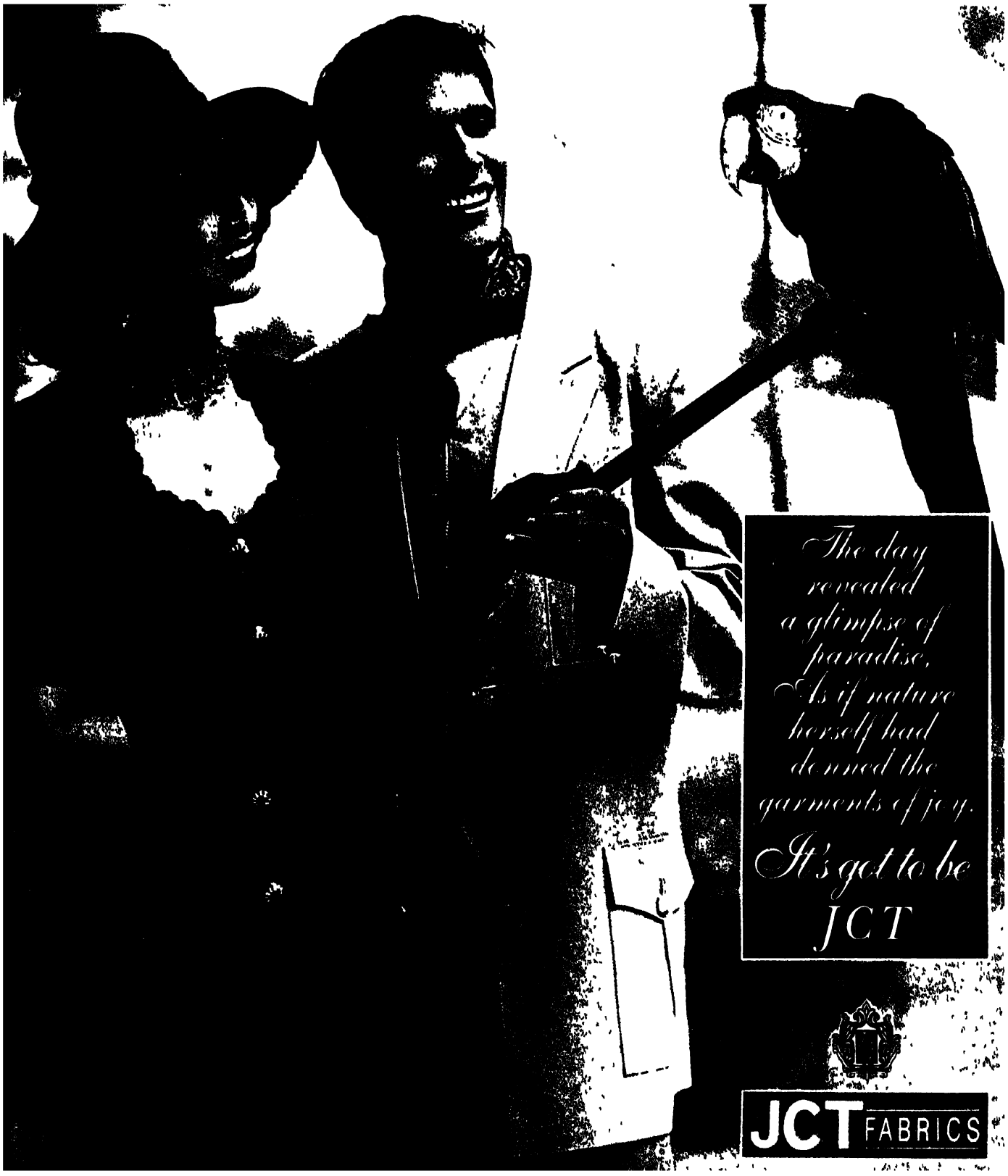
I want to die in my sleep. I do not want to experience any kind of pain while dying.

THE MAN.
THE MACHINE..
THE TYRE...
MRF NYLOGRIP



THE LATEST TYRE FOR THE LATEST BIKES!

MRF TYRES


The day
revealed
a glimpse of
paradise.
As if nature
herself had
donned the
garments of joy.
It's got to be
JCT
JCT FABRICS

The Telegraph

13 AUGUST 1995

POST MORTEM

Lay Off!

■ Please refrain from publishing cover stories on Bollywood scandals ('Crying Wolf', July 16).

These *mirch masala* items are fit for the film glossies, but not the pages of the Magazine.

Can there be any truth in the accusations that are being traded between Anu Malik and Alisha Chinai? Where is the proof and who will vouch for it?

There was a time when music formed the mainstay of films and stalwarts like S.D Burman and Rai Chand Boral were revered.

Look at the transformation in Bollywood now. One's claim to stardom rests not on his/her creativity or calibre, but ability to stir up a sizzling scandal.

Partha Pratim Modak,
Howrah

■ I feel sad to say that the Magazine is rapidly turning into a gossip glossy. Are you so bankrupt of ideas that you have to focus on Bollywood scandals?

I am also rather surprised at your step-motherly attitude towards the local film industry. You never feature a Bengali star in First Person.

After her Best Actress award for *Unishe April*, Debasree Roy deserved a place in the First Person page.

Kajal Chatterjee,
Dhanbad

We have always tried. See page 30. — Editor.



Alisha Chinai: A different tune

■ Such a small scandal breaking in tinsel town, where such things are common enough, need not have been highlighted in the Magazine.

Vinay Asawa,
Calcutta

■ The cover story almost wrecked my nerves. Truth can really be more shocking than fiction.

I could not dare to go through Anwar Sagar's lyrics. With tears in my eyes I could only remember Sahir Ludhianvi's memorable lines.

Kabhi khud pe kabhi haalaat pe rona aaya,
Baat nikli to har baat pe rona aaya

B P. Berry,
Calcutta

■ I was taken aback that the Magazine chose to start its cover story with the lyrics· *Sexy, sexy, sexy, mujhe log bolen* ..

Please don't publish such stories in future.

Pinaki Roy,
Balurghat (W B)

■ No one was surprised by the Chinai-Malik sex scandal In filmland, the couch is still the best path for instant stardom Didn't Pooja Bhatt say sometime back that there were no virgins in the industry?

As in any other industry, Bollywood being a male dominated one, female aspirants often resort to the oldest means to earn name, fame and money

Indu Bhushan Bose,
Jamshedpur

■ Why should sex scandals bother the filmgoers? We care for a few hours of unalloyed fun and entertainment. Who is entangled with whom should be our least concern

For what is Demi Moore being paid $5 million? Obviously to strip and tease Cinegoers will see the film and forget it.

Shiv Shanker Roy,
Barrackpore

INSIDE



Illustration: Krishnendu Dhale

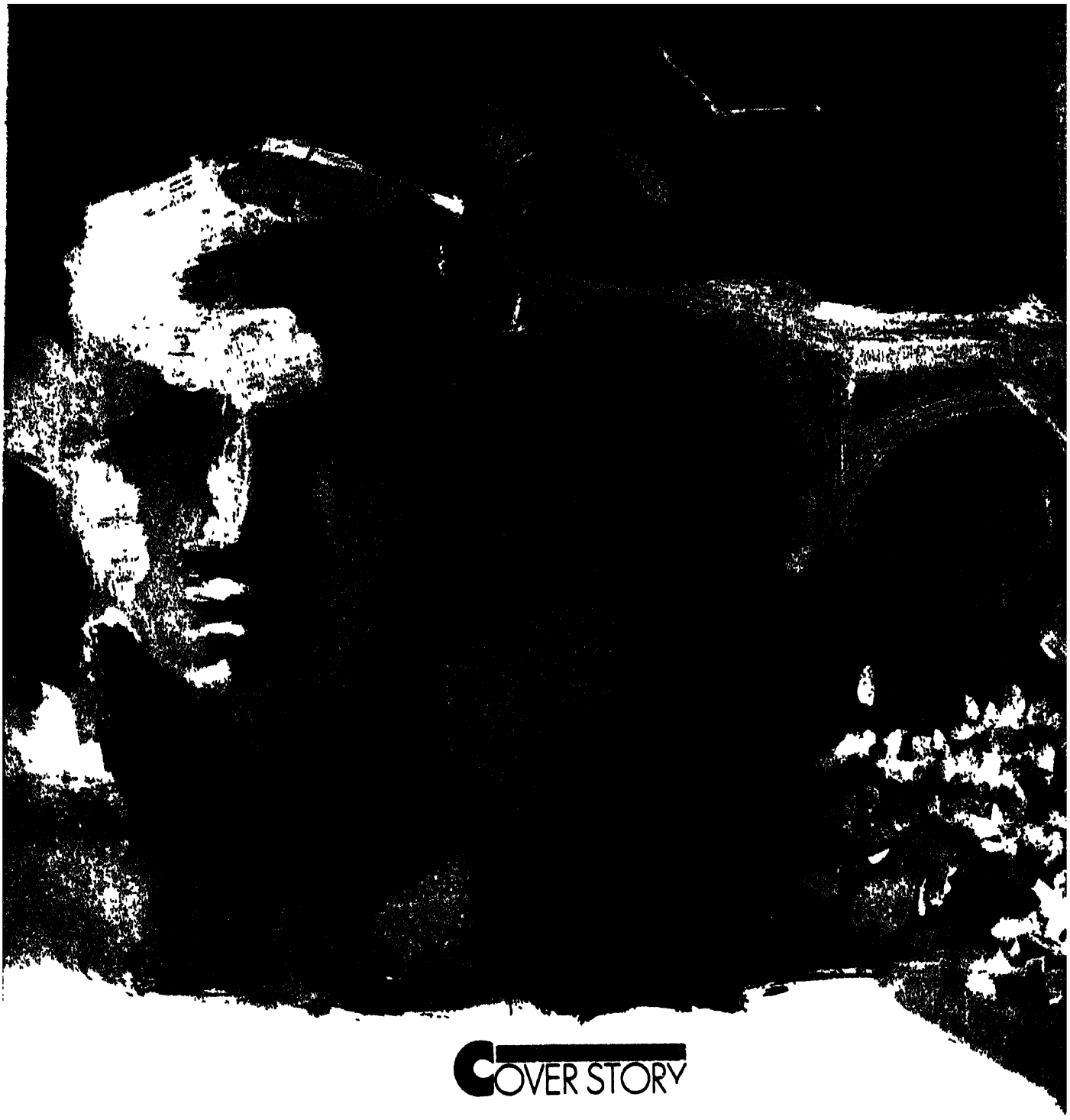
PAGE 4

THERE ARE some couples in India who are childless by choice and have no intention to reverse their decision Their decision is made on grounds more individualistic than it appears to others. We spoke to couples in various cities to get their point of view.

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Cover The Visweswarans by Ravi Shankaran



COVER STORY

IT'S OUR LIFE

If couples now do decide to be childless by choice, they are still a little wary to come out of the closet, as it were. The Magazine searched out some couples who had made a firm choice, who were not medically unfit, who were not too green in age or married years to reverse their decisions shortly. And who could be encouraged to tell us why

WHENEVER THEY STEPPED OUT OF THEIR HOUSE AND WERE spotted by an irrepressibly curious neighbour, the polite conversation that followed would lead to the inevitable question: "Why don't you still have children?"

Their answer would be clipped and simple: "Because we feel this world is not a place fit enough to bring up a child in."

For the bewildered neighbour, that was no answer. But for the young Bengali artist couple, it came out of a conviction born out of their experience and perception of life, a factor which dictated many of their decisions.

And among these was the hard choice that they had taken: of remaining childless

The artist duo's reasoning may have been unique, but they are among the many young couples who have taken similar decisions, though on different grounds.

Over the years, there has been a discernible growth in the tribe of married couples for whom a child is not necessarily the logical conclusion to marriage. They lead happy, productive lives, with no children, and no regrets.

In a sense, they are the children of modern times. Some of them are high achievers, careening at a breakneck pace through the rat race. And some of them are the products of a designer world, their lifestyle representing the acme of a consumerist society — trendy clothes, glitzy cars that give a showroom-display look and a surfeit of the latest electronic gizmos.

Their day may not begin with the changing of diapers, running around with milk bottles or racing against time to put unwilling toddlers onto the school bus. But yes, rush they do, at a frenetic pace, to their demanding jobs through the day and to hectic socialising every evening — again by choice.

Ask them why they have decided against having children and they will give you the most intelligent, convincing answers that would demolish age-old theories on procreation and parenthood.

Self-centred beings?

"What about parents who have children only to pass on their family name, to revitalise their crumbling marriage, to look after them in old age and perform their last rites when they cop it, or just because they are supposed to have them

just as any other couple you see?" they counter

Defying nature's law of procreation? "With the teeming millions around you, see where the adherence to this 'natural instinct' is leading us to Surely you don't believe that women are 'complete' only when they have babies?" they retort

There are some who admit that they are not willing to make the sacrifices that parenthood demands "We see how miserable our friends who have kids are — trying to cope with the endless demands of child-rearing" There are still others who simply say that they need space for themsleves to grow as individuals and so have no place for children in their lives

Psychoanalysts, however, tell you that these couples, also categorised as the DINK (Double Income No Kids) couples, are more often people who are not able to cope with the pressures of modern living "These are high-need individuals whose lives are geared towards achievement — material or mental — who feel that there is no need to complicate their lives further by having a child," says Aruna Broota, a clinical psychologist and reader in the Delhi University

"It also reflects a definite influence of Western values in our milieu," she feels Most of these couples give priority to their needs as individuals So it is 'me' or 'I' as in the West as against 'us' or 'we' in our societal tradition, that takes precedence and impels them to curb this natural instinct

More important the decision to remain childless by choice lies more with the woman for whom it is often a revolt against tradition which gives her a pre-determined role — that of staying at home, excelling in cooking and other house work and opting for a career only if the need arose

"So those among them who are in a position to make a choice by virtue of their education and secure jobs, refuse to fall into the emotional trap of motherhood," says Dr Broota "One of my clients told me she did not want to have children because she was a heavy smoker and was not willing to give it up to have a child"

Often, it is also a revolt by individuals who may have in their childhood been curbed by their parents from chalking out the course of their own lives, from asserting their own identity, and finding their own place in society "So in that sense, it is a sensible revolt," says Broota

Dr Veena Das, professor of sociology, Delhi University, says it is a decision obviously being taken by women who are in a position, by virtue of their economic status, to make such a choice "There was a time when women's careers were supposed to follow their husbands' But as women excelled and became equals in terms of education and in the work place, the pressures mounted for a working couple and translated into pressures at home and the choice of being childless," she says

Besides, work institutions that have no flexibility and work in the strict 10 am to 5 pm regime, compel couples to make what is often a very hard choice "If a working woman with no support-system at home, was allowed to take her career seriously without living with the constant guilt of abandoning her child to a maid all day, such a choice would become unnecessary," Das feels

The total absence of this thing called 'maternal instinct' coupled with the pressures of surviving in a city like Bombay are the most important factors

The first factor, perhaps, is crucial enough to override the second In most cases the decisions were primarily taken by the women and the men fell in line But almost all couples belong to a very elite stratum of society where parents are pretty 'enlightened'.

A significant difference from, say, American societal pressure is the Indian societal pressure Couples in the US are known to have gone through a harrowing time because they had taken a decision, made a choice in a pro-choice era, NOT to have a child *New Yorker* magazine had carried a cover story on a couple who had to actually *pretend* that one of them was medically unfit to have a child On the other hand, in India, the predominant pressure is to have a child as soon as possible least one of the two is presumed to be medically unfit! If a choice is proved, then maybe, it is acceptable even if the decision may be accepted with a raised eyebrow or disapproving shake of the head But such Indian couples, it seems, are caught in a cleft either way, neighbours, friends and family look askance

But each couple that dared to speak out, many reluctantly, had its own, rather unique, reasons to have made a choice And to each his own

'Having a child, working and stashing savings in a bank, driving to India Gate...is not my idea of life'



Aapke bachche nahin hain Isi liye aap ke ghar mein itni billian hain (You don't have children That is why there are so many cats in your house) This is the sort of comment **Bijoy** and **Sudha Palit** often have to hear from their neighbours

They admit the refrain does reflect their decision to remain childless by choice "Cats, unlike dogs, are less demanding emotionally and more independent They just eat, curl up, yawn and sleep and when you get back home, seem to say, 'So you are back, now give us food' Dogs, like children, would sulk and sulk if they did not get their bit of affection besides food," says Sudha

Sudha, a trade representative with the New Zealand Embassy and Bijoy, sales manager for the Bangladesh Airline, Biman, are into their fifth year of marriage and say

they are too immersed in their careers to want, and to be able to properly look after, a child "I cannot be a parent who would dump the child with a maid all day long and go to work," says Bijoy

But more than that, the two hold that not having a child is a choice guided by the need to have space to grow The two married late because they were both immersed in their work — Sudha was doing music at the Sangeet Research Academy in Calcutta and Bijoy was working his way up in the hotel industry

As they switched jobs after marriage and moved to Delhi, their desire to grow as individuals strengthened with Sudha, 39, joining an MBA course and Bijoy, 42, taking up a new line Today, when they are not at work, the two are busy with their hobbies Sudha looks after her cats and listens to music at home and Bijoy enjoys cooking and meeting friends

"Our lives are so fulfilling that we just do not feel the need for a child," says Sudha, who admits that of the two, she is the one who has been more emphatic about not having one "I am a home bird I would rather unwind myself at home cleaning up corners or pottering around No kids running around, no changing nappies and diapers and rushing to creches and yelling at the spouse over the brats, for me," says she

There is, seemingly, no peer pressure either Bijoy, who otherwise loves children, says they don't have to keep up with the Joneses "Getting married, having a child, working and stashing savings in a bank, driving to India Gate and having food and playing *shatranj* is not my idea of life," says he

The two point out that there has been no parental pressure either While Bijoy's parents are no more, Sudha's have been understanding and non-interfering "If I were in a traditional set-up living as a housewife in a joint family, I might have succumbed to pressures and gone in for a child," Sudha admits

Anyhow, tired of convincing and explaining why they do not have children to all those who make it their prime concern to probe the issue, Bijoy says they have finally found the simple and easy way out "Earlier when we would tell them the real reason, people would look at us as if we were conky Now we simply say we are trying earnestly, but just can't and they are all sympathy and concern!" says he

'Most may get a kick out of motherhood, but I do not'





She is a filmmaker working for a leading television company and he is the chief photographer in a leading ad agency in New Delhi The two have just stepped into their thirties and with five years of marriage behind them, feel that there is still too much to be done in life

There is the urge to do still better professionally There is more of travelling and photography, a passion which the two share, to be done and more and more films, another common interest, to be watched But kids? No, never!

Why not? "Simply because we don't feel the need for a child," say **Saloni** and **Rohit Chawla** "We don't want to have kids just because we are expected to do so — like everyone else who falls in love, gets married, has a child and 'settles' down A child is not something you have because you are supposed to, but only if and because you want to," asserts Saloni

The two admit that they have never really sat down to discuss the issue "The pace of our life has been such – we have to travel three to four months a year and have odd working hours

that we have never really taken out time to talk about it," says Rohit What is understood, they add, is the fact that parenthood is definitely not on the cards

"It is like one person who likes coffee because he gets a kick out of it while another does not So the same way, most may get a kick out of motherhood, but I do not," Saloni stresses

The two, however, point out that it is not their racy lifestylethat has prompted them to remain childless And Saloni seeks to stress that she, for one, does not feel 'empty' or 'incomplete'

"That is because I am a complete individual and lead my life to the fullest"

Nor does Saloni think that theirs is a self-centered attitude. On the contrary, she maintains, parents who try to realise their own dreams and re-live their childhood through their children are selfish. "They force their children to achieve what they themselves could not," reasons Saloni.

Further, she adds, the desire to possess and be the sole claimant of another human life is also a form of ego "But that is not to say that people need not have children All that I have to say is please procreate, have babies, feed them, clothe them and look after them in every way — and I shall watch!"

Rohit, who is just 30 and claims is already planning retirement at 35, says he loves kids and can be great with them as long as they are somebody else's! And, tongue firmly in cheek, he describes those who have children as "cattle class"

Neither believes that a child is a bond that keeps a marriage going. Rohit says he and Saloni have a strong bond by way of their common interests and their confidence in each other and would not need a child to provide that Saloni, echoing the view, adds that if a relationship is not working out, it would not work out in any case, kids or no kids

But the point they together make is that over and above their personal choice, they feel the world is populated enough and doesn't need another child — certainly not theirs!

'I would have constantly lived with the guilt of not paying enough attention to my child'

Being a noted dancer, the choice to remain childless was guided by the concern for a career and the need to maintain an hour-glass figure That would be the normal assessment

But for the leading Kuchipudi and Bharata Natyam exponent, **Swapna Sundari**, and her low profile IAS husband, **Anshu Prakash** (he declined to speak), that was certainly not the reason why they decided to opt out of parenthood

"In my family, I am the one who is supposed to have strong maternal instincts If the child had happened, I would have been most happy," says the danseuse, who at one time had also sworn to stay single (Eight years ago, she married Anshu whom she met during one of her dance performances)

"Initially, I did try to withhold it (having a child) for a few years But then I found that a lot of problems had come up which would have meant that to have a child, I would have had to go through some operations and take three or four years of bed rest," she explains

While the difficulties were more from her side, they both decided against going in for such a traumatic and demanding childbirth "For us it was a choice of a different kind," she says

She also admits that being in the prime of her life, she was so entrenched in her deeply satisfying career that bearing a child would have drained



too much out of her physically and psychologically

"But we are not unhappy because we do not have a child," she adds She believes that this is primarily so because of the nature of their work which draws a lot out of them and leaves them with little time to miss the "crawling, creeping, cuddly creatures" around the house

Besides Kuchipudi and Bharata Natyam, Swapna Sundari is also into research, video documentation, writing and teaching and singing (devotional songs) Her husband, on the other hand, has his work with the Delhi Administration which keeps him out of the home for 10 to 12 hours a day

Then, there is the socialising and a good amount of travelling thrown in which leaves them with little time for themselves, too

"The way I see it, if I had a child, I would not have been able to do all these things And if I had done so still, I would have constantly lived with the guilt of not paying enough attention to my child," she says "I admire women who have given up their careers to look after their children and even housewives who devote all their life to their children"

When she was single, Swapna Sundari was quite hung up on adopting a child "But once I got involved with so much work, I shed the idea as I can't think of leaving the child in someone else's care all day"

Most of her maternal instincts get an outlet through her little nephew, Chico, who spends most his time after school and weekends and holidays with her

'Kids today are not having any fun. Everyone is fighting for space'

Keya Sarkar and **Raghavan Putran** set out on their life together in Calcutta, nurturing no revolutionary ideas about parenthood

Like most new couples, they saw it as something that would come in good time Then came the career move to Bombay, the city with its dehumanising pace of life

Today, Keya is determined not to have a child For her, the decision came after months of soul-searching Observing neurotic parents racing around town, trying to raise model children while giving their best to their jobs, her inference was unshakeable She could not — and would not — cope with the demands of motherhood

"If I was in Calcutta I may have fallen into motherhood, but this city made me think," says Keya, who as vice-president at Kotak Mahindra, is your typical dedicated, 8 30 am-9 pm workaholic executive

"How desperate was I for a child to go through all this? I would see colleagues anxiously ring up children at home to see if they were all right If I had a child who had a fall it would take me an hour and a half to reach home Can I take the tension?"

The answer to all this, Keya found, was a resounding no And to really settle the issue, there was the fact that she did not really harbour any strong maternal instincts "It does not come to me naturally to kiss or cuddle kids, so it was not such a big sacrifice really There should be some joy in motherhood," says Keya

The decision to remain childless was largely Keya's, and though Raghavan does empathise with her he does not hold any strong views on the subject "It's cool by me both ways I have no compulsion to have a child," says Ragahvan who works with the National Stock Exchange "It is not an issue with me"

Raghavan agrees wholeheartedly with Keya's theory about the anxiety-ridden child rearing that most modern parents do "Look at working parents and the guilt they suffer," he says "They are hard pressed for time so they either neglect home or office — overdo it at one end But it is a question of organising life with support from both sides of the family"

Keya also traces her decision as a reaction to the idyllic, fun-filled childhood she had Then the entire family had devoted time to keeping the children happy and secure "There was a retinue of servants looking after us and lots of love and care from relatives all around Kids today are not having any fun Everyone is fighting for space and every day is a struggle," she reflects

Keya recalls that except for asking her to be sure about her decision and gently telling her that she might regret it later, her parents did not make any effort to emotionally armtwist her

"A lot is made about societal pressure, but I firmly explained my logic to anyone who asked I was not ostracised or anything," she says "Some said I was being selfish But selfish to whom? To an unborn child?"

'You have to have some responsibility to the earth. I don't understand how educated people can...go ahead and have one, two, three children'

Anita Datta had a glorious, pampered childhood in Calcutta A maid each to look after the children at home, a working mother who made it a point to be available and hordes of adoring relatives providing a cosy emotional back-up

Marriage followed with **Anand**, a senior executive in a leading ad firm The duo moved to Bombay with no firm ideas about parenthood But here is where the story took on an individual colour. For, Anita quit her job at an ad agency to do what she really loves to do — looking after stray animals

Though she was not caught in an energy-draining profession, the duo was determined to remain childless.

"All the routine reasons for which couples go in for children don't apply in our case," explains Anand For Anita, the animal instinct to have a child is a strange sensation She adds: "I don't have this great urge to mother a child And all others factors outweigh the need for a child"

The kind of family backgrounds to which the two belong ensured that there was no emotional nagging. She comes from a progressive Brahmo family and her decision was respected "My mother did nag a bit, but that was it," Anita recalls

Anand loves children, but he says that his wife's decision was "perfectly all right" "It doesn't bother me, So long as you know what you are getting into, it's okay"

Both agree that rearing children is a tension-filled experience which they are not willing to get into "The very thought of attending a PTA meeting is so scary," quips Anita "Children demand a different kind of commitment altogether Even if you are half unsure about having children you should not go in for parenthood"

On his part, Anand traces much of the widespread obsession with children to a socio-psychological reason "It comes of a need to propagate yourself, continue after death, so to speak I've given some thought to the concept of death and found that this whole idea is ridiculous Imagine breeding a caretaker"

Being an intense socially-conscious couple, the two are also worried about larger factors associated with bringing a child into the world Population, for one Environment, for another

Says Anita "You have to have some responsibility to the earth I don't understand how educated people can cry themselves hoarse about population explosion and then go ahead and have one, two, three children Population explosion does not only happen in slums"

She is also disturbed about current notions of bringing up children "It worries me Look at the TV they watch, the toys they play with I don't identify with it"

(The original names have been changed on insistence of anonymity by the couple.)

'I don't particularly like children though I make a good aunt or godparent'

For **Anjum Rajavali** and **Gouri Dange**, the decision to remain childless was a not painless one It came after a tumultuous period of trying out various options But today the couple, who work in the programming department of the fledgling Business India Television (BITV), are quite clear they will not have children of their own

The two got married 11 years ago, with no clear notions about parenthood Without really giving any serious thought to the matter they both felt that they wanted children In fact, for six months or so the couple did try for a child But at the end of that phase, their attitude to parenting gradually crystallised

"Gouri told me that on greater thinking she felt that she does not want children and I was ambivalent about wanting them," recalls Anjum "So we took an effective decision to remain childless"

Gouri herself says that she never ever felt the urge to bear children "I don't particularly like children though I make a good aunt or godparent I have lots of happy nephews and nieces and two dogs who are like children to us When they were pups

WHAT THEY ARE MISSING

Latika Katt: No nothing. There is so much to do that at times I feel like escaping from home to be with myself. Besides, I love living alone and being by myself.

Balbir Katt: Yes, at times, when I receive a loving letter from my students, I really miss having a child who is exclusively your own and on whom you could have showered all your love and affection Someone, whom you would want to give all your time, even if you were up to your neck with work and were wanting to skip office to be with

Swapna Sundari: The presence of a child can be a cause of pausing and reflecting when there are differences and sore points in a relationship Often among career people, a child evokes a basic feeling of bonding. Also, till a certain age, a child is a bundle of surprises and unfolds various facets of its growth which help you to develop a certain kind of closeness and makes you less selfish.

I do miss some of these things, perhaps, because I have strong maternal instincts. But then we manage to satisfy this through my little nephew Chico, who spends most of his time and holidays with us in our house.

Sudha Palit: We are so full of so many things and so busy that we don't really miss the pitter patter of feet around the house Besides we fulfill our need for love and affection through our pets which are not at all demanding.

Bijoy Palit: I don't think that if you don't have children of your own you miss something. I am very fond of my nieces and nephews and they of me. Besides, all this belief of having your own kith and kin so that you may have a proper *kriya karam* is absolutely baseless.

Rohit and Saloni Chawla: We have so much do to by way of our common interests—photography, travelling and watching films—that there is little time to sit and think what one is missing. We don't think that one gives love to and draws it from one's own flesh and blood

Shabana Azmi: I think interacting with humans is more important than whether or not it is your own kith and kin Frankly, my heart bleeds more for the poor and needy than for my own family Besides, my very close friends' children are very fond of me. To them, I am the Shabana *Masi* whom they will come running to whenever their parents refuse to relent to their demands.

Anita and Anand Dutta (not their real names):

There are so many people who are opting out of parenthood that today you have to be unusual to want a child

Keya Sarkar and Raghavan Putran:

I see the despair of parents around me and the values with which children are growing up and I have no regrets In today's world it's a bolder decision to have children than to decide against it When we see how children are turning out today we tell ourselves'Thank God'.

Chitra and R.Visweswaran:

Maybe, we miss them But there has never been a shortage of kids in this house. It's an open house for our relatives' children. Most of our students arrive here when they get married and become mothers. Then we have children of our carpenter, tailor and the servant maids, who have a free run here.

Pinkie Virani: I have never actively wondered if I'm missing out on anything.

THE INHERITORS

Latika Katt: Part of my art works and material wealth to my nieces (brother's daughters) Sita and Nita who I am very close to. We also want to open an art centre at the Benaras Ganga Ghat. So the rest of it would go into that.

Balbir Katt: Some of it to my nieces and nephews, to art centres and to Santiniketan where I have studied.

Swapna Sundari: Anshu and I don't have much to will away. We may use some of it for our old age and will what is left to our nieces and nephews and donate some to voluntary organisations

Saloni and Rohit Chawla: We will spend it all in our lifetime. If some is still left, there are so many people in one's life to pass it on to.

Sudha Palit: I would like to spend most of it on ourselves in our old age. Then there are also many organisations such as the spastics society or orphanages to which I would like to make some donations.

Bijoy Palit: I don't think that one has to bequeath one's wealth to one's own child. Most parents, but not all parents, will their savings to their children. Life is such that just ten days before you die, you may meet a person to whom you would like to give everything away.

Shabana Azmi: To my step children Zoya and Farhan.

Anjum Rajavali and Gauri Dange: I would not like all the idea of the odds and ends I have worked hard for and accumulated over the years not going to someone needy, but I have broadbased my desire to leave it all to someone. Maybe I'll leave it to needy children, good institutions.

Anand and Anita Dutta (not their real names): There are several charitable causes in which we passionately believe and nieces and nephews we adore to whom we could bequeath our possessions

Chitra Visweswaran: Except for pledging our eyes to the eye bank, we have not thought about it. Now that the question has come let me see...

First I'd like to create an endowment that would give scholarships for young talented dancers Then there shall be a trust for the handicapped since my only brother had suffered from a brain injury Then there is the dance school which has to go on even after me and of course provide for relatives I only hope there will be enough left the way things are going.

R. Visweswaran: Whatever to our legacy, it'll have to do something with the arts

Pinkie Virani: I have nothing much to leave behind Except some LIC policies and a little bit of jewellery. I'll leave all to my younger sister (22) **Shankar** wants to leave the little property he has to his nephew.

we even left them in a 'creche'!"

Anjum and Gouri's decision did not really bring upset parents and relatives nagging to the door As it is they had done something out of ordinary by entering into wedlock out of their communities "So we were already an oddity and we had this rarified air of intellectualism around us which kept people and their comments away," quips Anjum "Our parents may have weakly raised the matter with us, but it didn't count"

As for peer pressure the twosome pointed out to an interesting fact—at most social gatherings they go to, couples as parents are rare Most of their peers are childless

But the 11 years have not passed untroubled A few years ago the couple decided to adopt Gouri's niece who came from a troubled home The child stayed with them for a short while, but four months ago she returned to her mother who by then had walked out of her marriage

The child's departure did leave a void in their lives, but it did not make them revise their opinions

"It was an ideal situation for us," Anjum says recalling his days of guardianship with the child "It was nice to have someone to care for, otherwise we were getting to be like bachelors But having gone through it, it has only strengthened our view that we don't want children of our own"

'I don't like children. I don't like dogs either'

Bangalore-based **Pinkie Virani** and Bombay-based **Shankar Aiyar** are both journalists (Pinkie is freelancing now and Shankar is with the *Indian Express*) and both are 40-minus They have been married for four years now, but to remain childless was not a choice dictated by kilometre distance When they began seeing each other eight years before marriage, they had made their choice not only of marrying each other, but also of not having a child

"I don't like children," says Pinkie bluntly "I don't like dogs either" Distance is only an additional reason She had moved to Bangalore from Bombay in the belief that a media boom was about to happen in that city, "a boom that never happened" Now, they both travel a lot and "there isn't enough time for each other, leave alone for children"

She feels that "too much protection and sacrifice" is required in the raising of children and is afraid of the "what if we don't succeed" factor

Shankar is the only heir apparent, and his family might possibly be thinking of the generation ahead But that has not helped change Pinkie's mind "If my father-in-law has a problem, that's his problem, not mine," she says "After seeing my friends' children, and the niggling details of rearing a child, I don't think I want to go in for a child ever"

Children, she feels, "are too binding" and "I couldn't be bothered if my father-in-law needs to dangle a child on his knees"

'Children are a product of love and security and if you have not got them yourself, how can you give it to your child?'





In a typical Hindi film scene when the doctor asks the father-to-be to choose between his critical wife and the unborn child, it is always the former the man opts for

The example cited by the noted scupltor **Balbir Katt**, in a sense, exemplifies the choice that Balbir himself had made with his equally famous sculptor wife **Latika**, although for different reasons

If one believes that in a marriage, it is the strong willed woman who holds the decision to have or not to have a child, then Latika more than fits the bill

As a determined woman who was brought up in a man's world and learnt to cope with them, feels like them and at the same time questions their domination over women, Latika had decided long before marriage that she would never have kids of her own or be tied down to a man

It was a perspective that came from her education in Doon School, where there were only 12 other girls, and then in BHU, Baroda University and the State School of Art, London, where there were hardly any women sculpture students

Also, Latika says, she found that her works too were her creation and demanded as much of her love and affection as a child would

So Balbir, who maintains that he would love to have a child, went along with his wife whom he loved more than the entity which had not yet entered their life "If you match professionally, then you do not miss one entity of your composite life," he reasons

"I love children but am able to transform that affection into the sculptures created by my wife because they are from her domain and are imbued with her love and affection," he adds

For Latika, the choice was much more than an act of simple defiance It was a rebellion against her in-laws who treated her badly when she was not working and whom she regrets "not sending to jail" for the way they treated her when Balbir was away in London on an assignment

It was also a rebellion against Balbir, "who lost all right on me when he never even enquired about my state when I was doing my masters in Baroda and had no money to pay fees after my father had passed away and slept hungry every night for three months

"Children are a product of love and security and if you have not got them yourself, how can you give it to your child?" she asks

So she made it clear to Balbir that he would not have any children from her and that he could marry again if he wanted

But contrary to the conclusion one would draw, their marriage did not sour with such stands And even though they live separately — Balbir, in Varanasi, where he is the dean of the fine arts department, and Latika in Delhi where she teaches sculpture in the Jamia Milia Islamia University "We are more of friends and have a perfect artist-to-artist understanding If I have any professional problem he will rush by the next flight and so would I for him," says Latika

Balbir reasons that a child is not always a bonding factor in a marriage and their marriage is just the right example "Yes, for those who get bored of a relationship, it certainly acts as a revitaliser But we have enough of our own stubborn stands and our understanding to keep us going!" says he

'We could selflessly dedicate ourselves to art'

The well-known Bharata Natyam dancer, **Chitra Visweswaran**, and her singer-husband **R. Visweswaran** from Madras took the decision just two years after marriage She was 23 and he, 30 She was already on the top rung of Bharata Natyam dancers while he provided the musical support for her performances and was committed to notching up a career for himself in music

Having thrown themselves to "the mercy of madness of art," the couple arrived at the conscious decision not to have a child of their own Chitra explains, "What I am today is due to the enormous sacrifice made by my parents and the time they devoted to me A child would need lots of time from at least one of the parents It's not just how much time a parent spends with their child that matters, but the quality of time spent by both or one of them

"With both me and Viswesh deciding to be full-time artistes, we would have been such poor parents. Once we

chalked out our respective careers, we had to sacrifice something for that — and it was parenthood

"In the Indian context, unless the parents become the prime initiators in a child's life it would be impossible to inculcate Indian values and sensibilities in such a child After having breathed Indian art and music, our lives would be self-defeating to see a child devoid of such traditional values," explains Visweswaran who gave up a lucrative career as a chartered accountant to enter the highly ephemeral world of music

The result of their sacrifices is obvious — while Chitra is one of the three ultimate' Bharata Natyam performers and a highly acclaimed dance teacher through her institution, Chidambaram, Visweswaran gives courses in vocal music and santoor

The couple was confident that the absence of parental anxieties which would have otherwise distracted them, enabled them to immerse themselves fully into the field of arts, with regular tours in India and abroad "We could be white-collared vagabonds," jokes Visweswaran

Chitra refutes the suggestion that they were selfish in denying themselves an heir apparent "In fact, it made us so free that we could selflessly dedicate ourselves to art, giving so much to others, specially our students "

The couple had passingly considered adoption at one stage, but gave it up "Sage Bharatha shared his *Natyashastra* with 100 *sishyaputhras* So why couldn't we as well? Our disciples virtually became our children," says Chitra "Maybe if I were not a teacher and no students to care for I might have considered adoption," she adds

"In fact, after seeing Chitra perform *Krishna Leela*, specially the Balakrishna, many fans have come up and said adoringly that she must be a very good mother to evoke *Vutsalya rasa* with so much empathy "I think the two of us are parents at heart Sometime when we go out we resemble Kuchela's family, with about 20 kids following us as if we were pied pipers," observes Visweswaran

On a couple of occasions Chitra confessed being hurt by a student or two Would a similar situation have arisen if she had had her own child, she says, "But I realised that every child does hurt his or her parents at some point, and you only hurt those whom you love."

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'I would have worried myself to death over the kind of mother I would make'



As a fiery social activist who has fought several battles for those in need in reel, and real, life, she could not take her own quest to its logical end With time, actress **Shabana Azmi** attuned herself to her situation and realised that life was as good without it

For noted film writer and lyricist **Javed Akhtar**, it was a second marriage The two children — a daughter and a son—he had from the first, fulfilled his parental instincts So the choice became more of a decision that mattered to, and was taken by, Shabana (Javed, after evading calls for over a week, declined to speak on the issue)

"I was keen to have a child But when I found there was a medical problem with me, I decided to let it be I was not prepared to go through all those medical checkups and then go through the heartbreak of not being able to have one," says Shabana.

And not having children of her own has not left Shabana anguished because it was the actress herself who took the decision not to try any further for a child "My relationship with Javed is more important and fulfilling than having a child," she adds

"Besides, I have two, ready-made children—Zoya (22) and Farhan (21) —from Javed's first marriage They were barely 9 or 10 when their parents divorced So I got to know them at an age when they were very receptive Till today, we have long discussions on human rights, communalism and what have you and I can see ideas dropping into their bright argumentative heads."

Coming to think of it, Shabana says she feels that had she been a mother, she would have been an anxious, neurotic one like her own mother "I would have worried myself to death over the kind of mother I would make and feel guilty about not spending enough time with my child "

As chairperson of Nivara Hak, an organisation that fights for the rights of slum dwellers, and MIJWA, the society for children and women's welfare in UP, her crusade against communalism, her ceaseless travel for seminars and lectures besides her first passion, acting in theatre and films, leave her with little time to rue over such things

She laughed off the argument that a childless woman is 'incomplete' She described the belief as nothing but a socially and psychologically imposed norm that the society conditions a woman into following. "Even Elizabeth Badentener argues in her book, *The Myths of Motherhood*, that motherhood is more a socially imposed phenomenon than a natural instinct," she maintains

Interviews by Geeta Sharma, Malini Nair, Adity Roy Nair and G.C. Shekhar

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



"Springtime to the heart", forecasts Ganesha, as the sun, the heart, conjuncts Venus Springtime, indeed! Though wedlock may end up as a padlock, it will be fun while it lasts Collaborations and commitments are the highlights Many Arians will be moving up a notch or two

Taurus

April 21—May 20



"Sacred music causes flight to sadness" is what you will really experience because of the full moon impact, on August 10 Also, you will put in an extra effort in the home, and at work, and that will certainly show In this connection, August 14-15 will be absolutely crucial and introspective

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Journey and ceremony and a host of memories make it a very stimulating week You can rely on the services and sincerity of friends and well-wishers It would be wise to party, circulate, socialise, join the whirligig Monday, Tuesday and Thursday are the pick days of the week

Cancer

June 21—July 20



Brahman enables the mind to feel, a mighty experience, which, could possibly happen to you Otherwise also, emotions, love, caring, protecting are what the week is all about Money wise the indications are exceptionally favourable On the work front, you score very heavily

Leo

July 21—August 21



Partnerships and bonding form the major segment of the week Given a positive attitude, you will be at your best in company, as well as, in utter solitude Yours the valour and yours too the victory, as the poets have said Journey with a stopover, communication, marriage and children

Virgo

August 22—September 22



If employed, expect a few changes Expenses once again hit the roof For those planning immigration, reaching out to people and places, a home away from home, this will be a pivotal week Meditation, yoga, reading, researching, as well as gallivanting are also emphasised

Libra

September 23—October 22



Romance, marriage, links, new associations, promotion are the salient features It would be best to take a liberal, tolerant, positive attitude It will help spread joy all around If you want to ask for favours This is the right time to do so There is the possibility of a wish-fulfilment

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



The power and glory of a thousand suns can be yours, Saturn sextiles inspirational planet Neptune This sextile helps you in terms of work attitudes, employment chances, colleagues and bosses, pets and servants, lending or borrowing Also, this is the fine edge of the wedge Do relax

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Opportunities galore to have a fling, speculate, win friends and sweethearts, make a business killing, call friends over for a grand time, take a vacation, do charitable deeds Sounds too good to be true! Pay heed to letters, calls, parents, in-laws, fax, posters, pamphlets, lottery and legacy

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



An excellent Mars factor enables you to wheel-deal in property and financial matters, shares and debentures, lending and borrowing, buying and selling, shopping and socialising The full moon also favours teaching and speech making Use your considerable management skills fully

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Ganesha claims success and victory for you Games of chance prove beneficial So if you try your hand at it, be positive More importantly, matters begin to move favourably on the personal front, say marriage, children, love and rewards of helping out others

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Health, safeguards are mighty essential because of the Sun's debilitating placing Work pressures will certainly begin to tell upon you This is not the time to fall out with colleagues, subordinates and boss An offer to join another organisation Love beckons, between August 16-23

BIRTHDAYS

August 13: Mercury square Jupiter will make you hasty and rude, says Ganesha and that could be a fatal flaw. Keep a hawk's eye on finances and balancesheets.

August 14: Moon trine Jupiter. It would be stupid and counter productive to rest on your laurels. Get down to the nitty-gritty, examine all possibilities and then take action.

August 15: Moon trine Sun. This is a powerful trine and does signify that you have already achieved a great deal of power and pelf. To continue to progress, be friendly, amenable, and very humble. Otherwise you have one big fall.

August 16: You have the potential to advance and will be more or less a free agent, as there are no strong planetary placings. In other words, it is strictly up to you.

August 17: Saturn sextile Neptune. You can go far, very far with this powerful and puissant positioning. For one, your future could be secured, to use a typically Indian expression.

August 18: Moon's last quarter; this particular phase of the moon favours expansion, having and appreciating the comforts in life. You will spearhead a movement.

August 19: Moon square Mercury. This placing means more haste, less speed. Think twice before committing, be it a personal promise, business contract or an appointment letter.

■ IME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

[redacted] DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
[redacted]					
IC-741	0620	1, 3, 4, 6	IC-742	0850	1, 3
			IC-742	1050	4, 6
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1, 3, 5, 7	PF-702	1610	1 3, 5, 7
[redacted]					
D2-806	1330	1, 3, 5, 7	D2-805	1250	1, 3, 5, 7
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2, 4, 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-721	1010	1, 3, 6, 7	IC-722	1250	1 3 6 7
[redacted]					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
[redacted]					
IC-54	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2, 4, 6	IC 770	2120	2, 4 6
VF-106	1820	1 4, 6	VF-105	1720	1, 4, 6
[redacted]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0920	daily	D2-101	0850	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W-212	1945	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI-309	1930	6	IC-274	1830	daily
AI-681	2330	1			
[redacted]					
IC-263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1, 2, 3 4, 5 6
S2-026	0845	1, 2 3 4 5, 6	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI-682	0925	1
IC-812	1700	1 3 5	S2-015	1015	1, 3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3, 5	4S-806	1130	1, 2, 3, 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1720	1, 2, 3 4 5 6	S2-005	1855	1 2 3, 4, 5, 7
			IC-811	2055	1, 3, 5
S2-006	1930	1 2 3, 4, 5, 7	M9-301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC-264	2210	daily
[redacted]					
PF 737	0730	3 5	D2-181	1640	1, 3 4, 5, 6, 7
D2-181	1155	1, 3 4 5 6 7	IC-702	1630	1, 4, 6, 7
4S-816	1205	2 4 6	4S-815	1635	1, 2 3
4S-812	1205	1 3, 5	4S 811	1635	2, 4 6
IC-701	1240	4, 6 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
[redacted]					
IC-703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC-704	0920	1 3 4 5, 7
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-706	1510	2, 4 6 7
PF-705	0730	2 4, 6, 7	IC 230	1620	daily
PF-735	0730	1	4S-811	1635	2, 4 6
D2-181	1155	1, 3, 4 5 6 7	D2 181	1640	1, 3, 4 5 6, 7
4S-816/811	1205	2 4, 6	4S 812/815	1635	1, 3, 5
4S-812	1205	1, 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC-229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
[redacted] FLIGHTS					
[redacted]					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
S2-023	1045	1, 3, 5	S2-024	1525	1, 3, 5
IC-777	1615	3, 5, 7	IC-778	2115	3, 5, 7
IC-769	1615	2, 4, 6	IC-770	2120	2, 4, 6
VF-106	1820	1, 4, 6	VF-105	1720	1, 4, 6
[redacted]					
IC-255	0800	3, 5, 7	IC-256	1250	3, 5, 7
IC-257	1140	2, 4	IC-257	1520	2, 4
[redacted]					
D2-806	1330	1, 3, 5, 7	D2-805	1250	1, 3, 5, 7
[redacted]					
IC-213	0630	7	IC-213	1035	7
IC-213	0910	3	IC-213	1355	3
[redacted]					
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
[redacted]					
IC 812	1700	1 3, 5	IC-811	2055	1 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
IC-544	1115	2, 7	IC 543	1035	2, 7
IC-765	1720	daily	D2-171	1125	1, 3, 4 5 6 7
D2-172	1720	1 3, 4, 5, 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
[redacted]					
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
[redacted]					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3, 5	IC-249	1835	2 4, 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC-811	2055	1 3 5
[redacted]					
IC-285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4, 6
[redacted]					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
[redacted]					
PF-705	0730	2, 4, 6 7	PF-706	1510	2, 4 6, 7
[redacted]					
IC-255	0800	3, 5, 7	IC-256	1250	3, 5, 7
IC-253	0800	1, 2, 6	IC-254	1040	1
			IC-254	1250	2, 6
[redacted]					
IC-213	0630	7	IC 213	1035	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC-213	1355	3
[redacted]					
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF-738	1740	3, 5
[redacted]					
S2-016	1555	1, 3, 5	S2-015	1015	1, 3, 5
[redacted]					
IC-542	1115	1, 3, 5	IC-541	1030	1, 3, 5
■ ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
[redacted] INTERNATIONAL					
[redacted]					
KL-876	0345	7	KL-875	0135	7

Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
[redacted]					
KB-105	0850	2, 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 5, 7	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 5, 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6
[redacted]					
RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5, 7
[redacted]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[redacted]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4, 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
IC-723	1250	1, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1, 3, 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1, 5

Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[redacted]					
RA-214	1030	4, 7	RA-213	0945	4, 7
IC-747	1130	2, 4, 7	IC-748	1800	2, 4, 7
[redacted]					
BA-142	2040	3, 7	BA-143	1450	3, 7
[redacted]					
SU-538	1755	4	SU-537	1555	4
[redacted]					
KB-106	1105	3	KB-105	0810	2, 6
KB-106	1325	5			
[redacted]					
SQ-415	2345	2, 5	SQ-416	2230	2, 5
[redacted]					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
[redacted]					
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways



TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	6-45	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7-35	3006
3003	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya-Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs, Fri & Sun	16-15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon, Tues Wed, Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun	10-45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun, Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23-30	**Jodhpur Express**	4-40	2308
2019	6-20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21-10	2020
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri-Wkly Dep Tues, Fri & Sat, Arr Tues, Wed, & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	22-00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	3046
5049	23-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11-35	5050
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon, Wed & Fri	4-30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9-30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15-30	3050
3019	21-00	**Kathgodam Express**	11-55	3020
3021	16-05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5-00	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	6-30	3032
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri, Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7-55	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon, Tues & Wed Arr Fri, Sat & Sun	7-55	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipuni (Chopan) Express**	4-30	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only		
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7-15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchenjunga (Lumding) Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5-15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Meghal Surai Express** via SBG Loop	12-30	3134
3103	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues, Thurs & Sat	4-25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20-30	**Madras Mail**	6-55	6004
8002	19-20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8-20	8001
2860	12-30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-25	2859
2021	6-50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21-00	2022
8034	20-40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8033
8030	11-20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16-20	8029
2841	14-05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12-10	2842
7003	8-10	**Falaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon, Thurs & Sat	19-40	7004
6311	22-35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13-45	6312
8011	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8111	8-00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21-25	8112
8005	20-55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21-40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-10	8016
8007	22-15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5-30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8-30	8410
2821	6-15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-05	2822
8045	10-25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15-10	8046
8017	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11-35	8018
2421	16-40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16-10	—
—	11-05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10-45	2422
6322	22-35	**Guwahati - Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
—	14-05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6314	22-35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22-15	—
6316	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri, Arr Tues & Fri	13-45	6315
6520	22-35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
—	14-05	**Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13-45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2209466-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THE SPINSTER SISTERS

I took Miss Mackenzie an offering of a tin of Malabar sardines and so lessened the sharpness of her rebuke

"Another doctor's visit, is it?" she said, looking reproachfully at me over her spectacles "I might have been dead all this time"

Miss Mackenzie, at 85, did not show the least signs of dying She was the oldest resident of the hill-station She lived in a small cottage half way up the hill The cottage, like Longfellow's village of Attri, gave one the impression of having tried to get to the top of the hill and failed half way up It was hidden from the road by oaks and maples

"I have been away," I explained "I had to go to Delhi for a fortnight I hope you've been all right?"

I wasn't a relative of Miss Mackenzie's, nor a very old friend, but she had the knack of making people feel responsible for her

"I can't compl: n The weather's been good, and the padre sent me some eggs"

She set great store by what was given to her in the way of food Her pension of Rs 40 a month only permitted her a diet of *dal* and rice, but the thoughtfulness of people who knew her and the occasional gift parcel from England, lent variety to her diet and frequently gave her a topic of conversation

"I am glad you have some eggs, "I said, 'They're Rs 4 a dozen now"

"Yes, I know And there was a time when they were only six annas a dozen"

"About 30 years ago, I suppose"

"No 25 I remember, May Taylor's eggs were always the best She lived in Fairville — the old house, the Raja's estate"

Did she have a poultry farm?"

"No just her own hens Very ordinary hens, too Not white Leghorns or Rhode Islands Reds — but they gave lovely eggs She knew how to keep her birds healthy May Taylor was a friend of mine. She didn't supply eggs to just anybody, you know"

"Oh, naturally not Miss Taylor's dead now, I suppose"

"Oh yes, quite dead, her sister saw to that"

"Oh!" I sensed a story, "how did that happen?"

"Well it was a bit of a mystery really May and Charlotte never really got on with each other, and it's a wonder they agreed to live together Even as children, they used to fight But Charlotte was always the spoilt one — prettier, you see May, when I knew her was 35, a good woman, if you know what I mean She saw to the house and saw to the meals and she went to church like most respectable people Everyone loved her But Charlotte was moody and bad-tempered She kept to herself — always had done, since her parents died And she was a little too fond of the bottle"

"Neither of them was married?"

"No, I suppose that's why they lived together Though I'd rather live alone myself than put up with someone disagreeable Still, they were sisters Charlotte has been a gay young thing once, very popular with the soldiers at the convalescent home She refused several offers of marriage and then, when she thought it time to accept someone, there were no more offers She was almost 30 by then That's when she started drinking — heavily, I mean Gin and brandy, mostly It was cheap in those days Gin, I think was Rs 2 a bottle"

"What fun! I was born a generation too late"

"And a good thing too Or you'd probably have ended up as Charlotte did"

"Did she get *delirium tremens*?"

"She did nothing of the sort Charlotte had a strong constitution"

"And so have you Miss Mackenzie,



'Well it was a bit of a mystery really. May and Charlotte never really got on with each other, and it's a wonder they agreed to live together. Even as children, they used to fight. But Charlotte was always the spoilt one — prettier, you see. May, when I knew her was 35, a good woman, if you know what I mean. She saw to the house and saw to the meals... Everyone loved her '

if you don't mind my saying so"

"I take a drop when I can afford it" She gave me a meaningful look "Or when I'm offered"

"Did you sometimes have a drink with Miss Taylor?"

"I did not! I wouldn't have been seen in her company All over the place she was, when she was drunk Lost her powers of discrimination She even took up with a barber! And then she fell down a *khud* one evening and broke her ankle"

"Lucky it wasn't her head"

"No, it wasn't her own head she broke, more's the pity, but her sister May's — the poor sweet thing"

"She broke her sister's head did she?" I was intrigued "Why, did May find out about the barber?"

"Nobody knows what it was, but it may well have been something like that Anyway, they had a terrible quarrel one night Charlotte was drunk and May as usual was admonishing her"

"Fatal," I said "Never admonish a drunk"

Miss Mackenzie ignored me and carried on

"She said something about the vengeance of God falling on Charlotte's head But it was May's head that was rent asunder Charlotte flew into a sudden rage She was given to these outbursts even when she was sober, and brought something heavy down on May's skull Charlotte never said what it was It couldn't have been a bottle, unless she swept up the pieces afterwards It must have been a heavy vase or a poker Anyway, it was something heavy — what writers sometimes call a blunt instrument"

When Charlotte saw what she had done, she went out of her mind They found her two days later, wandering about near some ruins, babbling a lot of nonsense about how she might have married a long time ago if May hadn't clung to her"

"Was she charged with murder?"

"No, it was all hushed up Charlotte was sent to an asylum in Ranchi We never heard of her again May was buried here If you visit the old cemetery you'll find her grave on the second tier, third from the left"

"I'll look it up sometime It must have been an awful shock for those who knew the sisters"

"Yes, I was quite upset about it too I was very fond of May. And then of course, the chickens were sold and I had to buy my eggs elsewhere and they were never so good. Still, those were the days, the good old days — when eggs were six annas a dozen and gin only Rs 2 a bottle"

(Sanctuary Features)



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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

WALKING ON FIRE

Being out in the hot winds of June is itself close to fire walking But June has been the month to tread over real embers too This is because the first month of the Muslim calender, Moharram, has moved with the lunar cycle to summer and therefore so has the anniversary of the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Iman Husain, in the desert of Karbala

This year the crowds coming to drink sherbet provided free in old Lucknow in memory of those who died in the desert, were parched themselves

If any centre of Shia culture survives in the subcontinent it is Lucknow That's why the President of Iran chose to visit the city He witessed another special characteristic of Lucknow's Shias — independence of mind While one group welcomed him, another boycotted his visit in protest against Iran's censure of more bloody types of mourning or *matam*

Aag ka matam, fire-walking, does not draw blood but it is as extreme a test of the devout Shia as cutting open one's back with knife-edged chains It is held at night

I remember the first time I witnessed it very clearly I reached Lucknow's Shah Najaf Imambara, with its wide white-washed dome in the late evening A fire, looking like a huge funeral pyre, was burning in the centre of its grounds Women and children were gathering on the steps, taking advantage of the freedom from kitchen and home that Moharram gives, to make acquaintances One of them led me by the hand into the imambara where the atmosphere was completely other worldly

There was only a little light, and that was reflected in the *handi*, chandeliers, candelabra and mirrors within Incense filled the air A woman stood before a *tazia* softly reciting a lament in the purest of voices, her right hand gently beating her breast

Others moved past silently in the shadows Behind the *tazias* and against the walls hung magnificent standards It seemed as though the spirits of a ghostly army were standing, waiting

The woman leading me made offerings of a few coins and showed me the mirrors which cured paralysis if gazed into regularly Nothing miraculous seemed impossible to her, as for the 10 days of Moharram, her life was transformed and translated into a different level of existence

Everything was different from everyday life Clothes were of mourning, but they were new clothes Food was simple, and ornaments and jewellry shunned Each house was cleaned, and it's imambara decorated with *tazias*, *alams* and rich cloth

Each person's own sorrows were sublimated in the sorrow for the death of the martyrs The alleys were full of the sound of cassette recordings of the laments and eligies Morning to evening passed in *majlis* hearing poetry and sermons inspiring waves of grief and tears The emotion inspired by these 10 days was so powerful, so overwhelming, that it seemed a miracle in itself to withstand it and only natural that in faith you could walk on fire

The crowds grew as the fire burned lower, and the embers were raked level with long sticks Water was repeatedly poured over them from an earthen ware pot, and then they were fanned until they glowed again A grey sand path was made at each end of the strip of embers When a hippy-like white man arrived and sat down by them, women tittered at his appearance

A column of men and boys formed in the darkness bearing black biers symbolising those of the martyrs These were ordinary people, fulfilling vows for wishes granted, among them were young boys All those who were to fire-walk had green strips of cloth tied round their heads

The procession circumambulated the great imambara, the men in lines reciting laments or *nauhas*, the rhythm marked by the hollow sound of hands beating chests

When the procession had completed its course, the first *dasta*, or group, moved to one end of the fiery path Each one carried a standard or a tray of smouldering incense Other standards dipped and rose again over the embers and faster and louder came the cries of "*Ya Husain! Ya Husain*"!

Suddenly the first man stepped on to the embers and walked forward in obvious discomfort Two men walked parallel to him on either side ready to help Shakily he managed to cross One by one, the others followed But their ordeal was not over Each one returned to walk the embers twice more

Much to everyone's surprise, the hippy whom the women had found so comical led the second *dasta*, walking over with complete equanimity "See," they said, revising their opinion, "What strength the name of Imam Husain produces!" News of the European, who people said was a Sunni convert calling himself Badshah Khan, spread through the crowd He returned to lead the third *dasta* which included two small boys not more than 11 years old They ran across as fast as their legs would carry them

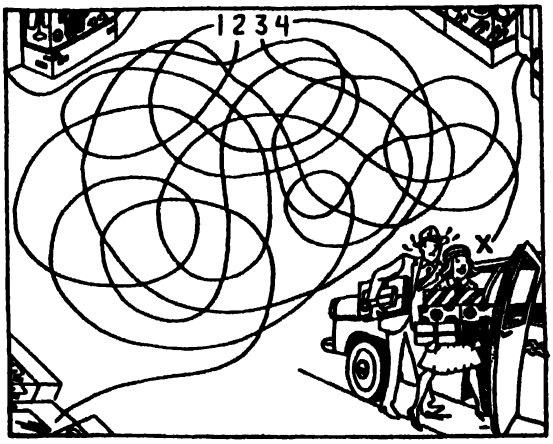
I had evidence later though that faith alone was not enough to preserve you from fire I attended another fire-walking enthusiastically prepared by the lads of the small town of Mustafabad

Not able to find enough wood, they substituted coal which burned unevenly and long No one carefully raked the embers, or dampened them with water When they walked across, flames played at their feet and each one was burnt But even they managed to cross and the next day, in immense pain with their feet bandaged, I saw them hobbling along in the procession of the Tenth of Moharram

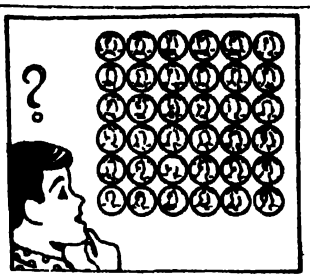
(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



BUY GONER! Is this shopping spree nearing an end, or is it slated to continue? Pick a numbered line at top to see



EVEN-STEPHEN COIN BOX

OUR friend Stephen above is peering at a square composed of 36 coins, six in each row He's been challenged by a friend to remove six of the coins and still have an even number remain in each horizontal, vertical and corner-to-corner diagonal row

That is to say, rows may contain two, four, or six coins

Can you help poor Stephen work this out?

Devise a square containing 36 coins if you like, or simply try crossing out coins with a pencil

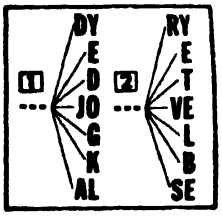
One way is to keep top three horizontal rows intact Remove last two coins of fourth row cplus 4 and 5 of fifth row and 4 and 6 of sixth row

END RUNS! Challenge Find a three-letter word that complies with letter endings shown to form seven longer words in each instance below In No 1, for example, try the word "can" It produces candy and cane, but bogs down with the addition of d In No 2, try the word 'tar' It serves to produce tarry, tare and tart, but that's all

Can you find out a three-letter word to run the gamut in each?

No fair peeking below

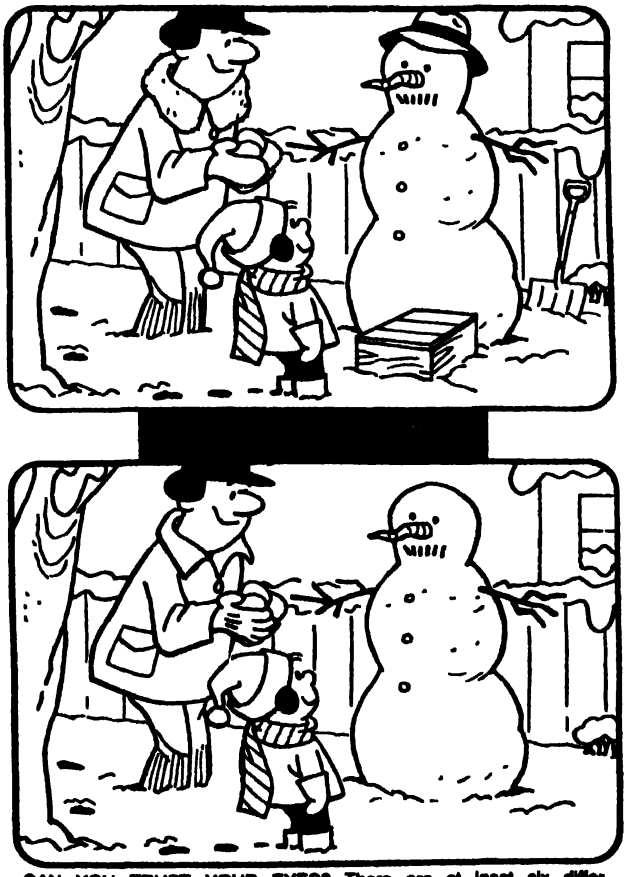
Ban and cur will comply respectively , Other answers may be possible



LIKE SO! All four of these words — defog, worst, canopy, studio — have the letter o in common Can you find another more intricate similarity that they share?

All four contain three consecutive letters of the alphabet.

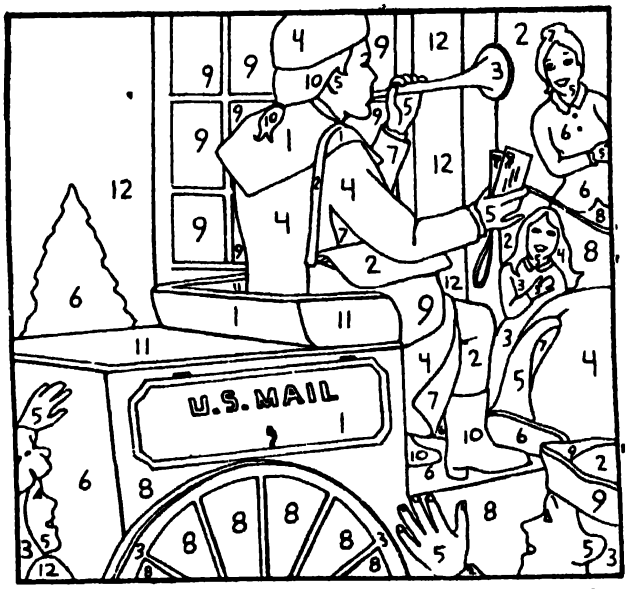
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Collar is different 2 Mitten is changed to glove 3 Tassel is shorter 4 Hat is missing 5 Box is missing 6 Shovel is missing.

FUNSPOT



HEAR YE mailman's here! Number code 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt. green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk. green 9—Dk blue. 10—Black. 11—Maroon 12—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

SPLATTER

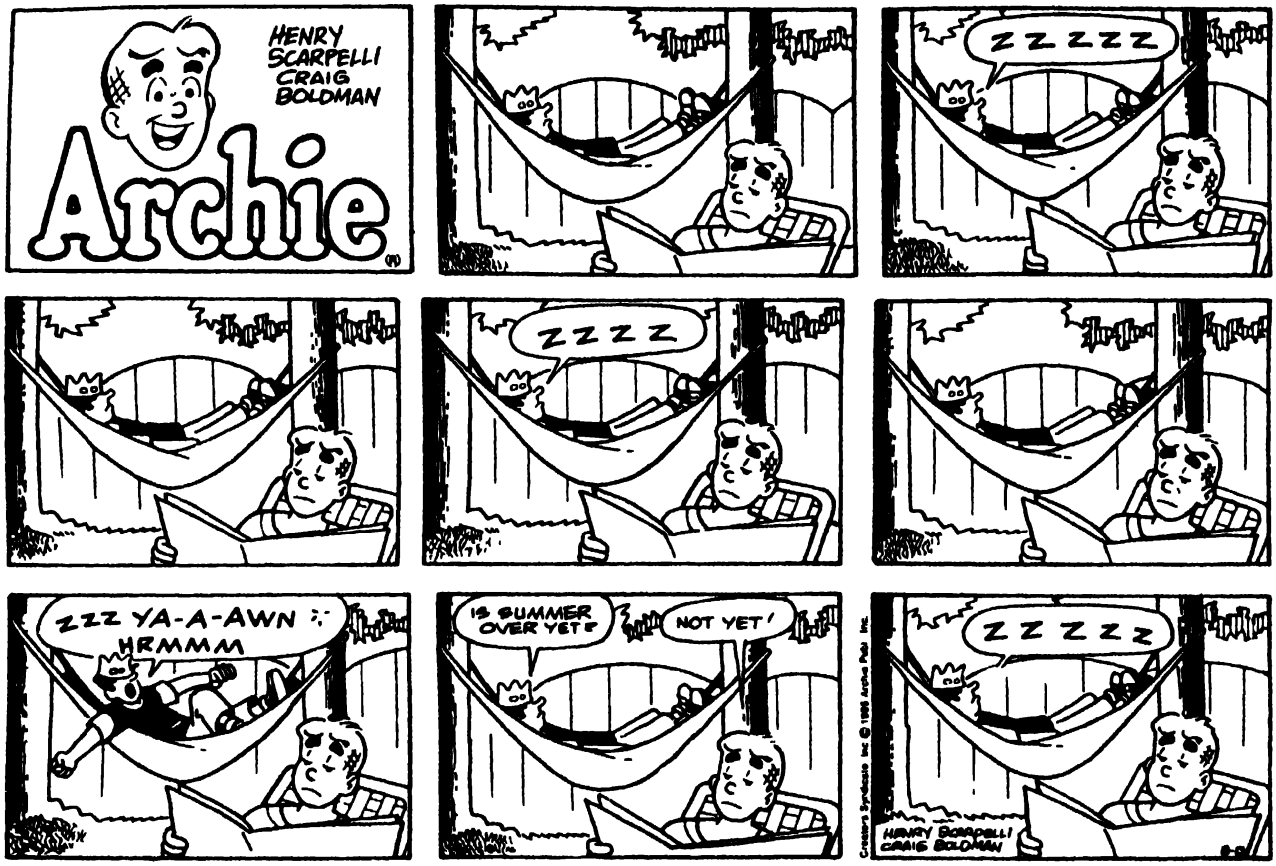
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

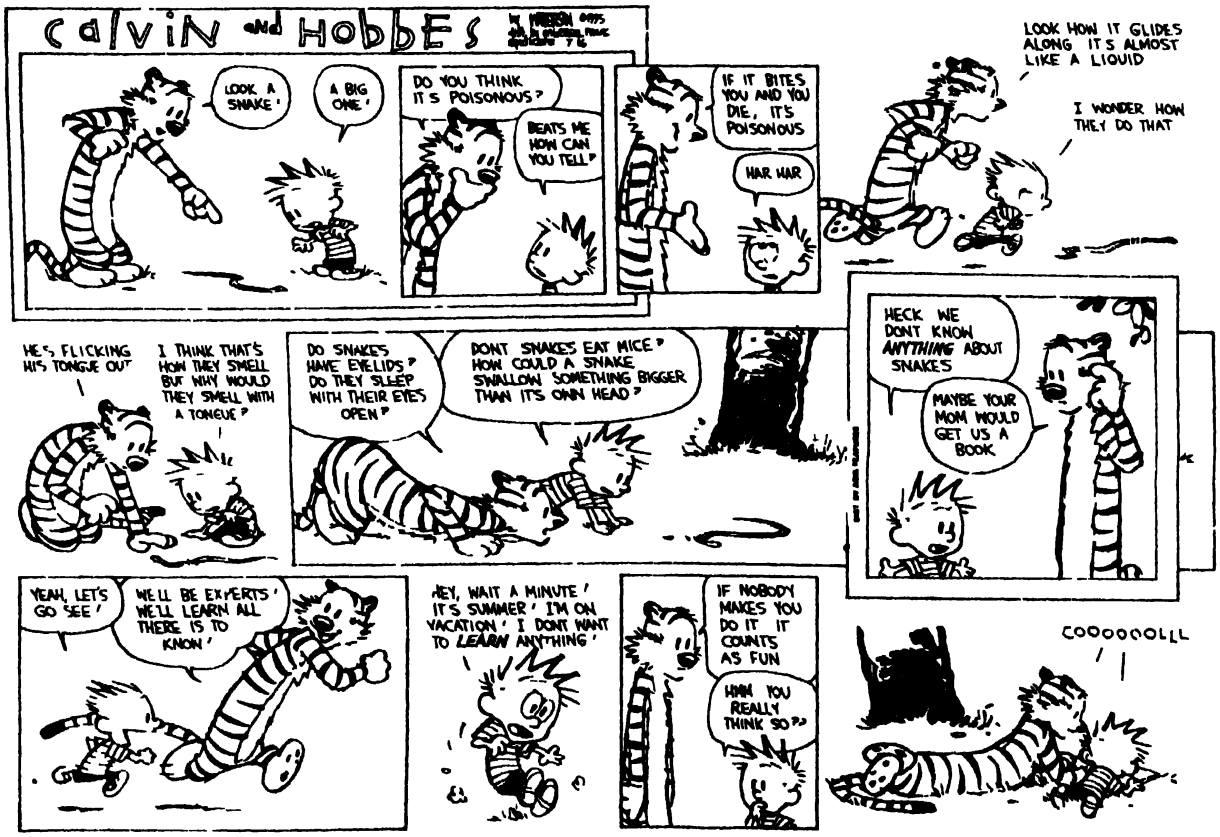
Possible twosome Pair, stir

COMICS

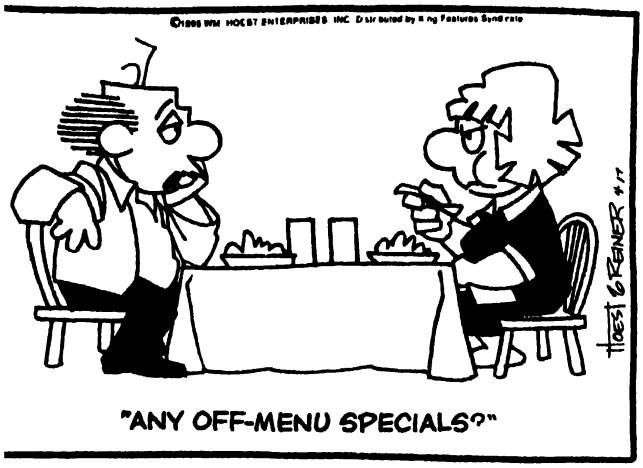
ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS







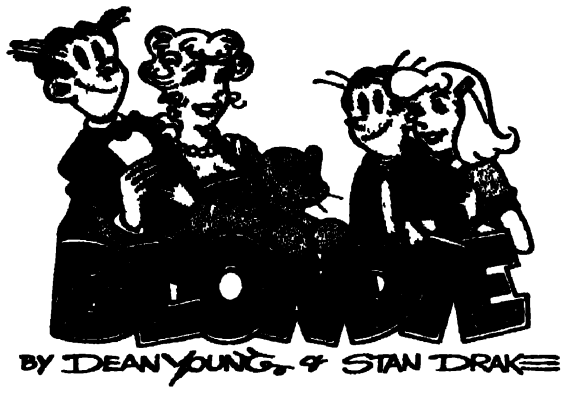


GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

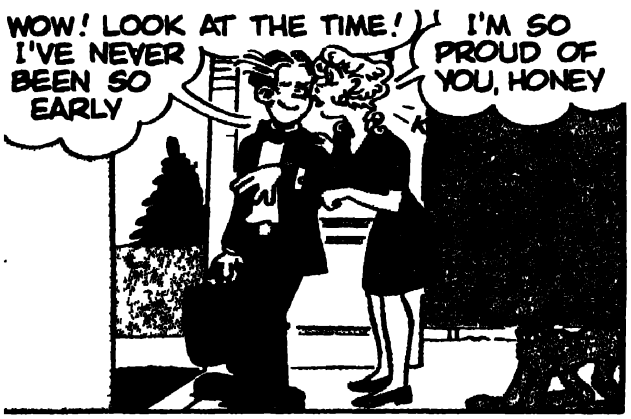


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

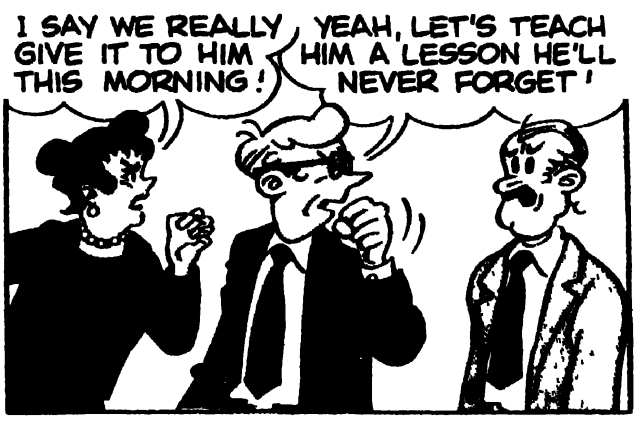



BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

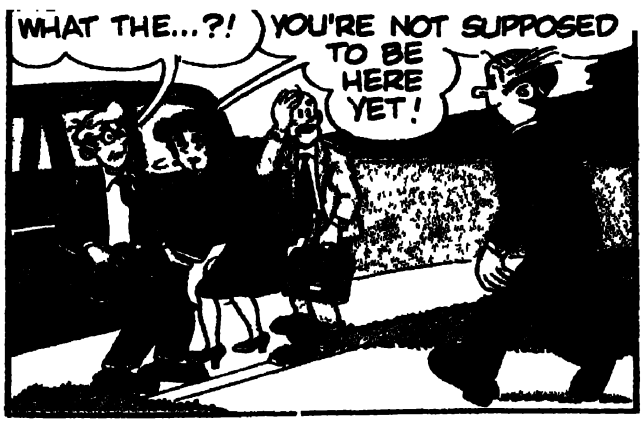

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE UP ALREADY!
NOTHING TO IT WHEN YOU REALLY TRY

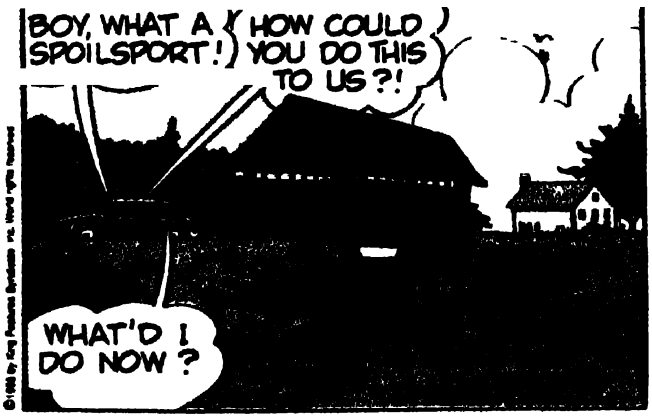

WOW! LOOK AT THE TIME! I'VE NEVER BEEN SO EARLY
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, HONEY


I'M SICK AND TIRED OF DAGWOOD MAKING US LATE ALL THE TIME!
I AGREE, IT'S TIME FOR A SHOWDOWN!


I SAY WE REALLY GIVE IT TO HIM THIS MORNING!
YEAH, LET'S TEACH HIM A LESSON HE'LL NEVER FORGET!


MORNING... LOVELY DAY, ISN'T IT?


WHAT THE...?!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE YET!


BOY, WHAT A SPOILSPORT!
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO US?!
WHAT'D I DO NOW?

NOSTALGIA

BODY, AFTER ALL..

Two weeks from now Sir Donald Bradman will celebrate his 87th birthday. But this time there won't be Harold Larwood to remember him.
***Gautam Bhattacharya** recalls his meeting with the legendary bodyline bowler some time back*

Two Halden Street, Kensington Park, Adelaide, will experience yet another normal day on the 27th of this month Except for the fact that son John Bredsen (note the change of surname), a lecturer in Adelaide University, and his wife will hand over the customary bouquet The grandson and the daughter will help their grandpa to cut the cake and finally the family physician will join them all for a private dinner at the Bradman household The same celebration has been followed for years

And yet there will be an exception

While Sir Donald Bradman sits down to celebrate his 87th birthday, one man will be missed badly on this side of the planet His name Harold Larwood

Do not think Larwood will be missed because he was used to sending lavish birthady greetings from Sydney, and with all due respect to Sir Don, also take his recent comments with a pinch of salt

As a tribute to Larwood, Bradman said there was no animosity between them, whatever had happened in that series was all because of Douglas Jardine

On the contrary, even time supposedly the greatest healer, failed to heal their respective wounds There was absolutely no contact between them for the past 20 years or so The last time the duo had met was as far back as in 1977

Both had journeyed to Melbourne for the historical Centenary Test between England and Australia and, again, there was 'bodyline' At the end of the official dinner, Bradman was requested to make a speech which he did with great aplomb The house gave him a standing ovation

Only one man did not budge an inch No points for guessing who

And yet Bradman is going to miss Larwood because he is Bradman to people for various reasons One of the major reasons is that he could tackle somebody of the calibre of a Larwood That is precisely why hatred and rivalry betwen the two was so deep

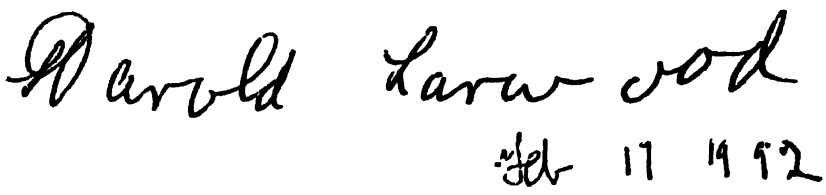
If you walk into the famous Bradman Museum at Bowral, about 200 kms from Sydney, you will see oil paintings, bats and souvenirs of Sir Don all around If you are lucky enough to see the Bradman video cassette being played, you will also get to hear his comments on bodyline bowling "Were you a little apprehensive that the bodlyline series had reduced your average to 56 and a repeat could happen?"

"Oh, no," Don assured the interviewer "I always knew such a thing was not going to last forever " A tinge of sarcasm in his voice is unmistakable

All the rooms are filled with big pictures, the authority for the final selection of pictures resting with Bradman, I was told by the curator One found



Harold Larwood with his wife



When asked for an autograph, Larwood was painstakingly guided by his wife as he was blind

all the legends hanging out there: W.G Grace, Ranjitsinhji, Gary Sobers, Victor Trumper, the Chappell brothers, Dennis Lillee, only two personalities remain notable in their absence Douglas Jardine and Harold Larwood

One mentioned this to Larwood over the phone "Not a single picture of mine?" he was completely taken aback, but then broke into a hearty laugh "Don't worry, my picture will be there within a few months "

How could he be that sure? "After all, the pictures are coming from Adelaide by ship It has to take some time, my dear," he replied The emotional scar was again visible

Larwood hated Bradman as much as he loved him When this correspondent visited his Leonard Avenue flat a few days prior to the World Cup, the owner had laid down a precondition He would not answer a single question on bodyline He also refused to be photographed alongside a picture of Bradman

"Jack Hobbs was the greatest of them all," Larwood informed, and added, "On all types of wickets there has never been a greater player " Larwood had already lost his eyesight by then and there was no question of even turning to the television set

So I hastened to ask if he had seen the likes of Viv Richards or the Chappell brothers to make an 'all-time' observation? "Oh, I had a lot of hopes in Viv But when I watched him, my God, I was terribly disappointed He took so many chances on any kind of wicket, I would have always had a 50-50 chance against Viv Mind you, Don never gave a chance "

What about a Greg Chappell or a Sunil Gavaskar? "Chappell made lots of runs, but he simply wasn't in the same street Gavaskar was slightly better, but in my book, he won't qualify This man used to wear a helmet "

What Gavaskar had used was a skullcap and not a helmet, I tried to reason out with him I also told him the skullcap came only towards the later stage of his career But my host was insistent

Who was the bravest of them all? The old man immediately went inside and returned with a piece of paper which, after great difficulty, appeared as a telegram It read 'Well bowled, Harold Congratulations Archie'

The sender, I was told, died only 60 years ago And since then, this has been preserved. "Do you know Archie Jackson died three weeks after sending the telegram? From his death-



Gautam Bhattacharya

Donald Bradman

bed, he was congratulating me for my performance in the bodyline series "

Now Larwood's voice seemed choked with emotion."Archie was a man He got 164 against me Never ran away from the fast stuff unlike a few who ran away and grumbled Easily, Archie was the bravest of them all Next in line would be Stan McCabe '

Where does that leave Bradman, I wondered According to Larwood, Don was neither the greatest nor the bravest Wasn't he being too unkind on this man? And can't resist the temptation of getting a likely derogatory quote on the batting genius of Don

So, I tell him how the modern English media are trying to erode Bradman's statistical superiority Their reasoning was that four fast bowlers, defensive field placing and acrobatic fitness standards would have relegated Bradman to the status of an above-average

"Who says that?" asks Larwood softly British cricket correspondents, I reiterate Suddenly the old man flares up "Thank God, my eyes have gone I have been spared the agony of reading this garbage "

He walked in with his personal album, and completely surprised me Three-fourths of it are occupied by pictures of Bradman Bradman batting, Bradman standing alone, Bradman and Larwood walking out together

Could I take a picture of his holding any of those pictures? "No," he rasped

And then, minutes later, completely contradicted himself by saying, "Bradman was easily the greatest of them all " Very apologetically I pointed out that had he not already picked Jack Hobbs? "Yeah, but Don was Don Extremely good eyesight he had. For him the good length ball never existed And he never got tired. You talked about Viv Richards. I can assure you Don was 10 times a better batsman "

Now my misery seemed further compounded Had the man turned senile? Meanwhile, Larwood began discussing the 1932-33 series, every minute detail as if it had only happened yesterday and then concluded, "The teleserial, *Bodyline*, was complete hogwash They showed me bowling in grounds which had trees in the background What the hell I was a coalminer Where did I get such grounds? Thank God, they didn't have a fan running in the background," remarked Larwood ruefully

Then he got up, showed me other pictures of the bodyline series, the ball that was used and other mementos For a blind man of 89 he seemed extremely sharp and agile I imagined how much sharper he must have been 60 years earlier

I got a glimpse of his wife and one of the four daughters and they seemed in touch But Larwood did not know a Graham Gooch was captaining England in the World Cup that was to commence a few days from then He did not know a certain Richard Hadlee existed and had something to do with cricket Worse, as a Sydney resident of the last four decades, he had little idea that the Sydney Hall had been done away with

Did he think Bradman would have succeeded in one day cricket? "Don wouldn't have touched this," Larwood looked quite certain "Don't forget this is ladies' cricket Bradman was a real man. How could he play with ladies?"

By now one was convinced Larwood had been the greatest Don worshipper And these two must have been the greatest antagonists ever to meet on the cricketing field

But the more important question loomed large Did Harold Larwood stop living since the bodyline series?

Otherwise how does one explain this complete disregard for the present and yet unfiltered passion for something that had happened only 60 years ago?

You might not find the answer to this But, yes, you could still manage a one-line obit for Harold Larwood Here was a cricketer ■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Asim Ras

A Lampoon on Calcutta

Calcutta is a picturesque city
especially
when caught in a triangle
of traffic
or a procession for a just cause!

time is a football
stuck in the mud.

taxis purr
trucks howl
buses honk
and two or four-lettered words
round off the music

the half-moon comes closer
hanging from the overhead wires
of
painted trams

Calcutta has a heart
of pure gold
some say—
I too believe
the silent heart of some glorious
wreck
of the old

Vivek Mukherjee

The Corpse Bearer

The funeral ground is far away.
Like a beast of burden,
the corpse bearer walks ahead,
step by step.
Countless corpses on his shoulders
enmeshed as though in a cobweb,
their spindly legs and hands
hanging in strands,
asleep on his shoulders
a long long time.

Once in a while they come alive
stretching their limbs,
to look around for light and air,
their subdued murmurs
swimming about in the wind.

And many questions, one after
another,
suddenly come rushing in
like waves of the sea

Yet, the man who can answer
is a lifeless tree lying motionless,
without look or voice,
because he himself
is a living corpse and corpse
bearers:
His funeral ground is far away.

Ranjita Nayak

Remembrance

As I lie down, stretching my acting
limbs
A memory drops into
my lap
And pops open like a nut
Scattering yesterday around me
whiffs of laughter reach me
Through the mists of decades
gone by
Fragments of joy sink into my heart
digging out embers of
fires long extinguished
Soft fingers entwine mine
Life seeps into my veins again
The sky above changes hues
as my memory engulfs me
Teasing, scorching,
whipping up emotions forgotten
long ago
I reach out to feel it,
then suddenly like the
touch-me-not,
it withdraws and yesterday
once again loses its way
And I get up to move with the
present
Till another day, another crossroad
when my past and I
shall trick the present once again.

Archna

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

The Postman: A simple love story etched on the screen with a painter's brush The movie unwinds a tale about an uneducated postman (Massimo Troisi) who falls in love with the most beautiful woman in town and woos her with words

A wellknown Chilean poet is exiled to this tiny island off the southern coast of Italy The postman befriends the poet who participates (reluctantly at first) in the bandy of words to win her over

A charming movie which flows smoothly and manages to meander around the mawkish elements Even when the postman asks the poet, "What's a metaphor?" and other such questions

Troisi exudes a natural glow and melts into his role, fluttering hands, mumbled words without any particular mannerisms Incidentally, he died on the last day of filming

Unfortunately Troisi's performance is marred by a maudlin, almost pathetic denouement that shatters the quiet emotions built up till then



MUSIC

Play On! **The latest four-volume set of tarana recitals from Music Today is something anyone would give his right ear to possess.**

The best thing about this classical music set is that it can be enjoyed even by the mid-brow listener; it's not ivory tower music even while being ivory tower.

Rajan and Sajan Mishra have selected taranas in Raga Hamsadhwani and the rare Raga Bhairav. Padma Talwalkar picks on stage concert items ending with Raga Lalit. Veena Sahasrabuddhe goes for varied moods and Ulhas Kashalkar tries to exploit the clarity and precision of ragas and rhythmic patterns.

Bound to light up your life. Music Today, Rs 260.



BOOKS

Little Girls in Pretty Boxes
A heart-rending tale of little girls who are rigorously trained to become top gymnasts and figure skaters

The author, Joan Ryan discovers "legal abuse In the dark troughs along the road to the Olympics lay the bodies of the girls who stumbled on the way, broken by the work, pressure, and humiliation"

The reader encounters a series of characters, real-life, yet straight out of the Dickensian world; ambitious parents, tyrant coaches, greedy guides, indifferent officials of the US Gymnastics Federation, who love the glitter of gold medals, but care a fig for the young athletes who slog to earn them

In their earnest effort to please, the girls strain themselves to the utmost, starving to stay slim and performing while injured The book tends to be repetitive, but narrates a shameful story which needs to be told

FITNESS

Breath of life: **Here's a new concept in oxygen therapy. Elder Pharmaceuticals Ltd, has recently launched portable oxygen cans, Oxycare, in the market.**

The gas is available in internationally designed light weight cans. These cans are very convenient to carry and can easily be a part of emergency kits. They can be administered by any lay man.

The product can come in handy in a number of situations: asphyxiation due to asthma, lung diseases, first-aid for heart patients, relief from mental stress during any strenuous physical training and in high altitudes.

The product will be launched in a phased manner nationally. It is priced at Rs 180 for six litres.



LIFESTYLE

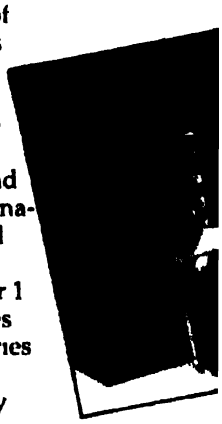
Weight watch! If you're a compulsive weight watcher and still below 150 kgs, Zest is here to lift you up and weigh you down

Acto Industries, a Bombay-based company, has recently launched digital personal weighing scales Zest scales are manufactured in collaboration with Measurement Specialities Incorporation of the US They are enhanced with micro-controllers and have loadcell sensors to give high sensitivity

A further add-on is the 'lifetime lithium battery' that disposes with old-fashioned batteries The machine has a capacity of 150 kgs but itself weighs a mere 1 kg.

Priced at Rs 1,790 along with a five-year warranty

Classic style
The House of Seagram has introduced Blender's Pride, a rare premium whisky blend



This international brand has a global sales of over 1 million cases in 50 countries

It blends high-quality Highland malts imported from Scotland and the finest local grain spirits

Blender's Pride comes in attractive cartons and bell-shaped bottles It is priced at Rs 475 for a 750-ml bottle

FIRST PERSON

DEBASREE ROY, *more fondly known as Rumki, has been charming Bengali, Hindi, Malayalam, Oriya and Tamil audiences with her myriad screen roles for more than a decade now. She has indeed come a long way since her debut as a child artiste in Tarun Majumder's* Kuheli *to Rituparno Ghosh's* Unishe April, *her crowning glory which earned her the prestigious National Award for best actress for 1994. Even as the leading lady of Tollywood who has won more than 40 different awards, she has not kept herself away from the small screen. Her performance as the ageing Satyavati in B.R. Chopra's* Mahabharat *proved her worth as a talented and versatile actress.*



What is your idea of perfect happiness?
I am still in search of it
What is your greatest fear?
I lost my father and elder brother early in life and I don't want to lose any more people
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mother
What do you dislike most in others?
Hypocrisy
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My temper
What is your most precious possession?
My love for dancing
What objects do you always carry?
A picture of Ma Kali
What makes you most depressed?
When I plan something and the opposite happens.

What is your greatest regret?

The absence of my father and elder brother in my greatest moment of pride and honour

What do you dislike most on your appearance?
When pimples appear on my face
What is your favourite word?
Action and cut

What is your favourite word?

Action and cut

What is your favourite journey?
Walking down a snow-covered mountain path at the end of which awaits a dimly-lit wooden hut
What is your favourite dream?
Winning an international award
What is your nightmare?
Travelling by plane
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
The person with whom I will walk, side by side, all through my life
What is your source of sustenance?
My faith in God.
On what occasions do you lie?
Only when it is necessary
What is your greatest regret?
The absence of my father and elder brother in my greatest moment of pride and honour
What has been your happiest moment?
Receiving the National Award from the President of India.
What brings tears to your eyes?
Betrayal of trust.
How do you relax?
By lying down and listening to music.
What do you envy most in others?
Their happy-go-lucky attitude
How would you like to be remembered?
As one who made some contribution in the field of cinema and dance
How would you like to die?
Without troubling others



- Mr. Dada Mirasee

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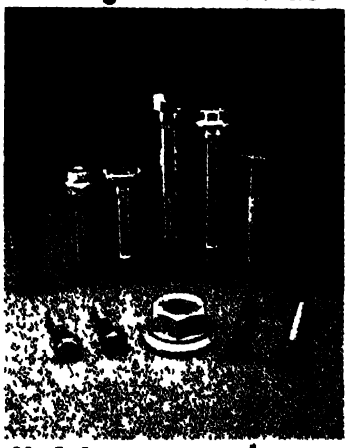
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20 AUGUST 1995

The Telegraph

POSTMORTEM

Our Best Shot?

■ What an amazing discovery — this 'scorpion' from sylvan Sikkim ('Little Brother', July 23)! His life is really a fairytale of a village lad rising to the crest because of sheer hard-work, perseverance and talent.

Football in India is still a very amateurish sport and against this backdrop whoever displays a few sparks becomes a 'hero'. Baichung Bhutia may really have the skill for international tournaments. But his talent needs to be honed

With the available infrastructure — poor training, lack of funds, and not forgetting petty politics — how far can this lad go?

Manohar Mandal,
Nabadwip (W B)

■ There are many talented footballers in West Bengal unrecognised for lack of government attention.

If well coached some of them can rise to the top and even compete with international footballers.

Mustafa Attarwala,
Calcutta

■ In the history of Calcutta soccer no footballer to date has earned the popularity of Baichung. East Bengal is lucky to have picked up such a talented striker.

B.N. Bose,
Calcutta



Dipankar Choudhury

Baichung Bhutia: Little brother, big spread

■ In almost every sphere — science, music, literature, the fine arts and films — Indians have performed brilliantly abroad. But we are yet to produce a footballer of international repute.

If Sikkim, with its small population, could produce a Baichung, why can't West Bengal with its teeming millions?

Reba Bose,
Jamshedpur

■ Indian soccer is really in a sorry state. If international clubs are wooing this young talent from India, then he should immediately be sent abroad.

Panchanana Baskey,
Baripada (Orissa)

■ According to a recent report, India occupies the 113th position among the 179 soccer-playing nations in the world. Isn't it a disgrace for a country with 900 million people?

We have a Union sports minister and every state boasts of a sports department. We also have a prestigious body like the Sports Authority of India Yet, not one state has been able to produce a footballer of world class

Manoranjan Das,
Jamshedpur

■ The Magazine said that Baichung was the second footballer after Chima Okerie to make it to commercials. That is not true Jamshed Nassiri and the veteran Chuni Goswami have also been seen in commercials, and much before Baichung

Somnath Paul,
Bankura (W.B.)

■ It is not only Surojit Sengupta and Baichung who have received invitations from clubs abroad. Chuni Goswami, the all-time favourite of Mohun Bagan, had received a grand offer from a first division club in London in the mid-Sixties.

And so did Krishanu Dey, who was strongly wooed by a Saudi Arabia club.

Shovanlal Bakshi,
Calcutta

INSIDE



Ashok Das

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Meet the new Imran Khan The man who could deliver Pakistan from all its evils An exclusive report from the land of Benazir Bhutto

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Who is this Rhea Pillai being talked about as Sunjay Dutt's current steady?

Imran Khan

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Cover Lokendra Pratap Sahi

COVER STORY

KHAN SAHEB

Meet the new Imran Khan whose influence on the Pakistani masses indicates that he is an idea whose time has got to come. Soon. ***Lokendra Pratap Sahi*** *analyses the mood in Pakistan in this exclusive to the Magazine*

Photographs by the author

The future face of Pakistan?





Holding forth



IF IMRAN KHAN HAS PROMISED A 2:30 PM APPOINTMENT at the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre — for that is where he prefers 'tackling' everything — chances are that his glistening Nissan Patrol or the upmarket Toyota Land Cruiser will only be visible closer to 4:30 pm.

Not because of a traffic snarl in Lahore (though the hospital is some 25 minutes from the city centre), but probably because some *sifarish*-seekers buttonholed him outside his Zaman Park residence.

And, if the ubiquitous leather folder (not one of the designer ones) is not exactly bulging when Imran gets off the Land Cruiser/Patrol, chances are that it actually will by the time he has hopped, stepped and jumped (yes, the cementing there is not yet complete) the 50-odd metres from the car park to the hospital's marketing wing where he holds *durbar*.

No prizes for guessing how the folder balloons, as the moment Imran turns off ignition he invariably is besieged by either job-hunters or parents wanting a recommendation for their child's admission in one school or the other.

Everyone, of course, has come with petition ready, confident that 'Khan Saheb,' who gives a reasonably patient hearing, will not disappoint. But very often, he does, pleading, "*Naukri kahan*?"

And once Imran is in office, he takes time to settle down, for every now and then there is either a call or fax which requires his personal attention. Even though the telephones are rumoured to be tapped, that has not stopped Deputy Commissioners, who wield enormous power, from personally calling up. Third ear, be damned.

That, for you, is the Imran Khan of 1995. He quotes not from the laws of cricket, a sport where he has left an indelible mark, but from the Koran. And, while one-time teammate Zakir Khan proudly proclaims Imran is "Pakistan's uncrowned king," for many others he is the messiah, visible in flesh and blood.

There also are quite a few who only have unkind words (for instance, cricketer-

turned-politician-turned-governmental advisor Sarfraz Nawaz), but their credibility ranks a good half-a-dozen notches below Imran's At the very least, that is

Imran continues to insist that he would be a complete misfit in the current political set-up and that, singlehandedly, it would be impossible for him to effect any change But there already is a growing demand that he formally announce his arrival as the 'third force' in Pakistani politics

For just how long he can resist that pressure is the proverbial million-rupee question In the past, though, Imran has spurned overtures from the late General Zia-ul-Haq and former caretaker Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi, widely respected as Pakistan's best administrator The latter's offer had come as recently as mid-1993 Only, Imran's priority then was the hospital And now

Perhaps, the most revealing observation, during a recent visit to Pakistan, came from the operations manager of a Lahore hotel Requesting anonymity, he declared "It would be fair to conclude that the people of Pakistan want a change They've had enough of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif and others of their tribe *Aap yakin karen, awaam tang aa gayee hai*

"They're looking for somebody with a clean image and Imran definitely fits the bill For Imran, the journey from cricketing hero to social crusader has been smooth, and I don't anticipate any problems of acceptability as a politician "

Already, Imran's following is formidable, thanks in no small measure to the hospital, the successful completion of which has given him a status that is everyone's envy

Indeed, for the masses, Imran's outstanding achievements on the cricket field seemingly take second billing The hospital, in the still-developing Johar Town locality, is what counts

At best, politicians merely lay foundation stones for hospitals. They promise so much, but deliver, well .. With Imran, it has been very different A sportsman has presented his country with a facility which can favourably compare with specialist cancer establishments worldwide

The bottomline is that Imran not only promised, but has delivered as well And that has sent his credibility zooming

Mind you, even before the hospital was inaugurated (last December), hundreds of women had enough faith to happily part with gold bangles and ear-rings during one of Imran's fund-raising drives "In him we trust," was (and is) a fairly common sentiment

Not too long ago, Sarfraz alleged that the supermarket chain (Pace Pakistan Limited) which Imran is promoting was really being built with money siphoned from funds raised for the hospital

At first glance, the charge is devastating Only, no one believes Sarfraz Rather, as one gentleman who has spent many winters and summers in Lahore reasoned, "It's no big deal even if some money has been channeled elsewhere "

"*Dekhen ji, humko* Imran *pe bharosa hai* Even if that allegation is true, what's so remarkable about it? Imran promised a hospital and it's there for everybody to see It's functional and the poor don't even have to pay So what, if some money has been diverted to another project? Even that chain (of supermarkets) will benefit Pakistanis *Un paison se usne apna ghar to nahin banaya* " the gentleman opined

Interestingly, even a federal government bureaucrat who spoke to *The Telegraph* Magazine, acknowledged that Imran's clean reputation on money matters would give him a head-start over both Prime Minister Bhutto and Sharif, the Opposition supremo should he take the plunge

' Imran could have made a tidy packet (from the hospital) Instead, he is seen as being thoroughly scrupulous, which is saying quite a lot," the bureaucrat maintained



He quotes not from the laws of cricket, a sport where he has left an indelible mark, but from the Koran. And, while one-time teammate Zakir Khan proudly proclaims Imran is 'Pakistan's uncrowned king,' for many others he is the messiah, visible in flesh and blood



Jemima and Imran enter the hospital portals

But would Imran's entry into politics please the bureaucrats anchored in Islamabad? Our friend's response would have done any foreign service mandarin proud "Let's say that the kickbacks' taking lobby will more than just frown while the honest guys will, I suppose, be pretty pleased "

Remarked yet another former teammate, legendary leg spinner Abdul Qadir "I personally feel Imran should announce his entry sooner rather than later And when he does, I'll be the first to join him "

He added, twirling his fingers as if readying to unleash a lethal leg break. "The mood is for a change and in Imran, there's a ready alternative.

"Imran's not only someone who has seen the world, something that's necessary if you're to take an unblinkered view of things, but is also committed to the people Testimony to that is the hospital In fact, I've been asking him



to enter politics for some years now Imran *ko khud nahin pata hai ki log usko kitna chahte hain"*

Qadir is probably right, for despite a specific appeal (out of concern for Karachi being in flames) that no supporters welcome him and Jemima on their touching down on home soil for the first time after *nikaah*, thousands besieged Lahore International Airport to accord a truly emotional reception

And if that was not enough, hundreds had Imran's portrait prominently embossed on Pakistan's green-and-white national flag That unprecedented act by itself conveyed much As also the spontaneous, almost hysterical, chanting of "Wazir-e-Azam Imran Khan," punctuated by the subcontinent's very own and traditional *zindabads* It was all extremely heady

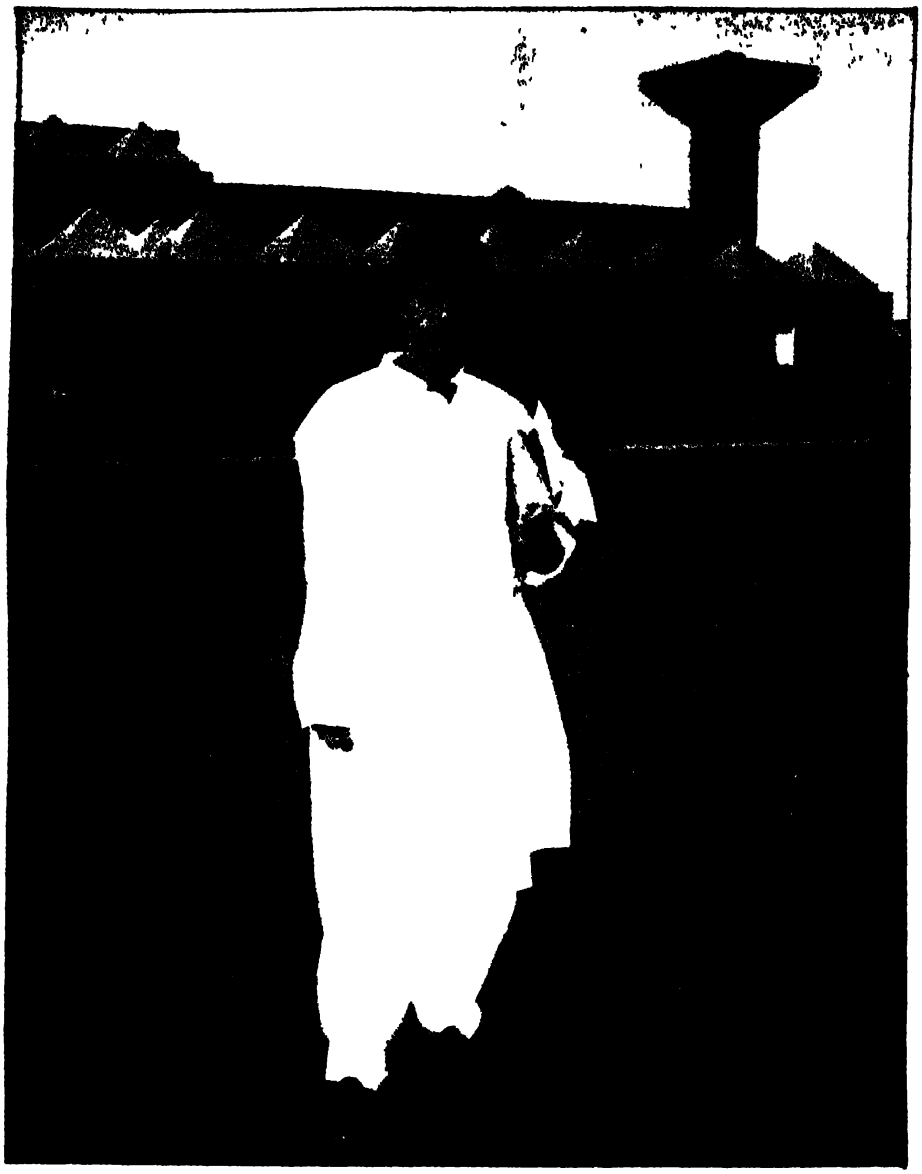
The overwhelming welcome appears to have further upset the Imran-baiters' calculations Not only did the post-*nikaah* anti-Imran wave not gain ground (despite a stinging campaign in a section of the print medium), Jemima's salwar-kameez-dupatta appearance proved a blockbuster Coming via Saudi Arabia, after performing *Umra*, was a big plus, too



Even if that allegation [of misappropriation of funds] is true, what's so remarkable about it? Imran promised a hospital and it's there for everybody to see. It's functional and the poor don't even have to pay. So what, if some money has been diverted to another project?

That Jemima, who has converted to Islam, is an instant hit was confirmed when she and Imran made their maiden public appearance, at the hospital For a change, the horde of lensmen focused on Mrs Khan (addressed as *"bhabhi"* by Imran's associates) as she stiletto-ed around the hospital, *dupatta* in place and speaking in whispers

Imran who, by the way, is absolutely smitten by Jemima, did not mind being 'ignored', for if Jemima continues to get a good press, it will be a somewhat unexpected advantage And just to eliminate the possibility of any 'misunderstanding' or misrepresentation of comments, Mrs Khan is declining interviews At least, for now



The hospital and the man before it

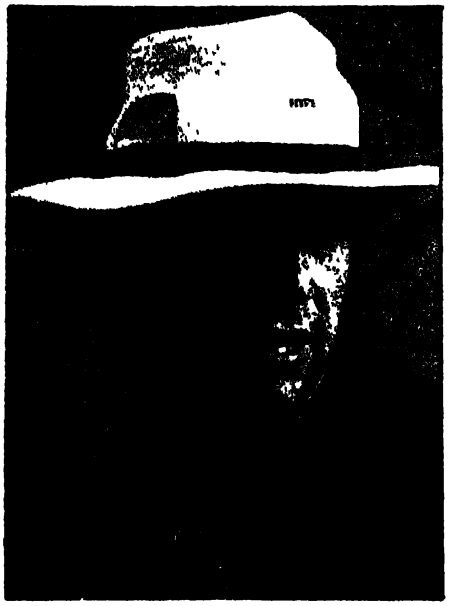
While on mis-representation, Imran needs to watch out himself Despite categorically asserting (at a bustling media conference in Lahore) that joining politics "purely as a reaction" to the government's attitude "wouldn't make sense," a leading English daily still front-paged a headline which said exactly the opposite So

Imran may also have to tone down his Brown Saheb bashing, specially when criticising the discarding of the salwar-suit in favour of Western clothes Incidentally, for the past couple of years, Imran has himself taken to the salwar-suit in a big way.

At that same media conference, Imran was cornered by some scribes who argued that jeans and T-shirts were not only more economical, they had bigger utility value Clearly, they were not too impressed by Imran's call for "Be Pakistani, wear Pakistani "

Imran, of course, is in no hurry to call off his assault on the Brown Sahebs "What's my marriage (to an English lady) got to do with that?" was his biting (and furious) response to a 'planted' query that afternoon

The glitterati may not endorse all his views, but the commoner is bound to applaud Imran, a shrewd reader of men and minds, knows that only too well



The Western look, now being toned down

And now that the hospital has taken off, Imran is busying himself with yet another populist step the National Education Movement, which will be headed by a former United Nations Development Programme functionary

Again, Imran can only come closer to the people (particularly in rural Pakistan) who will matter should he shrug off his reluctance to join politics That Pasban, the energetic youth wing of the Jam'at-i-Islami, will once more lend a helping hand is significant

What emerges is that Imran has picked his social agenda astutely Actually, so deplorable has been the politicians' track record that Imran only stands to gain He already is Pakistan's No 1 crowd-puller

Now, how quickly will he take a shot at the No 1 job? That is the teaser of the times ■



'The mood is for a change and in Imran, there's a ready alternative,' says Abdul Qadir. 'Imran's not only someone who has seen the world, something that's necessary if you're to take an unblinkered view of things, but is also committed to the people.... Imran *ko khud nahin pata hai ki log usko kitna chahte hain'*

FOCUS

SIR JAMES, WE PRESUME?

Will the real Goldsmith stand up, please?

He now professes to have a heart of gold, deploring the materialism of our vicious economic world The man in question is the all too revered Sir James Goldsmith, better known on the subcontinent as Jemima's father

Surprise of surprises, the European billionaire seems hellbent on casting aside his earlier corporate raider image to one who is a thinker — committed to the cause of raising a storm over the blind consumerism in which we, the commoners, are haplessly steeped One wonders if it was not his son-in-laws's zealous missions which may have contributed to the entrepreneur's sudden change of heart

Not many people, as James saw it, have the luxury to do what they think is right But that is exactly what Jimmy, as he is called by those closest to him, did from the start Like all the raiders in the Eighties, he loved to scoff at corporate bureaucrats and broke into scornful anger when people had the temerity to suggest that corporate raiding was something less than God's handiwork

In fact, delivering what seemed like sermons from the pulpits about why they were wrong and he was right was a favourite hobby of Jimmy's

And he did these with a good deal of ostentation as in everything else in his life His wives and affairs were scattered all over the globe as were the number of children he had sired

Escape was narrow when he liquidated his stocks just before the crash of 1987 A not-so-serious raid later in the late Eighties, Jimmy bowed out of sight

But he came back, choosing this time to prey upon people's mind, suffering probably the delusions of the superich that wealth confers wisdom

So it was with Henry Ford who thought his profound anti-Semitism was "an insight right into the heart of things" — just as his assemblyline — the production technique that made such cars possible had been

A not too uncommon instance would be Ross Perot whose business empire, was built from scratch Perot employed people by the thousands and changed the face of an industry simply on the basis of his ideas But the real problem came when he decided to run for President The magnate was robbed of his magnetism and overnight adjudged a political crank

In a bid to defend his hostile takeover manoeuvres, raiders like Goldsmith developed a hubristic approach in assessing corporate America But he is not the only one in his family who has an inflated ego His older brother, Edward, was fast becoming England's most reputed environmentalist For Teddy Goldsmith is one of those doomsayers who feels Apocalypse is just round the corner

Jimmy in his more halcyon days had summarily dismissed his brother's car-



pings as too primitive to merit serious thought "The secret," he once said, "is to create ambitions the whole time," to "go forward because you have no choice "

He had always opposed nuclear power though, and in 1990, when the last of the corporate raiders had bid adieu (thanks largely to the decline of Michael Milken) Goldsmith, who by then had grown weary of his business interests, turned ironically, to his brother's worldview

It is *The Trap* which lays down Goldsmith's elaborate cosmic view The book is a series of question and answers to softball questions put forward by an almost servile French journalist And Goldsmith seems contented to do what he has always liked best — be pompously dogmatic

One finds it almost impossible to go through *The Trap* and not infer that its author is all for going back to old times which is better than looking ahead, and that a more primordial society is a better society But what one would certainly not miss is the oracular tone of the moral deliverer

Some of Goldsmith's opinions on GATT are downright absurd and his call for a more primitive way of life — living off the land, governing communally and learning to live with out the use of consumer goods can hardly make sense when it comes from someone who has 200 Mexicans tending the food at his villa

He, however, has a point when he expresses concern over nuclear power, but even then, sounds highly eccentric

When he ventures to make these moral utterances one gets the insistent urge to collar the man and ask whether he is not being a hypocrite after all For he who once thrived on exploiting the economy, is talking about how best to redeem it Since Goldsmith has had his share in the systematic destruction of the economy through hostile incursions, how strange that he should rue the loss of community

Does he have the right to make us guilty of our sins when he has never bothered to address his own? The corporate jungle is ruthless after all, but what of those who perpetrated this process of ruthlessness?

People like Goldsmith have a lot to atone for before making it their business to lecture the world It was surely time for him to be penitent?

Rajlakshmi Bhattacharyya

CONTROVERSY

HOME TRUTHS

Let us launch an offensive against plastic packaging

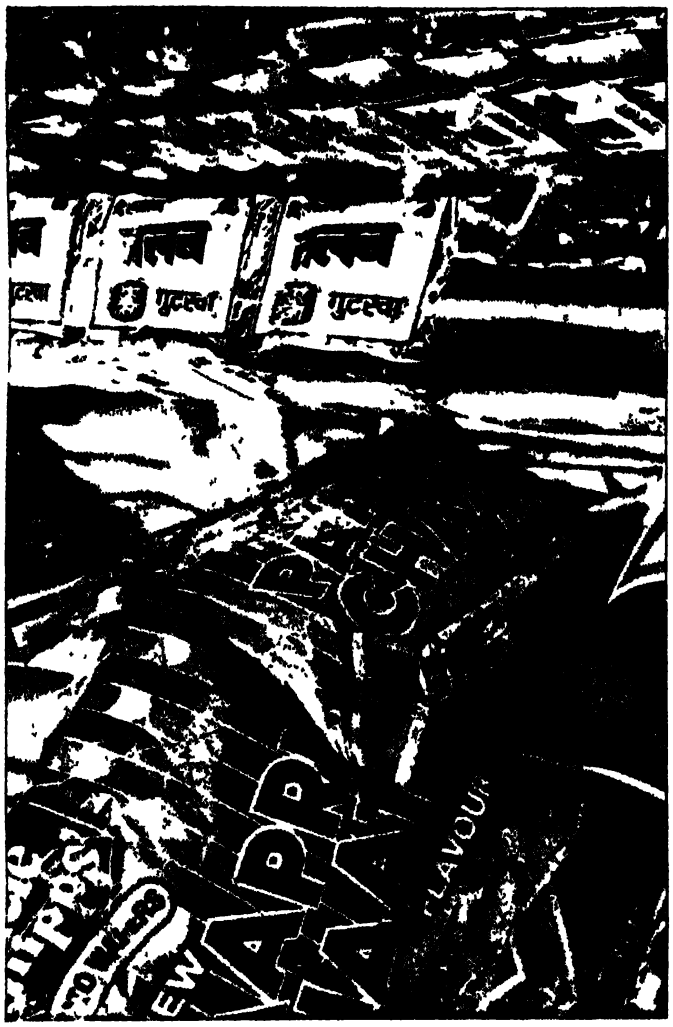
Living in a Plastic Age (your cover story, 'The Plastic Hood', June 25) is not a reassuring thought for many The more we woo plastic, use plastic and live plastic, the greater is the possibility of an environmental disaster Just ponder over the following perils of plastic usage

Plastic is not recyclable Generally, the plastic packaging material finds its way into landfilling through urban waste route As plastic is biodegradable, this toxic landfilling triggers the process of irreversible degradation of the soil It is estimated that about one million tonnes of plastic waste per annum will be generated in India

The plastic lobby, while defending the use of plastic, generally argues that per capita consumption of plastic in India is much less than the developed countries Our country is densely populated Instead of viewing the per capita consumption, it would be prudent to give a serious look into the quantity of toxic waste generated per hectare of agricultural and forest land available in our country The overview would only prove the dangerous consequences looming large on the fertile land due to rampant dumping of plastic packaging material

The other major important factor for discouraging the use of plastic as packaging material is widespread counterfeiting and adulteration of the packaged products

Plastic packages can be easily tampered with Many cases of contamination have come to the fore,



but only after causing misery to our citizens There have been cases of contaminated edible oil in HDPE Jar, presence of spurious oil and liquor in plastic pouches and substandard milk Plastic is not tamperproof because of its easy re-'sealability' It is important to note that on the other hand, glass or metal packaging is not that easy to be tampered with

The other disadvantage of plastic packaging is the health hazard Certain findings, as stated in the article, confirmed that many widely used plastic resins are carcinogenic, but they continue to be used in India for packing processed or semi-processed snacks like bhujia, papad and chips There seems to be a lack of awareness against the use of such carcinogenic material for food packaging

Recently lubricating oil companies have switched over the marketing of their lubricating oil from metal containers to plastic containers, on the plea that there is a consumers' demand for these containers

An investigation has revealed that used plastic containers of the oil are popular among the rural population for storing potable water It is important to note that a used lubricant container of plastic cannot be totally cleansed of its contents Traces of lubricating oil (hydro-carbon) are found on the inner walls of these containers, which contaminates the stored water

It is ironical that while the vast rural population in India is ignorant about this health hazard, the major oil companies are least concerned about its consequences It is important that the oil companies should be compelled to print a warning on the body of the plastic containers that its usage for storing any edible product is harmful to health

It has been rightly pointed out in the article that some use of plastic is inevitable, and desirable, specially for consumer durables, furniture, disposable syringes

Therefore, it is all the more important that non-essential use of plastics, as in the case of packaging, must be minimised to check the growth of plastic waste

It would not be inappropriate to mention that the plastic lobby in this country has a powerful political influence and they always try to influence the government's decision for petty gains A concerted and coordinated effort should be made to counter this powerful lobby by an 'awareness campaign' towards the hazard of plastic packaging material

Sushil K. Kayan
Chairman, Tinplate Fabricators Association, Calcutta

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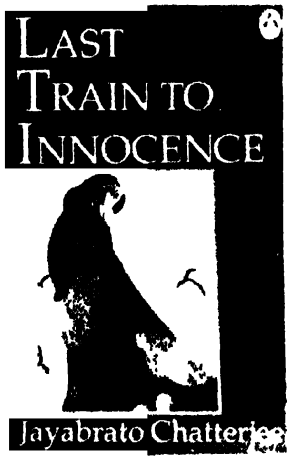
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EXTRACT

Laughing WATER



BY JAYABRATO CHATTERJEE

Extracted from** Last Train to Innocence **by Jayabrato Chatterjee, Penguin Books (India), Rs 125

With a spontaneous whoop and a skip Roy crossed the threshold and slunk into his chair He sat down gingerly, not sure if the hard wood would take kindly to his abused bottom so soon The class released waves of sympathy signals a quick smile, a saucy wink, a new rubber tossed at his desk even as the torrid poem was recited by one section, a bubble-gum displayed slyly for sharing later, a sharpener in the shape of a miniature globe passed to the hero through a series of surreptitious hands

"Serves you right, Roy!" admonished Miss Barucha "I hope this'll put a stop to your monkeying for a while You need to pull up your socks and pay attention to lessons instead of making Mamen Mamen your lawful lord and master His are hardly the correct footsteps to follow Sweet meat, my friend, will have sour sauce and pleasures, while they flatter, sting as well! Now sit still if you can and open your Reader to page fifty-six Sissy Anand, are you dreaming?"

"No Ma'am," exclaims Sissy, making her eyes as big as possible and pretending to be hurt He resented the attention the class showered on Roy

"Then repeat the verse we've just read "

Prithvi Singh, Roy's immediate neighbour, hid behind the frayed pages of his brown-paper covered Reader, pulling it right over his chimpanzee face He whispered, "I'll lend you my katty at Short Break and share tuck Promise!"

Roy grinned and squeezed his best friend's inky fingers He felt a lot better already

"Stop jabbering, Singh, before I throw you out of class!" Miss Barucha's sharp eyes hadn't missed the welcome

Sissy Anand dragged back his chair and rose daintily from its depths Locking his fingers across his chest, he began reciting in his effeminate voice

Thus the youthful Hiwatha
Said within himself and pondered,
Much perplexed by various feelings
Restless, longing, hoping, fearing,
Dreaming still of Minnehaha
Of the lovely laughing water
In the land of the Dacotahs

Roy moved forward and leaned on his desk with his elbows, cheeks sunk firmly in his palms

*****

Minididi!

Laughing water of the baori near



Scandal Point, tucked way up on a jutting plateau by the northern end of the saal woods where undulating hills ultimately began their treacherous climb to Mussoorie. Bugga often said a pair of spotted deer came to the pool on moon-washed nights, shaking their slender antlers at stretching shadows, to quench their eternal thirst for turning into human lovers they once were, before Ruth Zacharia transformed them in her dark dungeon into quaking *heerans*. Gopal driver hipped his back playfully with a sheesham twig and told him to stop pulling long yarns. Otherwise he'd go ask the foul-mouthed Jhagaria-*mem* to turn Bagga into a grunting pig.

When Baba came to Rajpur from his journeys across turbulent seas, he sometimes went for walks near the baori where he saw wild fowls flounce and fly low, their brown wings fanned out. Usually, they glided over the cinnamon-coloured terraced slopes where villagers grew dense yellow mustard and golden wheat in winter. There couldn't have been uglier birds with red-rimmed eyes and squat, jaundiced beaks. But they made good parents and protected their chicks who travelled with them.

Roy once discovered two exquisite Birds of Paradise, swishing their long ribbon tails and frisking on the slender branches of jacarandas that surrounded the well-spring and burst into bloom in surprising abundance every March. He had picked them out by sheer chance one dawn when he drove there with Gopal Driver. They were just a teeny-weeny bit bigger than the common thrush, with sharp and curved beaks. Their white wings were speckled with black strokes and their tails rippled and caught the glint of golden sun-rays as they frolicked in clusters of purple flowers. If they were ever disturbed, they flew into the dark saal woods, never to reveal where they built their nests. Laldida said their souls were immortal and those who happened to see them on earth were extremely lucky indeed.

Roy, however, was quite heartbroken at the failure of his fledgling love-life.

He had tried telling Minididi in a hundred different ways that his heart belonged to her alone, if she'd please stop mocking him in front of Michael Cameron or pulling his cheeks till they hurt in front of Badibua. But she only laughed and tossed back her braids as she exclaimed, "Ishan, you're such a cute baby!"

When Minididi was a toddler, her Mummyji had lost her mind. Badibua, who brought her up, was an awful tyrant. She was a formidable fixture in the house like the tiger skins spread on the drawing room floor or the huge oil-paintings of ancestors on the foyer wall or the stuffy Victorian furniture scattered all over the house, smelling of moth-balls and madness.

Dressed in immaculate white saris, hair scraped back into a tight knot and with a *chandan* spot on her enormous forehead, Badibua usually sat on a reed-mat through the better part of the morning in front of her mischievous Nandgopal. This was her strategic location from where she kept a hawk's eye on the house. Nandgopal grinned and watched her devious wiles, standing on an ornate silver base laden with flower petals. He was hardly two feet tall, but he insisted on crossing his feet cockily, swinging the jaunty peacock feather in his crown and playing a silver flute. And he knew all the tricks Badibua was plotting, as his merry eyes looked at her through the heavy incense haze.

Badibua always told beads with her eyes half-closed. She begged Nandgopal to release her from sins and asked for his infinite mercy and goodness. But even as she prayed, not for a moment did she spare the minions.

"*Harey* Krishna, *harey* Krishna. Where's that son-of-a-pig Dhanram? Has the *haraami* brought in the milk? Krishna-Krishna, harey-harey. Did anyone see how much water that *ullu* mixed? Or have you all gone blind. *Harey* ram, *harey* Ram. *Arrey*, where have all you dunces disappeared? Is it your mother's funeral today? Why don't you swines answer? Ram-Ram, *harey-harey*!"

As the days went by, Mummyji's daily post-lunch tantrums grew worse. Minididi couldn't care less and Badibua did little to help. In fact, Mummyji became hopelessly agitated if Badibua went anywhere near her room. She detested the sour old crone with such ferocity that even Mali Ayah couldn't control her. Breaking away from the ayah's iron grip, she lurched forth with maniac zest in an attempt to grab her sister-in-law's throat. And when she failed, she tore her clothes in imbecile frustration.

Badibua was never pleased with anything or anybody and she had mastered the knack of making other people's lives miserable. She had wast-



ed no time meddling in Mummyji's affairs when she came home as a bride, decked in heavy Benares silks and with henna hieroglyphs prettily pattered on her hands and feet Badibua hated sharing her brother, Raibahadur Chamanlal Once she returned from her in-laws garbed in white and with her bangles smashed, irrevocably widowed within seven months of her lavish wedding, she became paranoid and possessive about him She resented her *bhabi* and her black tongue never stopped wagging

Mummyji had brought tons of gold seven heavy necklaces, 24 bangles and four heavy *kadas*, a pair of *bajubandhs*, umpteen ear-rings, solid diamond *chhallas* and even gold *kaliras* But she was neither beautiful nor educated

In the early days, Badibua had engaged the stodgy and passive Mummyji in devious games of rummy and tried to retrieve information about what she did with her anglicised brother behind locked doors But when Mummyji beat her at the card game, an ! gave her explicit details about lusty fellatio sessions, accompanied by boisterous laughter, Badibua's parsimonious heart panicked She summarily put an end to the *taash* sequence and started poisoning the Raibahadur's ears

The rift was inevitable

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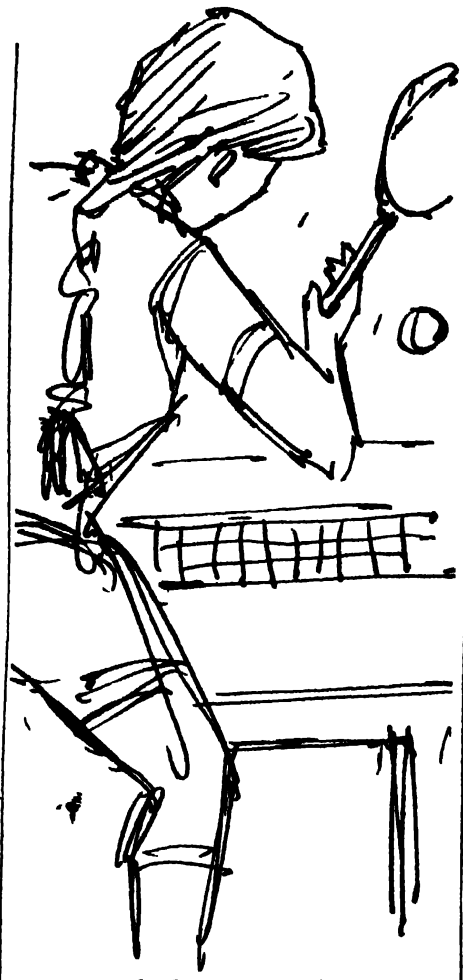
Badibua was suspicious of even Minididi's friends She didn't like her going to movies or mixing with boys And if her niece rebelled, she's shout, "What's the world coming to! This is surely *Kalyug*! A chit-of-a-girl and she wants to have her own opinions! *Hai-hai! Hai-hai!*"

Minididi tried to pacify her and said, "Times are changing, Badibua, why don't you understand? And what can I do if Raj Kapoor makes my heart go pitter-patter!"

Badibua stomped into Papaji's study and complained bitterly

In school Minididi was usually quiet, coming into her own when table tennis tournaments were on That's when she suddenly flamed and flowered From an obedient nunny, she transformed into a nimble footed leopardess, thrashing the small ping pong ball across the net with terrific anger It seemed as if she were getting her own back at Badibua Lips pursed, eyes intent, and her two thick braids flying that was Roy's mental snapshot of Minididi playing table tennis

She was district champion and it made Papaji extremely proud In fact, he made sure all the cups and medals she won were regularly polished and



prominently displayed in the drawing room No guest could pass the array without Raibahadur Chamanlal holding forth on his only child's tremendous talent Badibua snorted and twisted her lips She's rather have Minididi learn to embroider, knit and cook than get into vulgar shorts and smash plastic balls around But this was one occasion when Papaji paid Badibua little heed The sports authorities hailed his decision and made him Chief Guest, fawning over his brown sahib grandeur

If only he knew what the servants in the locality said about him!

"He's a fraud and that Badibua's a man-eater!" was Janak Thakur's assessment

"He's a weakling!" was Gopal Driver's short and sweet comment

"*Saala*! b. came shorter and sweeter when it was pronounced by the garlic-smelling and evil Bholelal

Only Maili Ayah knew why Raibahadur Chamanlal's wife went insane and she opened her heart to Kanchiama alone, on their way back from Ramlila

"Can you imagine, Kanchi, he hammered her to insanity! Just because she couldn't mix with the *mems* and do *haa-haa hoo-hoo* with their sahibs at the club, he abused and hit her when he came home drunk and that Badibua told him nasty, cooked up stories! Mummyji's a simple soul, Kanchi, I've served her from the day she stepped into the Raibahadur's home but, poor creature, she couldn't read English books and magazines and go *tai tai tai* with those *mem logs* And Badibua? Even now she sucks up to her brother's friends because she knows a smattering of the foreign tongue She sucks up to a lot of other things as well!" and dropping her voice in a dramatic whisper, Maili Ayah giggled and continued, "That old, horny witch actually lusts for the Raibahadur! Once I saw her in the library fiddling with his erect *lingam*! *Tobah-tobah*! Mummyji wasn't given a moment's peace! Naturally, she took to smoking opium that went to her head!"

Badibua was the bane of Minididi's life but she fell for Roy's charming manners after he brought her Nandgopal a huge bunch of gulmohars stolen from Miss French's garden Placing her index finger on her cheek, she looked at him indulgently and smiled and said, "Take her for walk with you, beta Mini's Senior Cambridge exams are over and she's sitting and twiddling her thumbs Wasting time and getting fat! Make her walk all the way to the baori It will keep her out of mischief If you were ten years older, I'd happily get you married to her That would solve all our problems!"

Roy blushed a beetroot red and hoped against hope that by some miracle of Nandgopal's this fervent wish of Badibua's would come true But that would never happen Minididi had already given her heart away

******

Miss Barucha banged the duster on the teacher's desk and raised a little cloud to command attention

"You, Prithvi Singh, read!"

Prithvi rose to the occasion like a warrior and his neighbour turned the pages of his Reader to find the verse just discussed Fussy Farida tossed back her bobbed curls, frowning, not in the least pleased with Roy who was unable to settle down after the licking that morning She'd have to watch him closely once Short Break was over.

Prithvi read in a brusque monotone:

From the sky the sun benignant
Looked upon them through the branches,
Saying to them, 'O my children,
Love is sunshine, hate is shadow,
Life is checkered shade and sunshine,
Rule by love, O Hiawatha!'

And Roy wondered why love was so cruel ■

Aries

March 21—April 20



Two trends operate simultaneously, says Ganesha Buying, selling, wining, dining, entertaining and get-togethers being one Focus on job, and work for the next 20 days being the other Children and studies also play a major role in your life A week when you will have to move fast

Taurus

April 21—May 20



The moon's last quarter in your sign enables you to take the initiative be it business or pleasure You will have to cut corners in your desire to expedite matters Home and property, say office and shop, may get a face-lift or be bought, sold, renovated, leased, rented and so on

Gemini

May 21 —June 20



It could well be journeytime or moving time or both You are in a period of transition That much is certain One step at a time should do the trick Do expect visitors, strangers, even foreigners to liven things up for you Health caution for the elderly is essential

Cancer

June 21—July 20



You could be making money, but for that, you may have to fan out to people and places, reach for their heart-strings and thrum on it Actors, artists, astrologers, poets, filmwallahs, psychics, doctors, politicians, musicians find the week particularly lucrative

Leo

July 21—August 21



It is a tremendous heave-ho once again but the results will be wonderful and therefore you don t have a reason to complain Sheer guts and personality projection will help you to win the game Get set to expand your business or make changes conducive to it

Virgo

August 22—September 22



From the 24th, the sun enters your sign according to Western astrology, giving you an extra edge over others in terms of trading and artistic genius thanks to imaginative sympathy and a terrific boost in confidence, the father of all triumphs Journey on the cards

Libra

September 23—October 22



Mars once again heralds victory for you However expenses will mount Many Librans will be changing gears mentally and physically becoming more active objectively, and that to say the least is rare and praiseworthy Unusual week is on the anvil

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



The strange quality of the week is tremendous work ethic mixed with a tremendous ability to relax and recharge almost at will It is this which produces the aces at championships and enables them to be victors From September 7 the full impact of it will be felt by others

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



While you will have to slog it out, rest assured gains will be registered Love affairs and a shakeup are foretold Travel stars of the last week invite you once again Your moves will be inspirational The health of parents and in-laws will cause you serious worry Beware

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



The moon s last quarter favours unions, partnerships, journeys, including pilgrimages and long-distance connections The loans and funds,trend of the last week,also persist now, therefore there is positive hope for you You do interface with people and get to know your preferences

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Ganesha says love has you by the throat, money starts to trickle in and it could pour too, your friends work for you and your loved ones prove true Proposal, an offer of marriage comes to the eligible Over the next 23 days loans and funds will be easily available if you are angling for it

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Attachments and emotional links vie for top priority with hard work and headway, causing a certain tension, but for that very reason making the week mighty exciting There is also a danger of separation or a parting, so play your cards accordingly

BIRTHDAYS

August 20: Moon-sun sextile, Ganesha says, offers avenues of work and play, [illegible]

August 21: Sun-Venus conjunction gives you dramatic flair, a fondness for living it up and more importantly the means to do so.

August 22: Moon-sextile Mercury gives you the innate ability to draw crowds, so please do away with shyness and inhibition. Travel poses hazards.

August 23: Moon-Saturn trine suggests victory after opposition; it would be best to chip away at the obstacles rather than meet them head-on.

August 24: Moon trine Jupiter is a sure-fire indication of success. Matters about children, education, journeys, workplace and engagement are favoured.

August 25: The moon-Pluto square indicates that expert advice must be taken in taking long-term decisions. Get your priorities right.

August 26: The new moon gives you a chance to start afresh and this time you will definitely do better. The trick is to build a strong base.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
D2 806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1010	1 3 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 3 6 7
BANGALORE					
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1820	1 4 6	VF 105	1720	1 4 6
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1830	daily
AI 681	2330	1			
DELHI					
IC 263	0700	daily	S2 02	0810	1 2 3 4 5
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF 737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 230	1620	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
4S 816/8	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1820	1 4 6	VF 105	1720	1 4 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JAIPUR					
D2 806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
JORHAT					
IC 213	0630	7	IC 213	1035	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1125	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1720	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0630	7	IC 213	1035	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0145	7	KL 875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 4 5 7	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
TG-314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1900	5 7	RO 075	1055	5 7
[illegible] CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG 697	1655	2 5
[illegible] DHAKA					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG 092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG 094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RA 214	1030	4 7	RA 213	0945	4 7
IC 747	1130	2 4 7	IC 748	1800	2 4 7
LONDON					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA 143	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARO					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 501	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6 45	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 35	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fr & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fr & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tr Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
304	22 00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	4
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fr	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3 36
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	6 30	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7 55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 30	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	7 55	1172
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express**	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchenjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5085	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure			Arrival	
Up	Time	**Howrah**	Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	8 10	**Falaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 50	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 10	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 30	8410
2821	8 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
	11 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fr	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

O'Henry, master of the short story, once said that it would be impossible to knock on any door and say to the first person who appeared, "Fly! All has been discovered!" and not get a story

It seemed unlikely that there would be many people with dreadful secrets in the small hill-station where I live but as I had run out of ideas for stories, I decided to take the advice of the master and plucked up enough courage to approach the door of one of the houses at the other end of the hill-station, where I am not known I'm not sure if I expected the occupant to grow pale and tremble with fear when I announced the magic words, but the outcome was certainly interesting

I knocked vigorously on the door and when it opened cried, "Fly! All has been discovered!"

"A fly, am I?" said the impressive, ample-bosomed woman in her 40s "And what may I ask are you?"

"I don't mean you," I said apologetically, "I mean fly "

"That's what I thought you meant "

"No, I mean fly, all has been discovered "

"You're selling something to catch flies?"

"No, I was just trying to test "

"Well, you can't test the stuff here young man We don't have flies anyway "

And the door was banged in my face I felt like the salesman who had neglected to read his Dale Carnegie or Napolean Hill, but not to be discouraged, I went to the next house and knocked on the door It was opened by a little girl who was sucking a large lollipop

"Fly!" I said hopefully, "All has been discovered!"

"Who told you?" she asked "Never mind who told me," I said, "But they all know "

"I only took one "

"Ah!"

'A fly, am I?' said the impressive, ample-bosomed woman in her 40s. 'And what may I ask are you?' 'I don't mean you,' I said apologetically, 'I mean fly.' 'That's what I thought you meant.' 'No, I mean fly, all has been discovered'



'Fly!' I said hopefully, 'All has been discovered!'
'Who told you?' she asked.
'Never mind who told me,' I said,
'But they all know.'
'I only took one.'
'Ah!'
'What use are lollipops if they are just going to lie in a cupboard?'

"What use are lollipops if they are ust going to lie in a cupboard?"

"None at all," I said, "I am fully in agreement with you Lollipops have ust one purpose and you are helping o fulfil it Furthermore, if it was not or little girls like you, the thousands of people who make lollipops would ave no jobs and nothing at all to eat"

And on that Keynesian note, made ny departure

At the third house, I was set upon by large dog of indeterminate breed nd beat a hasty retreat The fourth ouse was deserted

I knocked at the door of the fifth ouse and as the door opened, whispe- d mysteriously, "Fly! All has been iscovered!"

An old lady, a veteran from the days f the British Raj, cupped her hand to er ear and leaned forward, "I'm orry, my dear, but I don't hear very well What was it you said?"

"I said fly! All has been discovered!"

"You'll have to speak louder dear"

"Fly!" I shouted, "All has been discovered!"

"Oh, Mrs Fry No, she hasn't come back yet Did you say her shawl had been recovered?"

"That's right," I said wearily, "I'll bring it back someday"

To get to the next house, I had to pass through an orchard of apple trees I had not gone far when I saw a man on the steps, shouting and brandishing a stick A youth came running through the trees, apples falling from his pockets He must have mistaken me for another poacher because, as he ran past me, he thrust several apples into my hands and cried, "Fly! All has been discovered!"

As the owner of the orchard was now close on our heels, I fled

(*Sanctuary Features*)



The Telegraph
magazine

is publishing poems regularly.

JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems. All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and NOT to The Telegraph, by ORDINARY MAIL. Contributions sent by registered post or courier **will not be** accepted. Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper. Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned**. All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates. No enquiries will be solicited.

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

WILDE, YEATS AND GUINNESS STOUT

For all the modern inconveniences of the cities, my heart lies in the wild and green places of the world So I leapt at the chance to cross the sea to the Irish county of Donegal whose craggy coast faces the northern Atlantic

The ferry we chose crossed from Stranraer on the Scottish coast to Larne in northern Ireland To catch it we drove north through England, up a motorway clogged by roadworks — as motorways often are — to the small town of Congleton Here we B&B-ed (bed and breakfasted) in a farm belonging to the Hollinsheads who took in guests to supplement their income from home-cured bacon and bee-keeping

Mr Hollinshead was proud of his bees He fed us honey and told us that every year he imported queen bees from New Zealand and mail-ordered them all over England

England is longer than it looks and so we set off early the next morning, passing the Lake District to our left and crossing the Scottish border close to Gretna to where, in former days, young English lovers eloped to wed

We were well in time for the ferry and had plenty of opportunity to complain about the exorbitant fares Stena Sealink, a privatised arm of British Rail, was asking The gulls followed the ferry out to sea and I tossed sausages to them for the pleasure of seeing them hovering over us to catch them

We landed at Larne and drove off It was early evening but this was summer and it wouldn't get dark until well into what should be night What made northern Ireland different was that suddenly there were no B&B signs No one came here for a holiday

The town of Dungiven in particular testified to the damage caused by the many years of 'troubles' between Catholic Republicans and Protestant Unionists The police station was designed to withstand militant attacks It consisted of walls of yellow armour plating, with a look-out post whose windows were covered with thick metal bars One in every three shops in the high street had windows broken and doors boarded up

A group of skinheaded youths idled on a pavement We drove on past lamp posts painted in the colours of the Irish Republic's tricolour and signposts to the town of Londonderry where the 'London' had been obliterated by black paint

It was getting late Beyond the city of Londonderry, we passed an unmanned, electronically monitored border crossing and were in another country where B&Bs miraculously reappeared

The next morning we arrived in the tiny village of Downings, on a narrow peninsula jutting into the Atlantic There is no green more deeply brilliant than that of the rolling hills of Ireland Innumerable purple orchids dot the bogs The fragrant sheep-grazed pastures are full of uncounted tiny flowers and the hedgerows of wild roses, honeysuckle and deep red fuchsia The tall crags above the shore are deep grey, and the sea gin-clear and intensely blue

The wind is so strong you can lean into it and not fall, and so cold that in our little modern cottage we kept a peat fire burning

The centre of social life is the pub, because alcoholic beverage, particularly Guinness stout, is not abhorred but revelled in We based ourselves in the Downings Bar, whose walls were decorated with portraits of the great Irish literary men like Wilde, Yeats and Joyce, and of sepia photographs of the village in the days of sail when women salted herrings and packed them tight into wooden barrels

In one corner sat the older people, who spoke mainly in the Gaelic language By half past nine the place would fill up with younger locals and tourists, many of them Catholics from Ulster, and every night there was a regular party going on, with young children running all over the place At about 11 the live music started, and we could never stay awake long enough to see closing time

There I met a school teacher from Newry in Northern Island, who told me how if they wanted the children to play soccer — considered an English and therefore hated game — they had to do so in secret Only Gaelic games were allowed in school But he also said how much more relaxed life had been since the peace process started and, although he suspected that both Sinn Fein and the Unionists were looking for the opportunity to appear martyrs, the common man wanted peace

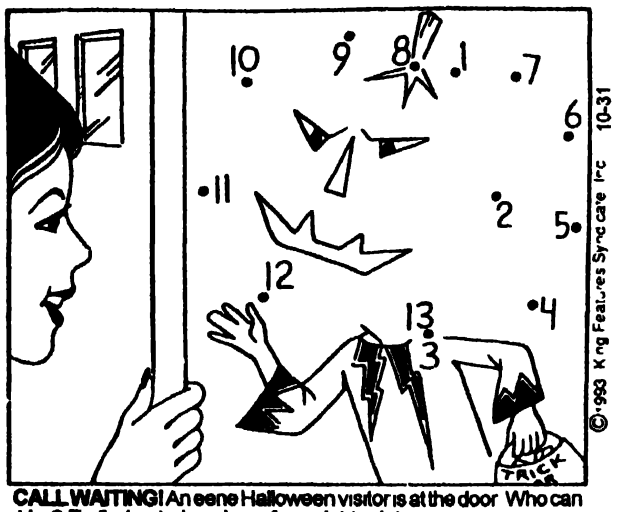
He rose to get in another round Wrapped in the comfortable pub atmosphere in a land where people love to lie in bed until late in the morning, the enmities between Irishmen seemed distant But even in idyllic Donegal they were not, as was shown by the posters stuck to wayside trees and reading "Peace Through British Withdrawl"

(Sanctuary Features)

The police station was designed to withstand militant attacks. It consisted of walls of yellow armour plating, with a look-out post whose windows were covered with thick metal bars

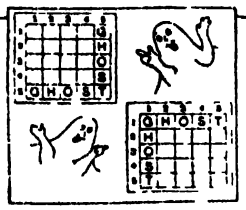
JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



CALL WAITING! An eerie Halloween visitor is at the door Who can it be? To find out, draw lines from dot to dot

BOO STIRS! How often can ghosts be seen? Once in a boo moon What insects resemble ghosts? No-see-ums How can you keep two jumps ahead of a ghost? Play checkers with it



GHOST-WORD PUZZLES

FOUR additional words are required to complete each of the two GHOSTLY word square tests above

Definitions follow

UPPER TEST

1 Piece of parsley
2 Dog, (Slang)
3 Cowboy show
4 Cake decorators
5 Haunted house tenant (already in place)

LOWER TEST

1 Twin of 5 above
2 Deck opening
3 Water animal
4 Part of a play
5 "___'s a crowd"

Reminder Words used read across and down

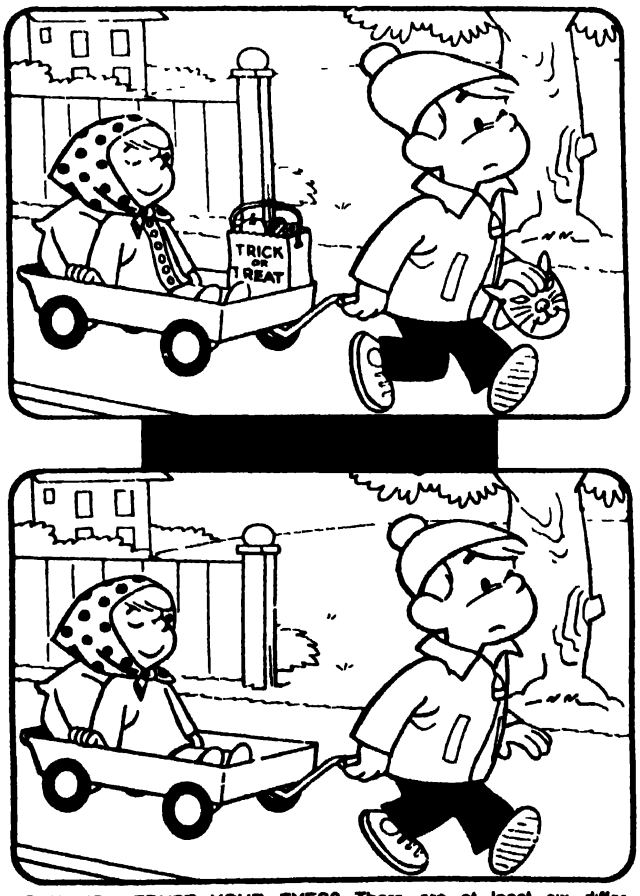
AGE STAGE! There are lots of different "ages" among words Take postage, for instance, or, mileage, or voyage Just for fun, see if you can puzzle out five such "age" words suggested by the pictorial clues at below

To clue you in on No 1, the object pictured is something made of rubber Clue to No 2 is a structure that holds back water, and so on Take it from there

Time limit is 2 minutes



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Button strip is missing 2 Post is shorter 3 Trick-or-treat bag is missing 4 Cap is smaller 5 Mask is missing 6 Leg is moved

FUNSPOT



PATCH WORK! Here's a happy fellow despite a scary job Add colors neatly. 1—Red. 2—Dk. blue 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown 8—Dk. green. 9—Purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

AERIFORM

- - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

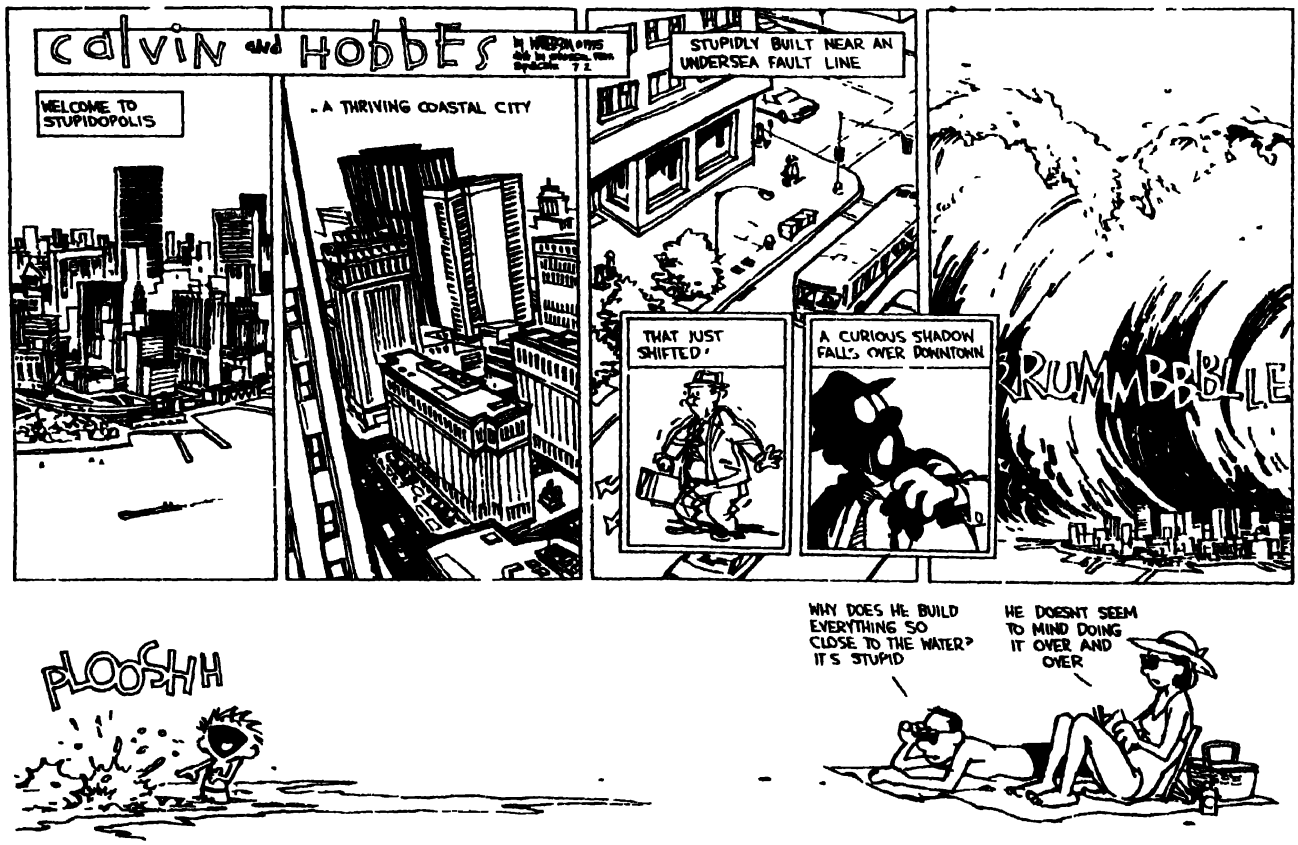
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome More, fair

ARCHIE

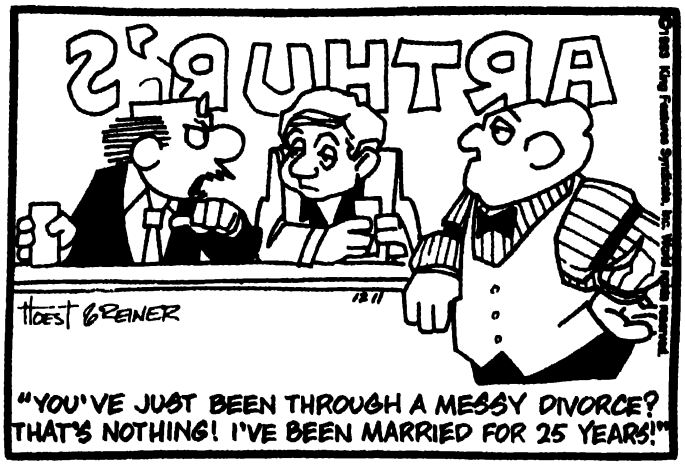


CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON

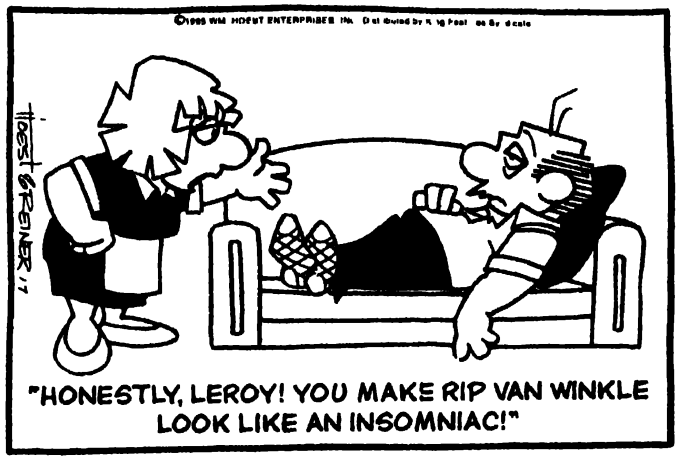


THE LOCKHORNS

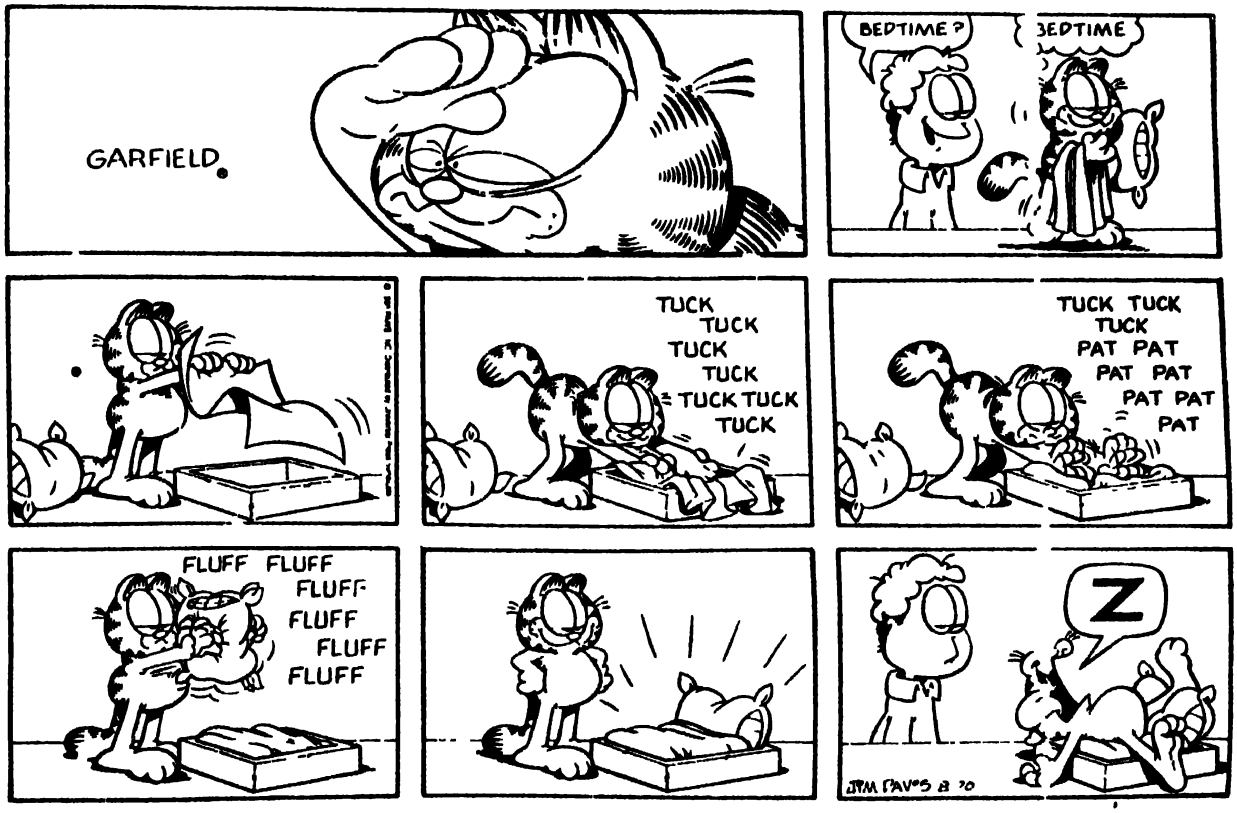






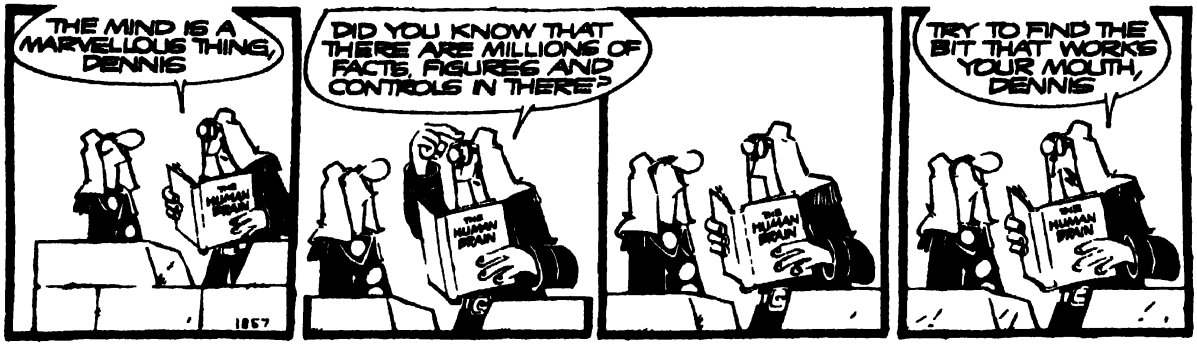


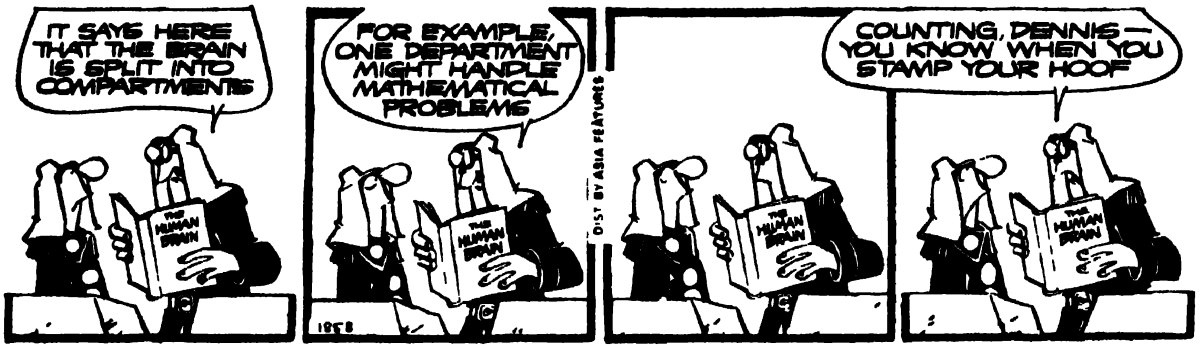
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

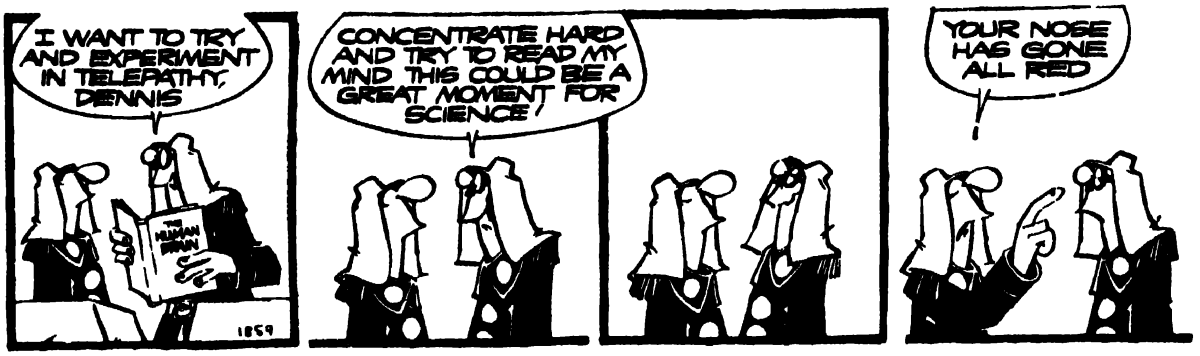


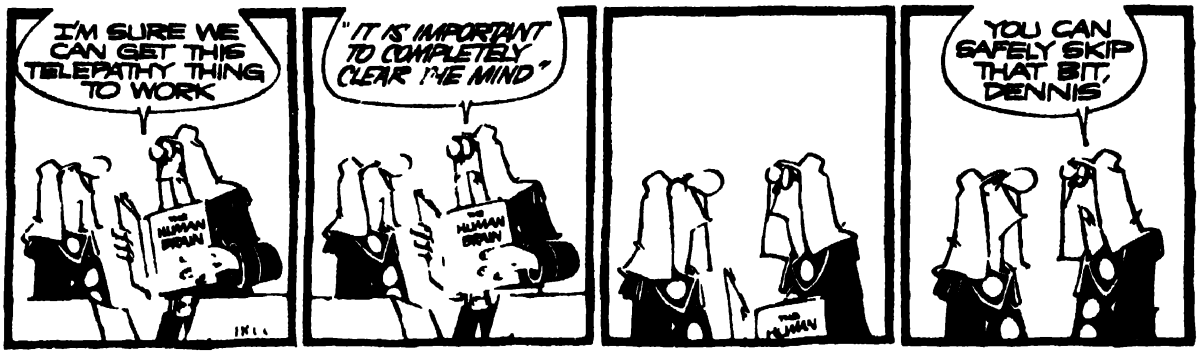
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

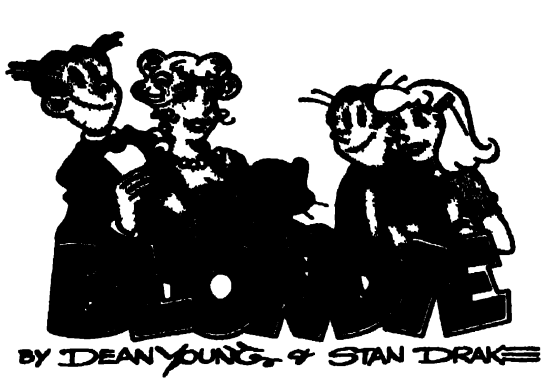










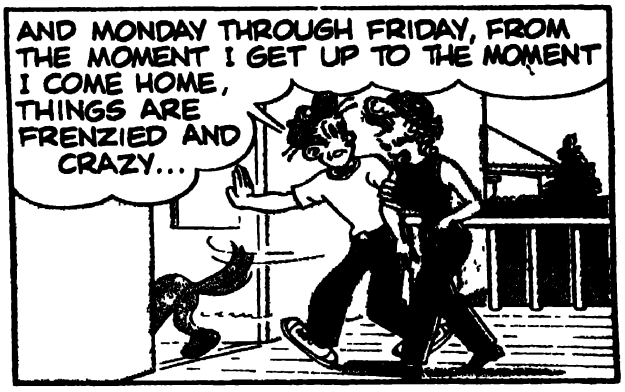






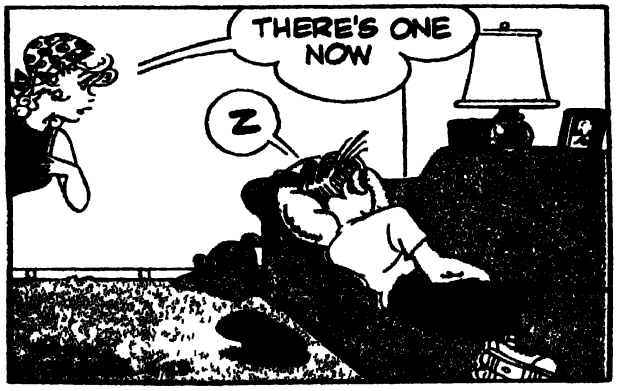






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LIMELIGHT

HEART TO HEART

Remember the Hot Shot girl? Although never in the league of top models, Rhea Pillai was on the upswing. And now she is in focus as Sunjay Dutt's steadfast girlfriend who has been with him 'through thick and thin' despite her own failing health

Rhea Pillai *khataak-ed* her way into modelling with the Hot Shot ad in 1983. It was a time when the Madhu Sapres and the Sheetal Mallars, with their tall, sultry, international looks, would never have fitted into the Indian stereotype of beauty

But Rhea, with her soft, pretty, very Indian face clicked perfectly despite her not-so-impressive height

Until a few months ago, Rhea's life was as uneventful as a model's can get. Brought up for the most part in Bombay, she did her schooling in Ooty and later graduated in economics from St Xavier's College before following in the footsteps of cousin Sabita Dhanranjgir (remember the Cuticura girl and beauty contestant?) to become a model

She has since been in several prestigious campaigns, including Lakme, Bombay Dyeing, Moody Blues, Tips and Toes, and more recently, Officer's Choice and Nycil talc where she pirouettes her way gracefully into the male model's heart

But despite these campaigns and 12 long years in the profession, Rhea has never been a top-of-the-rung model and her most famous face to date has been that of jailed star Sunjay Dutt's girlfriend

Recently, she was in focus also because she had to be hospitalised following a heart ailment and her famous star-boyfriend was allowed to visit her for a princely four hours

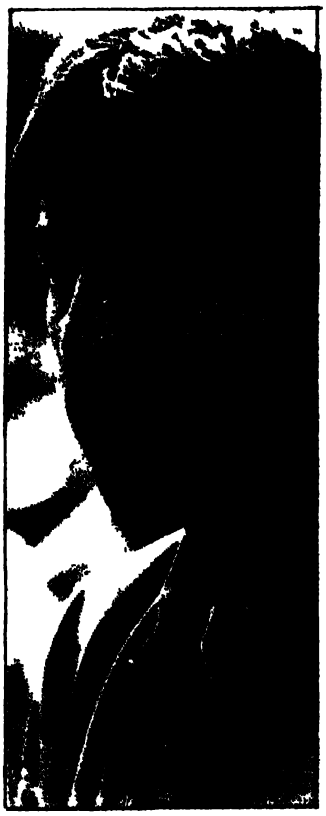
Rhea's supportive role in the Sunjay episode has won her the sympathy and admiration of those in her profession and outside While filmstar Madhuri Dixit, with whom Sunjay was going steady before he was put behind bars on the charge of possessing an unlicensed AK-57, calculatedly disowned him after his arrest

Rhea, whom he is said to have met at lawyer Ram Jethmalani's office, after his arrest for the first time and subsequent release, has "stood by me like a rock, through thick and thin," in the filmstar's own words.

She has indeed. After Sunjay's visit, she described the day as "the happiest and the saddest in the past one year I wanted to run to him and hug him and tell him it was over but I could not run as my heart hurts in more ways than one " she said

She has been recuperating at the home of Kajal Anand, a close friend and one of Sunjay's lawyers, at Churchgate in Bombay

She plans to continue with her career in modelling once she is well again, but "everything is in



Rashbehari Das

Sunjay Dutt: Lonesome

a limbo for her right now," says Kajal Anand.

One of the reasons why Rhea has not really made a splash in the profession is, perhaps, her lack of ambition "It often happens that there is a lull in the career of a model and then suddenly there's work again," exlains model Queenie Singh, a close friend of Rhea's for the past five years

But she also has no interests apart from modelling unlike other models who sagely make time for other business interests as modelling cannot be a lifelong profession. "She did plan on opening a restaurant once but it didn't materialise," says Kajal

Rhea herself is not talking The lawyer-friend explains "She is not speaking to the press right now; not even for profiles "

But close friends insist that this behaviour is nothing new nor a fallout of the Sunjay episode. "Rhea is a very private person by nature," reveals model coordinator Sangeeta Chopra who has done a few shows with her "She's very good professionally, very no-nonsense and very beautiful, but she is not very tall and hence does not do too many shows. In fact, she has been more of a friend than a professional in the past seven years that I have known her "

Fellow models, too, are uncharacteristically complimentary when it comes to Rhea. Top model Meghana Reddy, who has done a few shows with her, describes her as a "very sweet and helpful person, a doll."

Queenie, who is one of Rhea's close friends and who has known her for at least five years, says quite matter-of-factly: "She has no negative traits; she wouldn't be my friend otherwise "

Vaishali Honawar





Bubbles and Balloons

When I strolled through
The tall, talking trees of Versailles,
Saw through their vibrant hair

The glint of the Hall of Mirrors,
Looking through the looking glass
At the clinking iron, the broken porcelain
Quaking at the sudden onslaught,
Could almost see the tremble of
The treaty of truce to end the endless
Ravage and resurgence of Fascism

I could have well looked back
To laugh at the Irony of the Imperial
As much the same way as I had
Tossed an useless coin at
The defunct Mahal at Agra
With reams of history, realms of gory glory —

In the past had demolished
The Bastille and now the Kremlin,
Berlin and other enclaves and citadels
Of brilliance going to nought
I stop to ask myself of Swaraj,
Of Hindutva, righteousness, recalcitrance:

Was I right in smiling at
Versailles bursting with the
Euphoria of bubbles and balloons?

Lakshmisree Banerjee

The Song of the S.U.L.F.A.

I was born from the drops of martyrs' blood
that splashed across the valleys in '81.
Nurtured by your emotions
I grew my roots into you
I came out from the forests
and told you I'd free you
Yes, I was made into what I am,
by your hopes.

Once when I was a child
you encouraged me,
you made me a hero
I said that I'd give you
all that you fought for
and died for.

Now he who rules me —
the Spider
sits in his throne on the hill
He directs me
from the middle of his web.
Him the Saviour
The Almighty

Blame Him
the one who sacrificed his own brother
to rule you today
He merely used me
to build his deadly web
The diseased one
The dirty one.
The Spider on the hill.

Manish Choudhury

A Steely Silence Fills the Air

A steely silence fills the air
Big steel locks gag shops
The roads are deathly quiet,
Only flies dare buzz over a garbage pile
And men in steel helmets,
Stalk the streets with steel barrelled guns
On streets once bustling with life,
Life, life, life .
Now,
A deathly steely silence fills the air

A little hand pulls me by the night-suit,
The little lips move
'Why are the streets so empty?'
'Why.. why can't I go out to play?'
'Why is the toffee shop closed?'
'Why do those people have guns?'
Because it is a curfew, I reply.
'What is a carfeed?'
Not carfeed . curfew,
Curfew is like a bandh.
'What is a bandh?'
A bandh is like a curfew.
'Why is there a bandh or a carfeed?'
Not carfeed. .curfew!
Well, people can't live with each other.
'Why can't people live with each other?'
Because...because they will not live with each other.
'Why?'
Because.. well. .uh. .

A steely silence fills the air

Frederick Roy

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS



Judge Dredd. It is fun to watch Sly Stallone in action again! After his pathetic attempt at comedy (remember him desperately trying to be cute and funny in *Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot?*), he is back with a vengeance The stupendous success of *Cliffhanger* and *Demolition Man* leaves him with no choice but to revert to the action onslaught

He pops up straight out of a cartoon strip (the film is an adaptation of the comic-book series) and looks great in his robocop-like getup In a putrid world of evil and crime, where the judge serves as policeman jury, and executioner all packed into one, Stallone fights corruption among the judges in Mega-City One, armed with a ton of explosives.

Pert and glib with Schwarzenegger-like one-liners, Sly steals the show and wins the game, of course. Also co-starring Armand Assante, Diane Lane, and Max von Sydow. Directed by Danny Cannon.

BOOKS

tale with elements of a psychological thriller.

Rose is married to Norman, a brutal sadistic detective inspector. Norman brutalises Rose and it seems that there is no way out. But one day she just takes off for a distant city, where she finds employment.

With her first salary, she buys a painting at a pawnshop. Meanwhile her husband is tracking her down. But when she is found, Norman finds himself combatting forces incomprehensible to him. Rose's new painting is eerie and it opens a door into a terri-



fying world.

King is a prolific writer and churns out his yarn with great finesse.

FASHION

Dressing down. That seems to be the key word in the corporate fashion circles now. Corporate climbers in the monotony of stripes, checks, dour looking plains, standardised ties and uncomfortable suits have often felt the need to break free from this bondage.

With Madura Garments-Allen Solly introducing the concept of Friday Dressing in India the corporate dress dilemma seems to have ended The concept is fast gaining currency with the urban, style-conscious work force in India, too

The Friday Dressing concept first emerged from California's Silicon Valley and drifted through corporate America In its initial form, it was merely a way of dressing down on Fridays — the weekend for the five-day American week But now it has become a fashion statement of sorts throughout the week in companies like IBM, Microsoft, Chase Manhattan, General Motors and American Express

The HRD at major companies world over have realised that breaking the monotonous company dress code is an important factor in enhancing individual performance And what can be better than (*see picture*) a washed cotton shirt (Rs 595), soft-finish cotton trousers (Rs 565) and Chamoise silk tie (Rs 595) to start with?



LIFESTYLE

***Trendy 'n' stylish:* Try fitting before you go for the footwear; 'educated, affluents, above the age of 18, who want to keep pace with trends but retain their individuality'.**

If that suits you, then Phoenix has come up with Rugzac. It is a footwear with a simple design, but trendy, heavy grained leathers which have given these shoes a tough, weather-beaten ruggedness.



Priced at Rs 1,300 to Rs 1,600, the brand is available in seven to 10 styles for both men and women.

***Great Flavour:* International Distillers India (IDI), now introduces Gilbey's Gin into the Indian market.**

The Gilbey family's secret recipe gives it a great taste. Derived from a base spirit, a special blend of botanicals and a hint of cinnamon, gives a refreshing flavour.



A 750 ml bottle of Gilbey's Gin is priced at Rs 297 in Calcutta, Rs 285 in Bombay.

MULAYAM SINGH YADAV, the [illegible] of Uttar Pradesh, who takes great pride in his humble background, had to finally bow before Lady [illegible]'s new Dalit CM, Mayawati. His second term in office proved to be as tumultuous and [illegible] as the first which he could not complete because of the Ayodhya agitation unleashed by the BJP. But always confident, this champion of the backward vows that he will soon make a grand comeback.



What is your idea of perfect happiness?
To see the communal forces defeated.
What is your greatest fear?
I am not afraid of anything.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
There have been too many influences. But Ram Mohan Lohia was the strongest of them all.
What do you dislike most in others?
Falsehood. Even people at the top indulge in this, and this creates trouble.
What is your most precious possession?
People's love.
What objects do you always carry?
Water bottles only.
What makes you most depressed?
Poor people's faltering steps as a result of weakness and atrocities committed on them.
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
Too many things. I cannot go into details.
What is your favourite word?
I choose the words as the occasions arise.
What is your favourite journey?
Driving deep into rural areas. It's always a refreshing journey.
What is your nightmare?
To see communal forces succeeding in their design. However, this is not possible now.
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
It is difficult to say.
What is your source of sustenance?
People's power which carries me through, all the time.
On what occasions do you lie?

What objects do you always carry?

Water bottles only

What is your favourite journey?

Driving deep into rural areas. It's always a refreshing journey

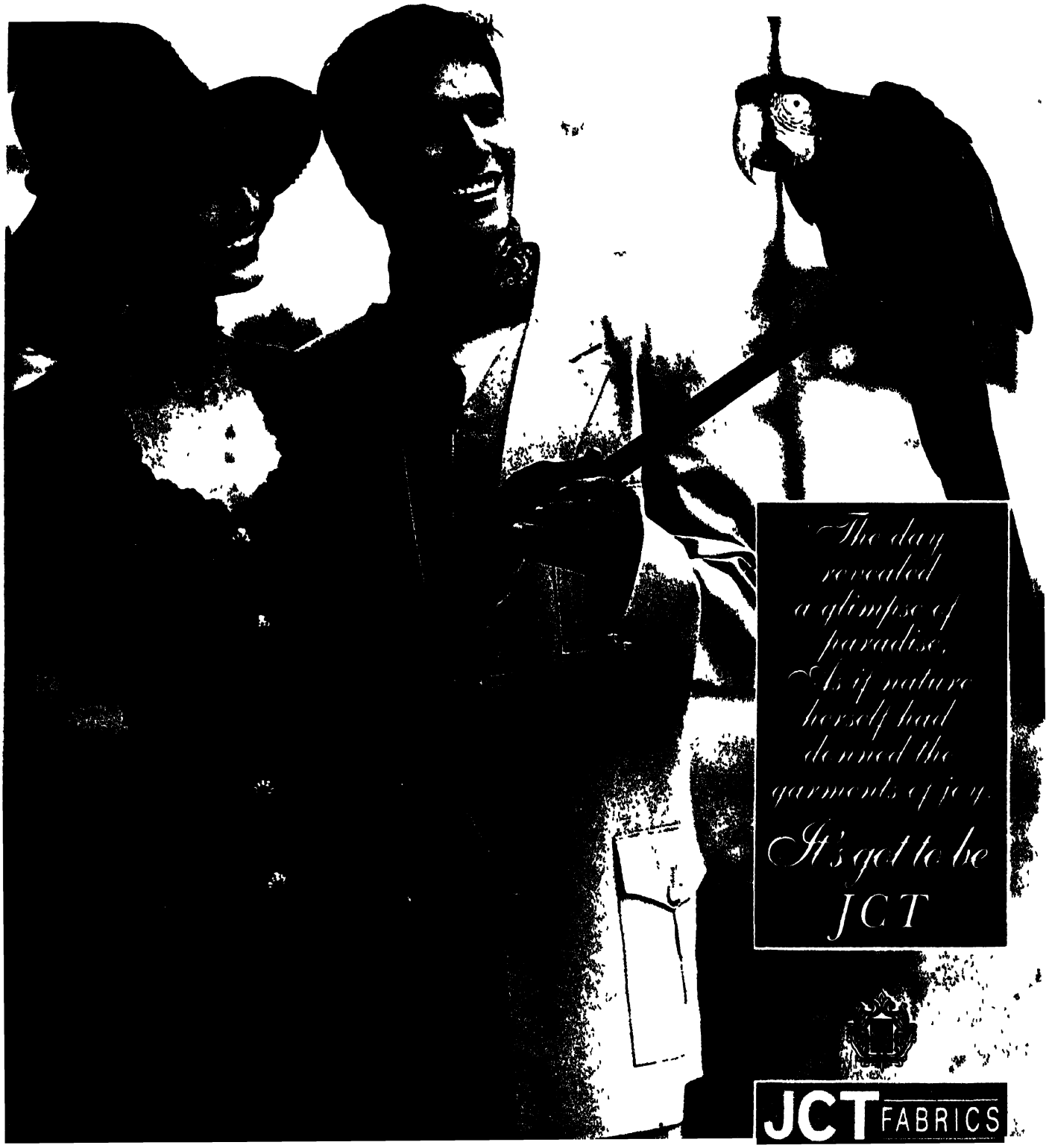
I never lie despite the fact that I suffered because of that.
What is your greatest regret?
That in my 28-year political career I found political parties are bereft of principles and a consistent ideology.
What has been your happiest moment?
Meeting old friends.
What brings tears to your eyes?
I always try to hold back tears. But on rare occasions they do come out.
How do you relax?
By sleeping.
What do you envy most in others?
Nothing.
How would you like to be remembered?
As a man who consolidated poor, people's power and rendered service to society.
How would you like to die?
I have never given it a thought because death is so unpredictable.

THE MAN.
THE MACHINE..
THE TYRE...
MRF NYLOGRIP



THE LATEST TYRE FOR THE ... !

MRF TYRES


The day
revealed
a glimpse of
paradise.
As if nature
herself had
donned the
garments of joy.
It's got to be
JCT
JCT FABRICS

The Telegraph

27 AUGUST 1995

POST MORTEM

East Bengal's Pride

■ We have little doubt that Baichung Bhutia is a great player ('Little Brother' July 23)

But as fans of the Mohun Bagan club we felt greatly disheartened that you did not feature any player from this club in the same manner

Abhishake K Saha,
Garulia (W B)

■ Like all sport prodigies, we do not want to see Baichung fading away prematurely

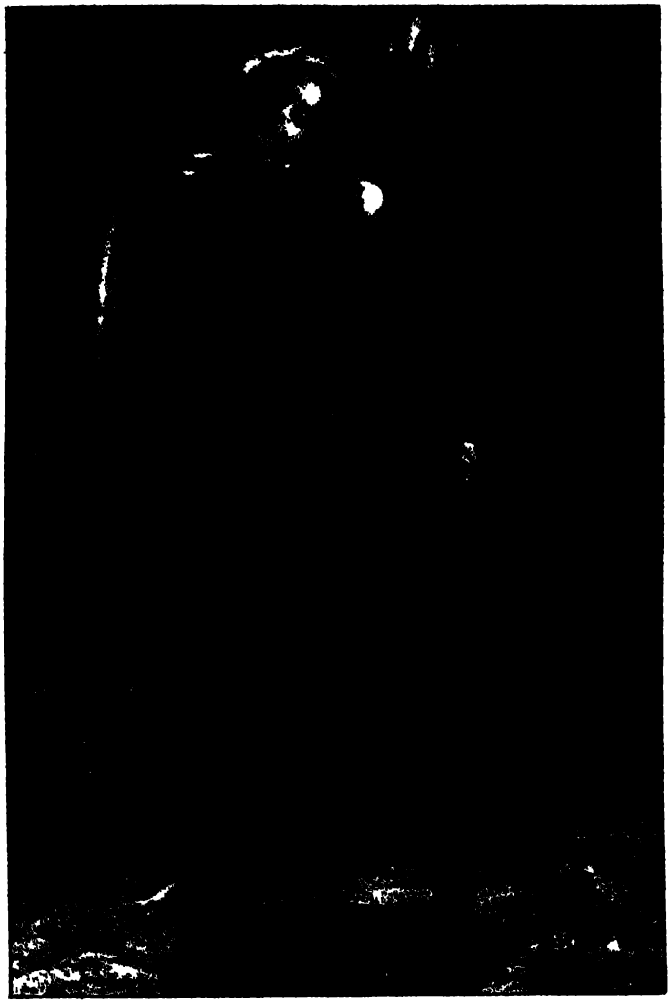
It was a bright idea to rope in the Bombay baddie, Danny Dengzongpa, to say a few things about this teenager from his state And like an elder brother, Danny did his best

Reyaz Ahmad,
Gaya (Bihar)

■ Now that Danny Dengzongpa talks of climatic adaptability, I realise what discomforts hill people go through once they come to the plains The heat must be unbearable, at least initially

All said and done, Danny and Baichung are two shining examples of success and hope for the hill people

Rima Rai,
Darjeeling



Sridevi: Devastating

Idol Talk

■ I really loved every word of Danny Dengzongpa ('First Person', July 23) He talks about nature and tells us how he practises detachment from worldly things

Belonging to a middle class family where I find it extremely difficult to make both ends meet, I cannot think of 'detachment' Can

■ So you thought 13 was *not* unlucky? Take a look at the Magazine of July 9 itself.

Dull and boring, it could not have been a more unlucky one!

Arta Mishra,
Cuttack

I request Danny Dengzongpa to help me set up a business (say, a restaurant) somewhere in Darjeeling? Then I will really believe he is a man of his words

Rumba K
Darjeeling

Mad Over Sri

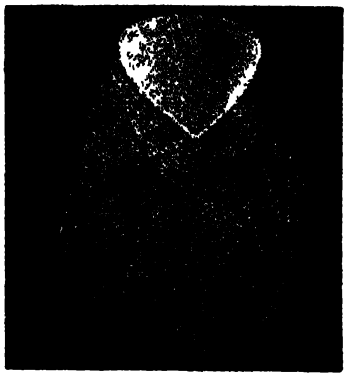
■ Madhuri Dixit may be Bollywood's *numero uno*, but it would be a fallacy to call her "an Amitabh in the making" ('Numbers Game', July 16)

I think it would be more appropriate to call Sridevi the top star Her film, *Laadla*, was a resounding success

If Madhuri is that big a name why is it that the filmsin which she has played a predominant role — *Sangeet, Ansoo Banc Angare, Sailab, Anjaam* — failc i at the box-office?

Sourav Sarkar,
Calcutta

INSIDE

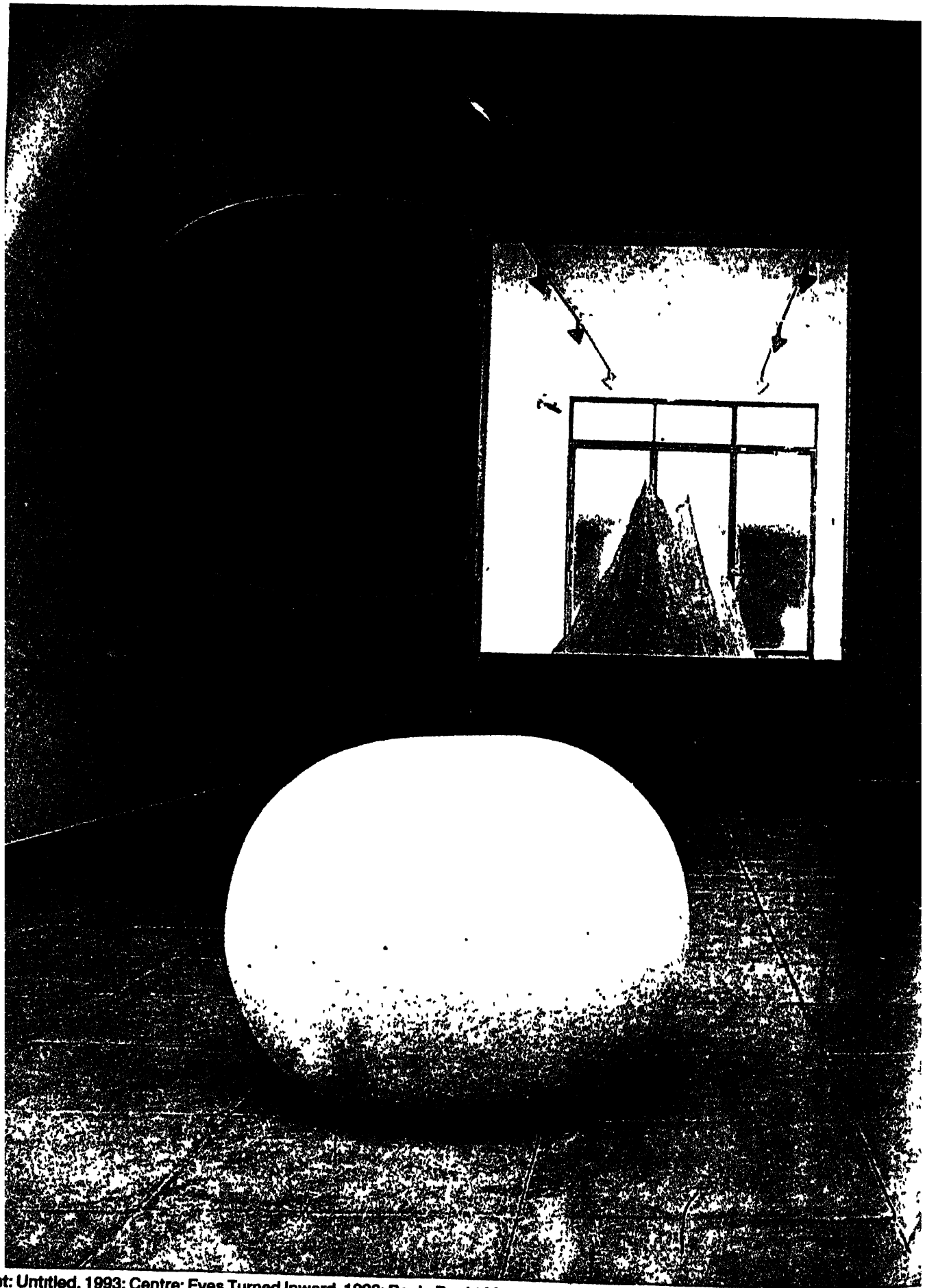


PAGE 4

BORN OF an Indian father and an Iraqi-Jewish mother, the gifted Bombay-born sculptor, Anish Kapoor, is the only Indian artist to have made it big internationally as an artist *per se* What is so special about his works?

16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
29 PINUP
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Courtesy Lisson Gallery London

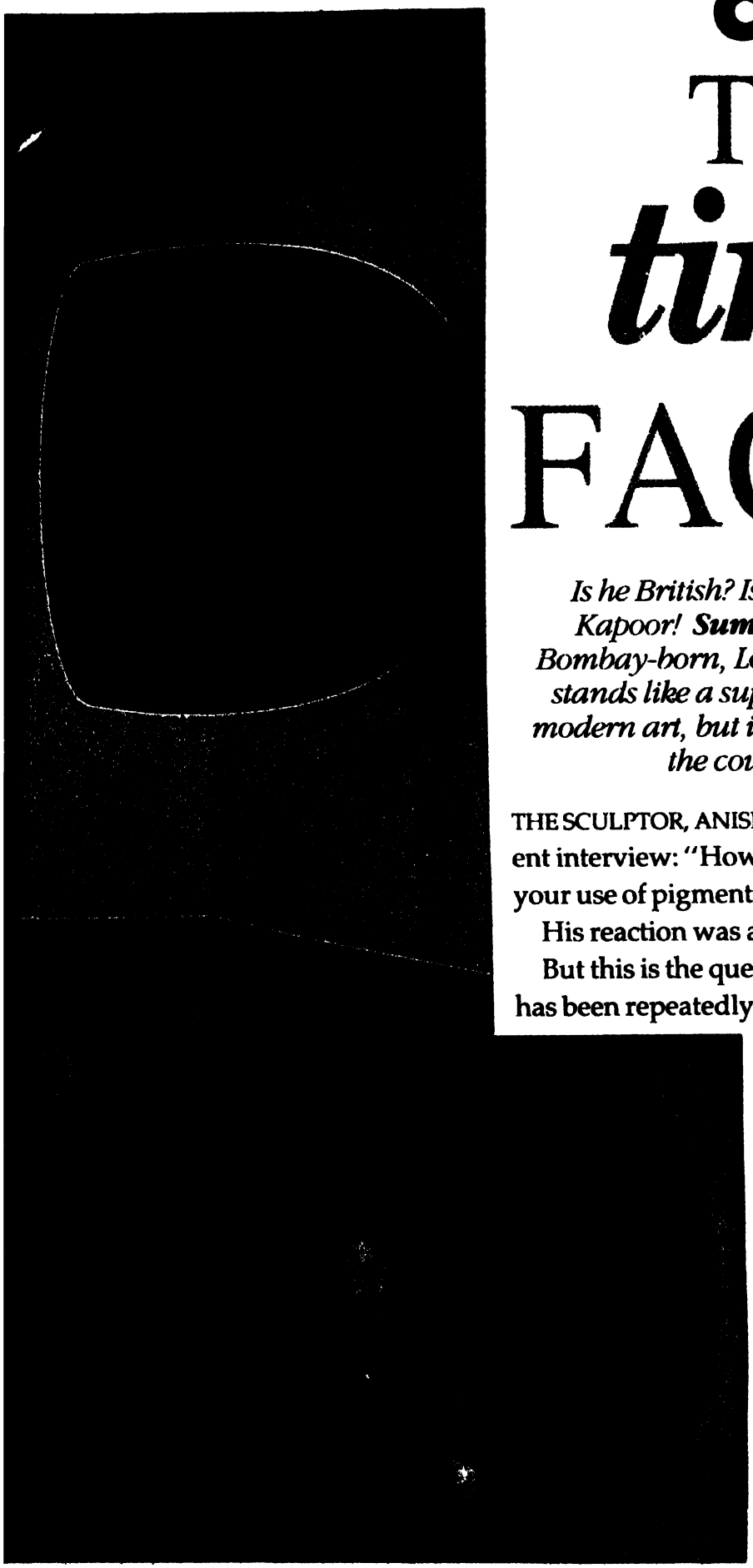


Front: Untitled, 1993; Centre: Eyes Turned Inward, 1993; Back: Bright Mountain, 1993

COVER STORY

THE *tingle* FACTOR

Is he British? Is he Indian? He is Anish Kapoor! ***Suman Buchar*** *profiles the Bombay-born, London-based sculptor who stands like a superman in contemporary modern art, but is yet to gain recognition in the country of his birth*



THE SCULPTOR, ANISH KAPOOR, WAS ASKED IN A RECent interview: "How do you react to critics who say your use of pigmentation is quintessentially Indian?"

His reaction was a succinct: "Bollocks!"

But this is the question that Bombay-born Kapoor has been repeatedly asked — is he British or is he Indian?

There is a consensus, however, that he is one of the most gifted artists working in Britain.

His reply is: "If what comes out of my hands is Indian, well, so be it. And if it isn't, well, it isn't."

He adds: "In the end, to an educated kind of cultural understanding it really is not the point. The point is, how is my

Anish Kapoor

engagement with the work."

Kapoor has been one of the big names in British sculpture ever since he represented Britain at the Venice Biennale in 1990. This forum began in 1895 and is now regarded as the most important regular world event in contemporary art. Kapoor established his reputation at the top of the tree by winning the 1991 Turner Prize which is awarded annually to the best British artist under 50. It was worth £20,000.

"Kapoor had no real competitors," declared *The Daily Telegraph*'s art correspondent, Richard Dorment. "He is in a different league from the other candidates. His is an art of much more intellectual substance and moral weight."

Describing the untitled winning entry, the critic wrote: "Kapoor has hewn a great bulbous vessel out of pinkish grey sandstone, excavated at the centre so that the exterior is a shell, then dyed the interior with deep and fathomless blue."

Kapoor, 41, was born of an Indian father and an Iraqi-Jewish mother. He grew up in Dehradun where his father worked as a hydrographer. At 17, he went to Israel to study electronics, but gave this up after six months and spent two years in a kibbutz.

"They gave me a studio and I painted lots of horrible quasi-surrealist paintings," he recalls.

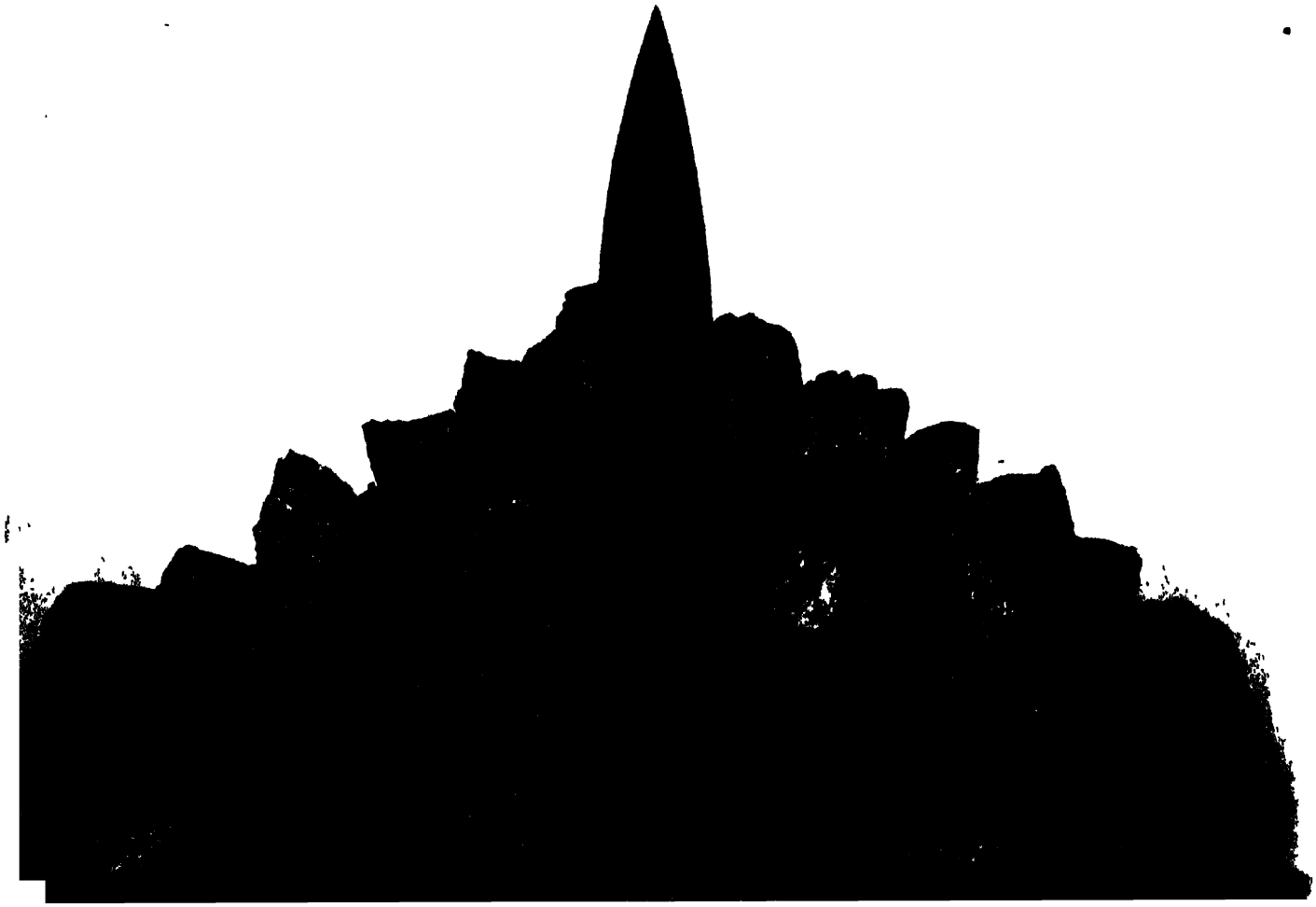
In 1973 he decided to go to London to train as an artist and has lived in Britain ever since. He attended the Hornsey College of Art for four years where he trained within the modernist tradition of art. This was followed by a two-year spell at the Chelsea School of Art.

He taught next at Wolverhampton Polytechnic and then became artist in residence at the Walker Art Gallery,

Untitled, 1995 (gourds, acrylic medium and pigment)



Black Fire, 1990 (fibreglass, pigment and anthracite)



Liverpool. He has been working in London since 1982.

In 1981 he came to the attention of Nicholas Logsdail who founded the Lisson Gallery, a nurturing ground for contemporary artists. Logsdail was impressed with Kapoor "It was clear to me from the first encounter that there was a big idea to his work It managed to unify Eastern religious, spiritually based ideas with Western modernism in a way that didn't give you an awkward feeling in the pit of your stomach There was something right about how he solved these problems "

Oblivion, 1994 (sandstone)



Kapoor made his debut in 1982 at the Venice Biennale with other young artists under the banner of 'New British Sculpture' He has been prolific since then and his work has been shown, either as one-man or group exhibitions, in London, New York, Tokyo, Paris, Amsterdam, Athens, Sao Paolo, Chicago, Helsinki, Frankfurt, Stockholm, Toronto, Madrid and other Western cities But he has not exhibited in India

Although he is seen as a young artist who has only been around since 1982, he has made an impact Today, his sculptures fetch anything between £2,000 and £150,000

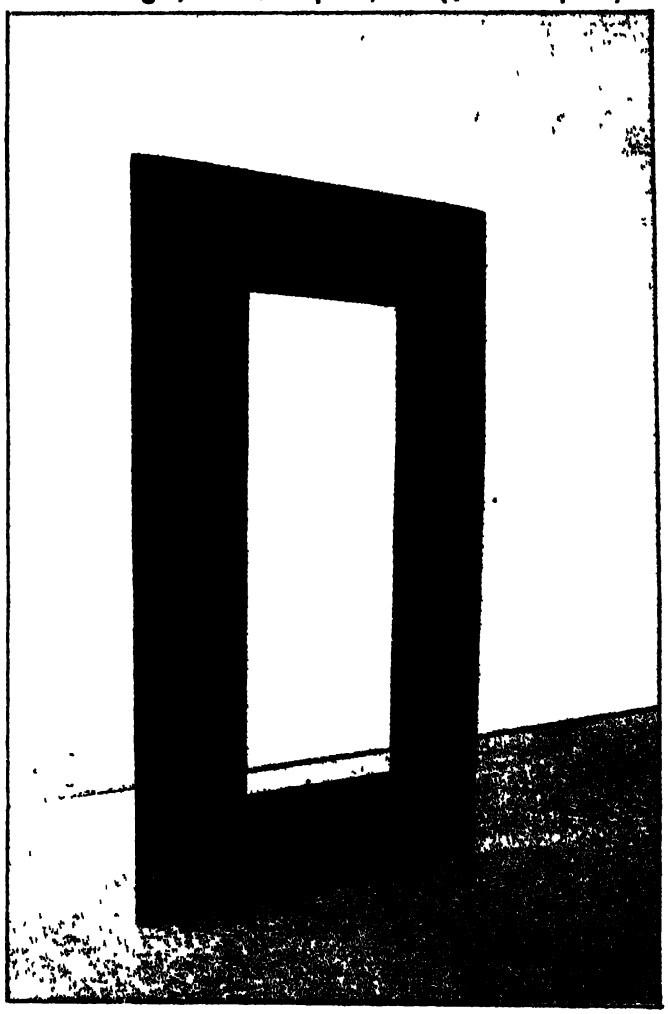
He has also sporadically produced drawings Cheyenne WestPhall, the deputy director of contemporary art at Sotheby's in London, says the auction house has sold Kapoor's water colours for between £800 and £1,500

Critics say that if he wants to be recognised in India, he has to exhibit in the country of his birth At his studio in Camberwell, south London, which is spacious enough to accommodate giant pieces of stone, he is currently creating new work for exhibitions later this year in Japan, Brazil and Italy

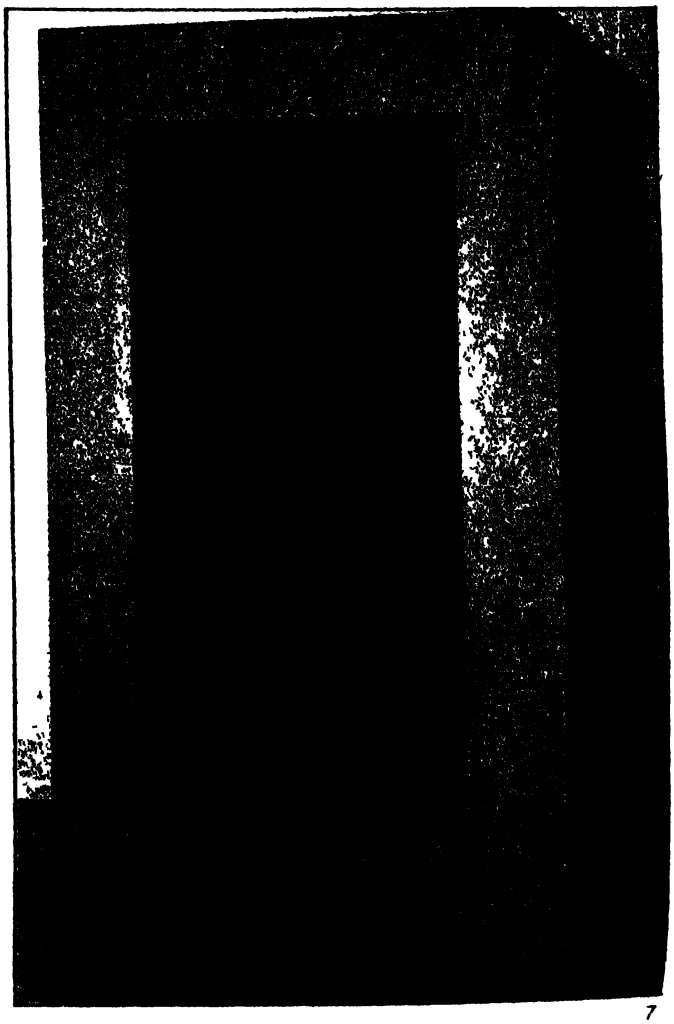
Kapoor has confounded the arts establishment which sees him as a British artist, but has to cope with the fact that he is neither White nor British-born His own view is "I am Indian, but to see everything in terms of nationality is limiting I don't see myself as an Indian artist, nor do I see myself as a British artist I am an artist who works in Britain The work has to be looked at from as wide a base as possible "

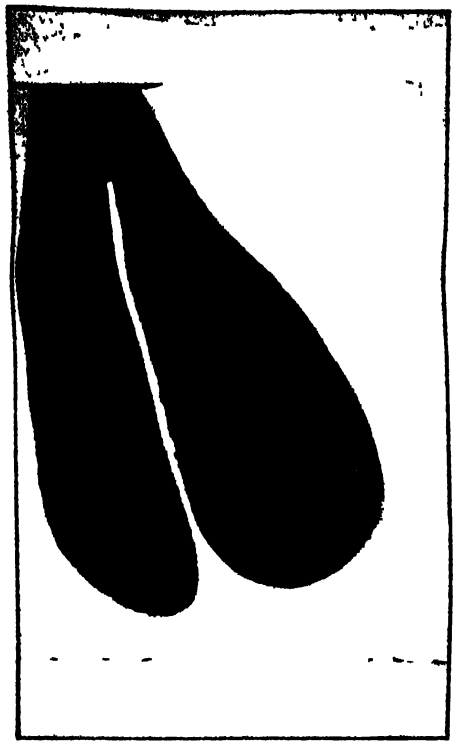
He has been reluctant to be grouped with other Third World artists "I inhabit the space I inhabit I have always resisted taking part in shows that are to do with the 'Third' whatever What I am interested in is in what art can do

Portrait of Light, Picture of Space, 1993 (wood and paint)



Untitled, 1992 (wood, fibreglass and pigment)





Untitled, 1989 (ink and pencil on paper)

and what I can do as an artist. That may be politically naive, but that just states things in a slightly different way and leaves more questions unanswered than it does provide answers "

However, anyone who looks at his art cannot fail to be struck by the Indian influences For example, Richard Dorment has noted "He works with pure powdered pigments associated in my mind with those solid neat conical piles in Indian street markets for use as dyes and as cosmetics "

Dorment also added "Kapoor is a Western artist India or Indianness is not his subject and yet his exotic sculpted mounds and pyramids are full of disturbing allusions to sexuality and cruelty which echo those found in the Hindu visual tradition It is this that makes his art look like no one else's Intense colours have become Kapoor's trademark "

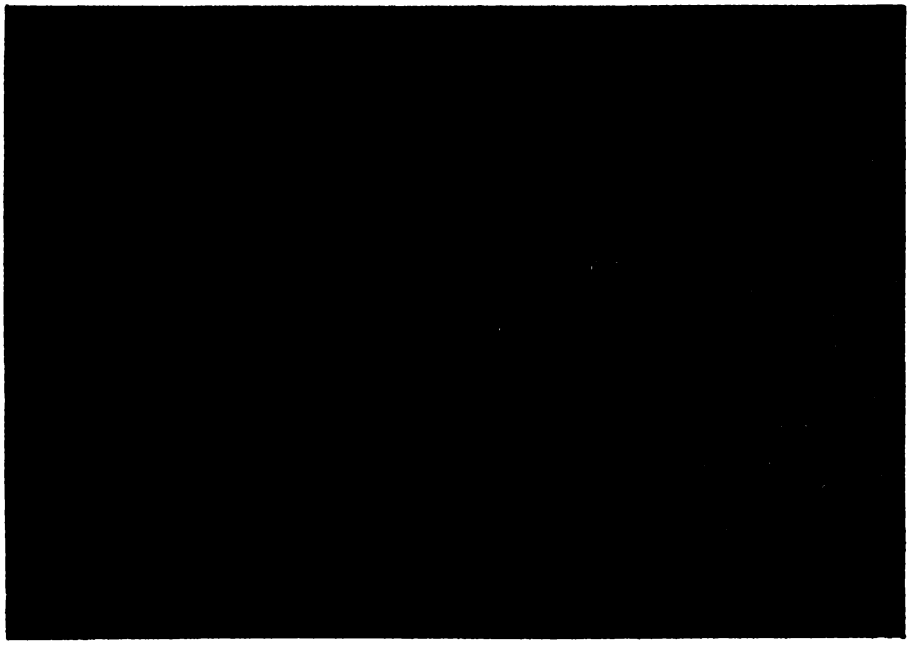
In Kapoor's work, red symbolises the sign of the body, blood, birth, death and life Yellow is the passionate and expressive element of red White is for purity and chastity And finally, blue represents the spiritual and transcendental element He appreciates that in Hindu iconography, the bodies of Kali and Krishna are blue, and Shiva's throat turns blue when he drinks poison to save the world

The two most important influences in his work are Indian philosophy and psychoanalysis He is preoccupied with communion with the Sublime "What I am trying to do is to make a picture of the interior — the interior of me " He goes on "I am interested in what a contemporary attitude can be towards the Sublime I am interested in art that has a relationship with the body which is direct and passionate That is why I think over the years I have worked towards phenomenological presences that are tactile in terms of their emotional sense and immediate "

Untitled, 1994 (fibreboard and paint)



Untitled, 1989 (gouache and pigment on paper)





On the face of it, his sculptures look like large blocks of rock with holes drilled into them or semi-circular shapes in deep colours.... Says Nima Poovaya-Smith, keeper of arts at Bradford Arts Museums and Libraries: 'There is a sense of something exciting happening. I know what the tingle factor means'

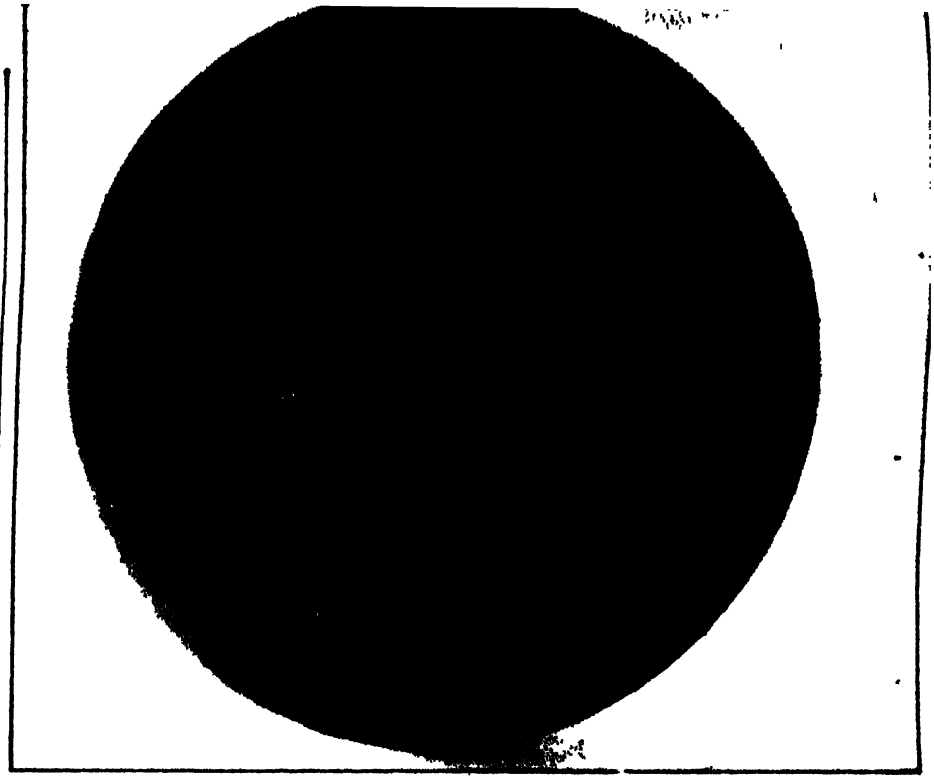
The recurring motifs in his work are void, mountain, vessel, tree, fire and water

He admits that he is driven by the desire to be in touch with the feminine aspect of his character "Much of the imagery I have been involved with is feminine As an artist I understand that the creative part of my being is feminine The earlier powder works — *White Sand, Red Millet, Many Flowers* and *To Reflect an Intimate Part of the Red* — are concerned with the ori-

gin of the feminine It is as if I was discovering the feminine in myself. I have acknowledged this as a reality, and that allows me to deal with other things. I find that quite a freedom."

His representative at the Lisson Gallery, Pilar Corrias, says: "Anish approaches very difficult subjects which have been looked over and over again in the history of art — the idea of spirituality, sublime and the feminine It is hard for an artist to avoid cliches when you are approaching a subject that has been used so much But he has found a completely new way of working "

On the face of it, his sculptures look like large blocks of rock with holes drilled into them or semi-circular shapes in deep colours Nima Poovaya-Smith, keeper of arts at Bradford Arts Museums and Libraries, has one of Kapoor's paintings in her collection and would commission him if she



Untitled, 1995; fibreglass and pigment

TOUCHING ART

Why is that people are willing to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds for sculpture?

David Vallance, managing director of the Morris Singer Foundry, the oldest in Britain, provides a philosophical explanation. He says, "Sculptures symbolise the ideals of nations. The aspirations to heroism, the denunciation of war, the tribute to suffering, the memories of tragedies that must not be repeated and the hope for peace that must become the unifying link between communities throughout the world."

But pure art is today allied with the needs of capitalism. Anish Kapoor, for example, works to very large scale. He creates pieces of art which are then shipped for exhibition in galleries or museums simply because he is a big name. But he is also commissioned by clients and in recent years they have included the Hayward Arts Projects Trustees and the Lisson Movement in [illegible]

In the past couple of decades, pieces of sculpture have been acquired by local authorities, big companies and a few private collectors. One of the best places to judge how the sculpture market is performing is the Foundry in Basingstoke, Hampshire, 50 miles from London. When the Foundry is busy, it means the sculptors have plenty of work.

Vallance says, "The Eighties was the boom time. It's quiet now because of the recession."

Today the driving force in the market are the big companies which commission works of art for their corporate headquarters. Companies which have ordered sculptures include Reebok, the sports group, McDonald's, the fast food chain, British Airways, P&O, the shipping line, and the Koyal Bank of Scotland.

Usually, the client briefs the sculptor on what is required. Small scale models are produced and cleared before the final version is made. Vallance explains, "Where architects can design a building, a complex, even city, it is the presence of the sculpture within the confines of that edifice that links its style and statement to the people who inhabit it. The sculpture is the finishing touch, the artistic feature that humanises the surrounding."

A sense of history clings to the Morris Singer Foundry which was founded in 1848 and where the majority of statues of any consequence of display in Britain have been passed. The great sculptors — Jacob Epstein, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore — had their bronzes cast at the Foundry.

Boadicea which is positioned outside the houses of Parliament emerged from the Foundry as did Lady Godiva which is now in the Coventry.

One of the most recent pieces cast was a giant statue of Sir Isaac Newton executed by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi for the British Library in London. The Foundry recently completed an unusual commission — a statue of Buddha for a meditation centre in Cumbria

"One of the most satisfying aspects of sculpture," Vallance emphasises, "is that people can touch it."



A Wing at the Heart of Things, 1990; slate and pigment

could afford the expense

"His work is beautiful," she says "There is a sense of something exciting happening I know what the tingle factor means"

She finds "a primordial visual truth in his shapes" "They are very contemplative objects which allude to the arcane mysteries of life You need to pause and think when you look at his work"

Poovaya-Smith was instrumental in persuading Leeds University to confer a honorary degree on Kapoor for his contribution to the arts "He brought a level of colour and texture into sculpture"

His work has been acquired by more than 20 major museums and galleries all over the world — from the Tate, London, to the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Art Galle-

HIS ART, THEIR VIEW

What do Indian sculptors think of Anish Kapoor?

M.F. Husain: He is a good sculptor and no matter where he works — in which country — he will always remain one.

But it is not true that he commands the highest price among Indian artists. I can't say who does, but so far as Anish Kapoor is concerned, he does not command the highest price.

But price again is no criterion to judge him because 99 per cent of the art that gets sold today is non-art. All I can say is that Kapoor is a good artist.

Chintamoni Kar: Truly speaking, I am not familiar with his works I know very little about him. I have heard that he has earned great name and fame abroad. But I did not have the good fortune to view any of his creations.

Only once, I remember, I saw a picture of one of his sculptures showing a pyramid-like structure with lots of red colour dripping from it That's all. So, I really would not be in a position to talk about him.

Frankly speaking, I belong to the last century and I don't wish to make an inroad into this century. Perhaps, I sound like Henry Moore with whom I often had long discussions on a whole gamut of subjects. But I do not understand many things of this century. I am too aged. Why do you ask me about Anish Kapoor? Contemporary modern men of arts would be in a better position to talk about him

Manu Parekh: The moment I hear Anish's name, it creates a very positive reaction in my mind because at a very young age, he has created a niche for himself in the international market. That is very encouraging for us all

I think it is time now for Indian artists and sculptors to establish an identity on the international scene.

What is commendable about him is that he has handled and merged both his international sensibility and his love for his roots very intelligently.

This, to my mind, is the secret of his success. Also, there is a lot of freedom of language, material, conceptual thinking and emotional reaction to one's work these days. Anish, I feel, has used this freedom very powerfully

Rimzon: Anish is basically an Indian who has been associated with the new generation of the British art scene. So, while his contemporaries like Tony Cragg, Will Woodrow and Anthony Gromely, have used found objects (reject material) in their works, Anish has used *rangoli* powder to create a psychedelic effect in his works.

In fact, one can experience metaphysics in his works because of the effect he is able to create with these powder pigments. He has used this colour pigment to give a spiritual language to his works and create *tantrik* images that evoke tremendous feelings and experience.

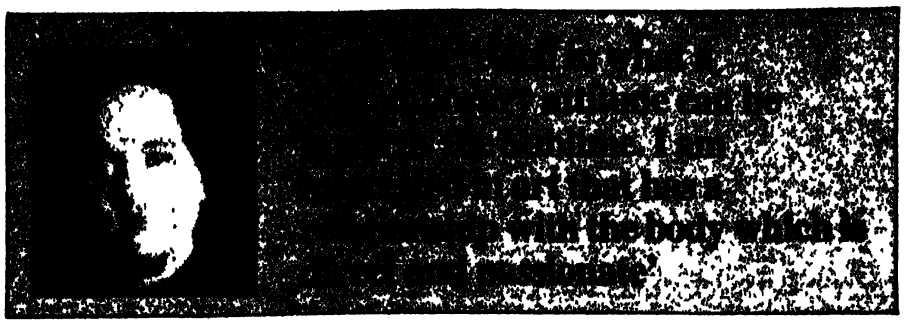
In one sentence it can be said he has merged Indian philosophy and culture with Western concepts in the British art scene to create a contemporary language of art.

Biman Das: I have heard that he is a London-based sculptor, well-established in the British art scene, but I am not familiar with his works. It is only natural because he holds all his shows abroad. How many exhibitions has he held in India? And how many Indians are familiar with his works?

Sometime back when I was in Delhi I happened to see one of his group shows. From what I can recall he has a penchant for using deep, artificial hues. All his figures (I remember there was a snail) are abstract, three-dimensional.

I have just seen one exhibition of his. So I cannot really say much about him. I have heard the British Council has greatly patronised him.

You see, to be an internationally

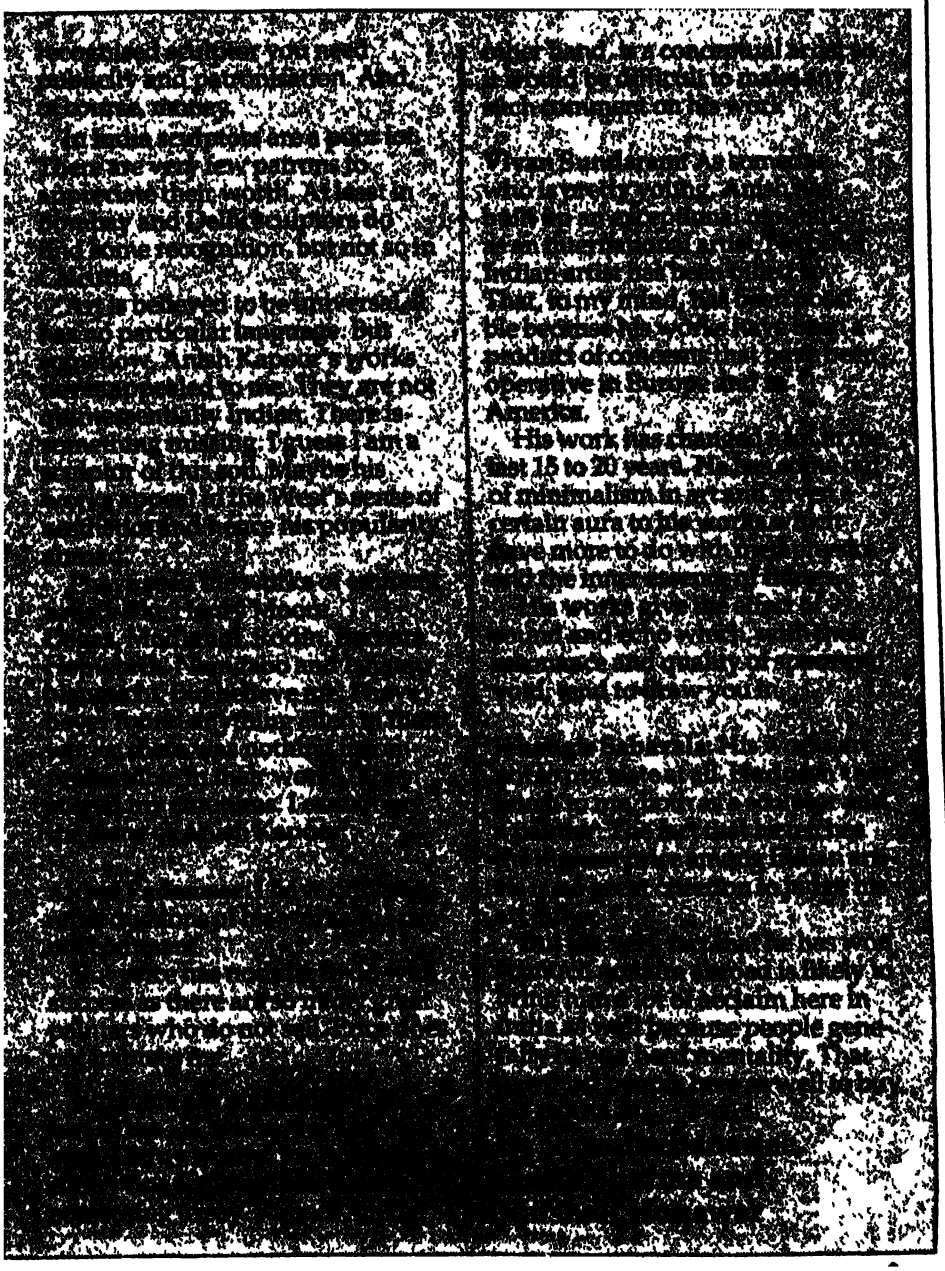


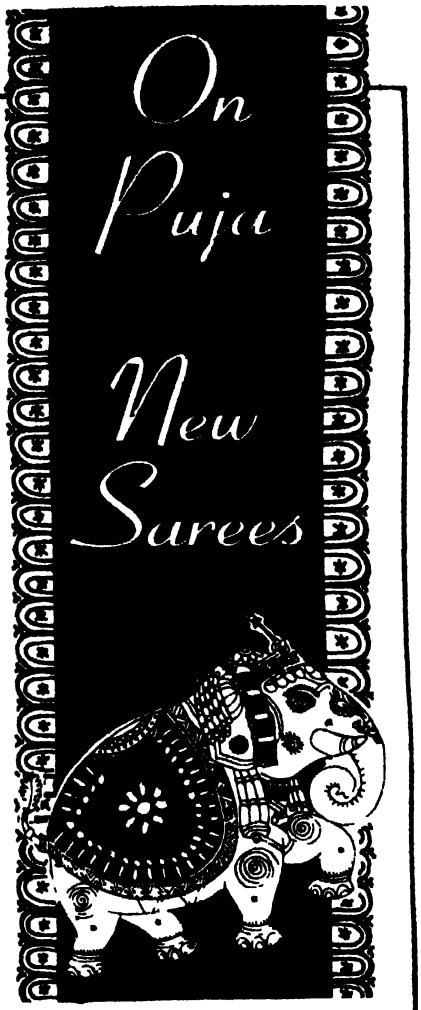
ry of New South Wales, Sydney, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, and the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo Indian galleries are conspicuous by their absence

His work has also been bought by private collectors whose identities remain secret It is unlikely that he has acquired an Indian clientele. So far, anyway

The most important recent event in his life was the birth of his daughter, Abha, to his German-born wife. He went round telling his friends "We are pregnant"

It remains to be seen how being a father will affect his work Perhaps, the void will be filled





Indian Silk House

COLLEGE STREET
MARKET
CALCUTTA



UPSY DAISY

Marjeena, the orphan from Howrah Station, not only found a home and a family but also got to meet President Bill Clinton. ***Trina Mukherjee*** *recounts a life which reads like a fairytale*

This is the story of a little girl, Marjeena Once upon a time Yes, one is tempted to add a chimerical hue or a fairy-tale gloss to this simple tale of love, hope and acceptance

Marjeena's story began at Ashirwad, a cosy home for *enfants perdus* and abandoned children Tucked away in a corner near Park Circus in Calcutta, this cosy apartment shelters several little souls

The sudden visitor is greeted with a loud blast of music, somersaulting toddlers and lusty bawlers — all part of the Ashirwad family Tiny national flags fluttered on the ceiling and Micky and Donald peered at all from the walls A sharp tug at one's handbag and a tentative touch spoke volumes than a formal handshake

Some of the inmates were normal infants, a few suffered from some kind of congenital defect or expressed autistic inclination But all shouted and played on The problem of being provided with a family, education or treatment is not their headache, but that of their *maashis* who look after them Marjeena was one of them

But let us regress further into the chrysalis of the past and catch up with Marjeena romping down the grimy platforms of Howrah Station with her urchin companions Marjeena spent the first few years of her life here

The social worker from Bangalore who found her there, described her as a scruffish looking child who was mistaken for a boy and sent to the boys dormitory Only after she was given a "good bath" that they realised their mistake

She was slightly built and looked like a four-year-old, but was older

Mused Swaran Chaudhry, secretary, Society for Indian Children's Welfare (SICW), "It is very strange, call it for-

Marjeena with her 'mom' Elaine Griffin and President Bill Clinton



tuitous, call it Divine Ordinance — we find a certain child or a baby and may just miss another forlorn creature lying helplessly, a few yards away, beside a refuse dump "

We wondered about it as Chaudhry read a letter from Marjeena to her "Friends at SICW,

"Guess what? Last month I went to Washington, DC and met President Clinton at the White House He was very nice and put his arm around me We were at the White House because there was a ceremony in the Rose Garden where my mom was named the 1995 National Teacher of the Year

"My mom will be going all around the United States next year making about 200 speeches about the importance of education At the end of her speech, she tells my story She says that worldwide, education is a link that connects us to our fellow human beings She tells how my parents died after my birth when I was so little, so I ended up living at Howrah Station, begging by day and sleeping on the cement platform at night I was protected by a street woman named Nur Jehan who shared her only possessions, a blanket and a cooking pot, with me When I went to live at Ashirwad, I had to say goodbye to Nur Jehan I told her, 'Don't worry, Nur Jehan I'll get education and a job and I'll come back to take care of you when you are old, just like you took care of me '"

It is a story all right But it is *her* 'story' Marjeena lived the story and grew up in it Nur Jehan was no fairy godmother with a silver wand The maternal woman with her threadbare possessions made life a trifle more enduring for the family of three Nur had her own son and also looked after Marjeena

After she was shifted to Ashirwad, Marjeena was found to be a difficult and reticent child, more "withdrawn than any normal kid" Six or seven years spent on railway platforms made a clear difference

"This phase is a time of tremendous adjustment and adaptation in the life of a child like Marjeena," observed Chaudhry The child has to settle down in every sense of the word — a new environment, a room to live in with other children, a cot or a bed that you can call your own, the 'miracle' of having regular meals and not having to worry about the next

"They feel two kinds of cravings — physical and emotional They satisfy the former by gorging themselves to the point of falling sick. We do not stop them The other craving is more important and more difficult to satisfy — a longing for love and security "



President Bill Clinton presents Elaine Griffin with the Crystal Apple Award

Marjeena received enough of both to emerge as a friendly and intelligent child Then "mom" or Elaine Griffin arrived on a teaching assignment to Ashirwad

Griffin, hailing from Alaska, taught at a school in Chiniak and lived with her husband Ned and two adopted daughters Marjeena became the third addition to the Griffin family

Geetanjali, a social worker in charge of foreign adoption, clearly stated, "In India, a child of two years or more, is deemed unfit for adoption The child should be pleasant looking if not pretty " Marjeena was seven when she was adopted and she was not pretty

Did she resent the fact of being uprooted from her country of birth? "No, none of them do In fact children like Marjeena feel quite flattered being pampered by *gore log* One little boy in particular, insisted on having 'white parents' In any case, a home away from home is by far a better prospect than living in a children's home "

Marjeena went to the US with her "mom" Griffin was later selected as the National Teacher of the Year, 1995

Then came the Rose Garden party, "White House ceremony, press conferences hotel suite with televisions in both bathrooms and the limousines with telephones "

Marjeena's letter described it better "Six years ago, I was living at Howrah Station without a family, and this year I got to shake the hand of the President That's pretty special I told him that I watched the news about how his wife visited orphanages on her trip to India, and when I got to the word 'India', I started crying So he put his arm around me and told me not to feel bad My mom wanted me to smile for our family picture with the President but I was so sad about all the kids who don't have a family and cannot come to meet the president and so excited at the same time, that I could not stop crying "

Marjeena's story does not end here She now has new dreams to pursue and surge ahead with her life But she remembers and nurtures a hope "My mom says education is the link between me and my desire to make the world a better place and its a dream of liberty and justice for all Marjeena is just one of the million hopeful hearts ■

AND THE DEVIL TOOK THE HINDMOST

***Mahesh Motwani** on how God escaped from Man's clutches*

The good Lord was in danger He was on the verge of being found out by Man He was just one light year away from the last planet set foot upon by Man, and out of fear, had shut himself in the last Black Hole of the universe which He had created

Man had advanced so much, in genetic engineering and other sciences, so that once they got hold of God, they could easily subject him to all sorts of scientific experiments and make, God knows how many clones of God (sorry, even God did not know)

So God had made the mistake of gifting mankind with so much ability and now, in a state of utter shock, thought desperately of some way to save himself He (my apology to the females in this universe, but if God was a woman He would not have had this problem) brought out his computer and plugging it to his channel of cosmic energy, checked every byte for some resource

But God being God, had kept no reserve for Himself

He sat thinking as to what to do Just then, there was a beep on his cosmic cellular phone Who was it? Beads of perspiration formed on his forehead All the other deities and forms created by Him had surrendered long back and had opted to leave their ethereal form and take earthly forms, and in doing so, had lost all memory of their heavenly life

In trepidation, the Lord picked up his receiver and waited for the caller to speak

He heard a crackle of glee and then his arch enemy Satan's voice came over the receiver

"Hello, friend! How are you?"

God mustered up strength and replied, "Fine!" And then to the point, "And why have you called?"

Satan with calorie-free sweetness in his voice replied, "And why would a friend call? I've come to save you"

God mused This was most unlikely of Satan To help Him? Who is Satan kidding?

But He could not tell Satan to go away (not that God turns anyone away) because He knew the depths of Satan's intelligence, and, if anyone could fool Man, it was Satan Even God had to agree Satan's track record in this field was excellent

But what would be the cost?

So God asked — "How and why?"

Satan replied, "Again you have got the order wrong First, the deal and then the secret You have always given Man everything and then expected him to listen to you, and thus have you suffered You should have first secured his devotion and loyalty and then rewarded him And now you expect me to repeat the same mistake"

God, now impatient, cut him short

"Stop lecturing me! Come straight to the deal"

Satan "Well! Till now you have exerted your control over Man and not allowed him to follow his own instincts and be happy"

God (in a rage) "What do you mean? I have always led Man towards his happiness"

Satan "Yes! Yes! You have promised Man all the happiness of the seven heavens after his death And what happiness can Man experience after death? After a life of sacrifices, troubles and endless unhappiness?"

God "It purifies their soul and makes their soul cleaner and stronger"

Satan "And now, this problem of yours should purify your own soul So sacrifice yourself and if you'll excuse me, I'll take your leave"

God "Wait! Don't! What do you have in mind?"

Satan "It's simple! Give yourself up to me and I'll take care of you and your world"

God felt weak A friend indeed! Shylock was better He excused himself, went to his inner sanctum, popped in two pills, and took a big swig of the magic potion

Now, feeling more confident, he addressed Satan — "You mean entire property rights to me?"

"Yes!"

God "Well, it's too much a price to pay, but if you're willing to discuss lease and let, then perhaps, we can talk"

Satan smiled God had obviously learnt something from Man A 1,000-year lease and let, and the world was in his control God must be really desperate to agree to such a deal

Satan "Okay, then! A lease for 1,000 years"

"One thousand years?" God asked incredulously, "A moment without my control and this universe could collapse"

"Then control it," Satan's eyes glinted "Final offer 5,000 years, nothing less"

The Lord then asked, "If I agree, how will you save me?"

Satan "Easy Whenever I have presented myself to Man as their wellwisher, you have interfered and prevented him from following me This time, too, I will appear before Man as you Man will think that they have found you and will give up further search for you I will give him so much happiness and pleasure that Man will stop all progress But you must not interfere"

"Fantastic! Excellent!" God could not hold himself back from exclaiming, and for once, could hardly withhold His praise for Satan

Satan beamed, "I've been telling you all along that you should listen to me But you and your God-done ideas So agreed?"

"Agreed!" God echoed enthusiastically, putting his hand into Satan's and shaking it vigorously And so God went back to the inner sanctum, a much relieved soul and sat before His cosmic television set to see the terrific saga about to unfold

He received his lease deed a week later and happily signed it Satan had done a terrific job Man was 100 light years away already Man was happy, Satan too, and the good Lord safer He turned on his radio and caught a serial from the earth The song was, *"Don't worry! Be happy!"* The Lord could not have agreed more He broke into a happy jig, *"Don't worry! Be happy!"*

Aries

March 21—April 20



The new moon, says Ganesha, favours anything connected with your work, say, a new job, overtime, an extra responsibility, handling more than one department, temporarily or otherwise Pets and projects are also highlighted The bottomline is, too many irons in the fire

Taurus

April 21— May 20



Relax Let go Have fun Mercury-Uranus placing suggests that your productivity is directly linked to your capacity to have a ball, believe it or not The birth of children, long-distance connections, hobbies, education, research, religious ceremonies and consequent meetings are foretold

Gemini

May 21—June 20



You will have to regroup your resources, marshal your forces, even draw upon the reserves, so to say, and then attack upon the twin frontier of home and the outside world Therefore, you have your work cut out Here, the superb Mercury-Pluto sextile comes to your help

Cancer

June 21—July 20



A pleasing Venusian factor gives you silky grace and finesse in relationships, and yes, happiness is its legacy Many Cancerians will be having their full share of travel, visitors, relatives, news and views, and that should stimulate them considerably This is the time to finish pending work

Leo

July 21—August 21



You will blow your own trumpet, nothing new in that, and also that of others, and it should keep you on your toes There is an intense concentration on work, finances, food and services Do accept invitations even if you feel it drains your energy Why not suffer fools gladly?

Virgo

August 22—September 22



The new moon in your sign, according to Western astrology, helps you focus on your personal development, health and interfacing with people Love will strike you suddenly and mysteriously Children give real satisfaction Complications at home can be resolved

Libra

September 23—October 22



Slowly but surely, introspection and assessing your own worth, as well as that of others, will possess you Best to learn yoga, meditation, philosophy The travel bug will bite you The next 20 days are for it too On and after September 29, Mercury helps you to take important decisions

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Deception will be mastered by you, and thus, you will be one up on your rivals Expenses will be heavy and you will be called upon to look after the sick and the weak The other aspect, very surprisingly, is that of socialising and having friends over A busy week indeed

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



The screws will be really turned on and you will have to work at breakneck speed This, in turn, could take a huge toll on your energy and even make you slightly accident-prone Periodic rest is essential, says Ganesha From Wednesday, ties and links will be the key to a happier life

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



You will have the will and the guts to fight effectively on a million fronts, and yet, come out right on top Remarkable bursts of energy and imagination will help you The foreign slant could well predominate Ceremonies, rituals, and drive will take you to your goals

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Loans, funds, investments, buying and selling are the trends which will ask for your time and energy You may rely on friends and well wishers to help you to a certain extent Another distinctive direction will be friendship and partnerships

Pisces

February 19—March 20



There is work to be done, negotiations to be entered into, settlements to be done, and frankly, battles to be fought The prospect of additional money is really bright It is a complicated week, because many things are bursting like bombs and you have to forge ahead

BIRTHDAYS

August 27: Mercury-Uranus trine means sudden good fortune, says Ganesha. This could come about by your efforts and the good wishes of others.

August 28: Moon-Jupiter sextile indicates an influx of money. The family will look upon you with respect. Strained relations can be mended.

August 29: You may have to push just that much harder, because there is no strong aspect or indication this year. It also means more haste, less speed.

August 30: Moon-Pluto conjunction gives you plenty of scope to advance in your career, and personal life, it means you can eat your cake and have it too.

August 31: A favourable planetary conjunction leads to good fortune. It will also affect your spouse, children, home and the office front.

September 1: Moon-Pluto conjunction emphasises developments in the house, office, say renovation, decoration, moving and so on.

September 2: Moon-Jupiter conjunction ensures journey, romance, education and socialising. Look to pending matters. The homefront gives satisfaction.

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

ESCAPE TO NOWHERE

By the end of August, the hill-dweller has got the monsoon blues Heartily sick of cloud and fog, drizzle and downpour, he longs for a little sunshine, some dryness in the air

Forsaking my jammed typewriter, mildewed books and files, I set out for Dehradun in the valleys It was damp there, too, and sultry, but at least, there were occasional bursts of sunshine I took a room in a small hotel and lay beneath a whirring fan, waiting for the cool of the evening

Evening walks in Dehra are not what they used to be Speeding vehicles stop for no one and you take your life in your hands every time you cross a road Most of the roads came into existence over a 100 years ago and were originally meant for pedestrians and pony-drawn *tongas* Now, neither pedestrians nor ponies have any rights

Wait until dark and the hazards are even greater, for street lights do not exist even on the smaller roads while open ditches and other obstacles are there in abundance, just waiting to trap you

Returning to my room muddled and dishevelled, I was consoled by the old man who brought me a cup of tea Things were much worse in Agra, he told me

"And what were you doing in Agra?" I asked

"I was in the madhouse, the *pagalkhana* for 10 years Then one day, when no one was looking, I slipped away"

He burst into laughter and naturally, I had to join in

"Inside or outside, there's no difference," he added, "the roads are full of *pagals* these days"

Next day, going out in search of a little sanity, I decided I'd call Nergis Dalal, a fellow writer whom I hadn't seen for some years

As I approached the Dilawar Bazaar, the area where she lived, I noticed that the traffic on the main road had come to a standstill and that smoke was issuing from a couple of shops

A crowd had gathered and now, as a police van arrived, people began to scatter, most of them running in my direction I always seem to be standing in the way of advancing hordes

Looking for some avenue of escape, I found a gap in the wall leading into



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Evening walks in Dehra are not what they used to be. Speeding vehicles stop for no one and you take your life in your hands every time you cross a road. Most of the roads came into existence over a 100 years ago and were originally meant for pedestrians and pony-drawn *tongas*. Now neither pedestrians nor ponies have any rights

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an old orchard of lichi trees I sat beneath a lichi tree, recalling the days when Dehra was famous for its lichis Now, only a few gardens remain for their owners find it more profitable to sell their land for buildings Will lichis vanish forever? They don't grow anywhere else

When the main road seemed normal again, I left the protection of the trees and took another chance with my fellow humans Two boys were discussing the recent incident One said the shop had been burnt down because it had been selling brown sugar The other said it had been burnt down because it had refused to sell brown sugar

My own blood sugar level was by now distinctly low, so I hurried along to Nergis Dalal's flat, knowing she would give me sustenance Hadn't she written half a dozen cookery books? Nor was I disappointed Pulau rice, kofta curry and a chocolate souffle awaited me I was on the right track!

When I got back to my hotel, I found Mr Aurora of the Green Bookshop waiting for me on the verandah He had a surprise for me, he said, and wouldn't tell me what it was until I got into his car

Ten minutes later, we drove in at the gates of the Welham Girls' School And within minutes I found myself trapped in a classroom, surrounded by some 200 girls, their ages ranging from 14 to 18

And I was expected to talk to them! Usually tongue-tied in front of a girl, how was I to converse with two hundred?

Jules Verne had a similar problem, I believe No wonder he preferred to be 20,000 leagues under the sea — which is where I wanted to be just then

Bright-eyed and eager as they were, waiting for words of wisdom to flow from my lips, I had none to impart! I looked around the sea of faces — here was beauty and intelligence combined — but I was struck dumb!

Their principal, Mrs Verma, came to my rescue and said nice things about my writing I answered a few questions, trying to be witty, if not wise The girls were kind and indulgent

When it was all over, I found myself back in my hotel room A smart young Gurkha brought me a cup of tea

"Where's the old man?" I asked.

"One of his sons came for him," he said, "They've taken him back to Agra."

So that was the end of his great escape Was it the end of mine?

(Sanctuary Features)



The Telegraph
magazine
is publishing poems regularly.

JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems. All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and NOT to The Telegraph, by ORDINARY MAIL Contributions sent by registered post or courier **will not be** accepted. Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper. Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned**. All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates. No enquiries will be solicited

Fill in the coupon below and sent with your contribution

___ Block letters please ___

Name_____

_____

Age_____

Address_____

_____

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

WAITING FOR PEACE

There can be no more beautiful sight in all Israel than that of the Sea of Galilee, viewed from high above the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus promised that the meek should inherit the earth The sky is deep blue, and the water deeper, and the hillsides tumble down to the shores, a mass of gold sun-dried grasses and thistles

Goldfinches, their heads dipped as if in pots of liquid gold and bright, blood-red are as common as sparrows Ever since King Solomon's ships brought peacocks from India, that bird has appeared in art as the symbol of eternity Similarly, the goldfinch was and remains the symbol of sacrifice

At night, a thin necklace of light rings the sea and the town of Tiberias glitters on the western shore Clusters of lights to the east mark the summit of the grand Golan Heights which rise sharply from the sea Insects sing But otherwise, nothing interrupts the utter peace of the night

Yehuda Avni, a mild-mannered, harworking man once from Chicago has built a ranch here He, and the neighbouring farmers who force mangoes and lichis from the natural grasslands, remember when they were shelled from the Golan by Syrian troops

They know that the Golan is not an integral part of Israel but in all the local tourist literature, it and other occupied territories are treated as such

The Golan is to be visited for its vineyards, ancient places and birds of prey But Yehuda knows that the Heights may return to Syria and then he will look again into a foreign country for his ranch

Israel surprises in many ways One being its size It is so much smaller than its place in world politics suggests It is really no distance from Jerusalem to Damascus, and it should be possible to go from Galilee to Beirut for a luncheon appointment

But what it lacks in physical size, it makes up for in the complicated depths of its history And perhaps, there are so many goldfinches because so many people from this ancient land have sacrificed so much

In this century, there was the Holocaust when one third of the total Jewish community was killed In previous centuries, too, they were exiled and persecuted Three thousand years ago, King David built the great Temple at Jerusalem, but only 410 years later it was destroyed by the King of Babylon

The Second Temple was built over two thousand years ago and stood only 420 years before the Romans destroyed it

Now religious Jews await the building of the Third Temple, and an age in which universal peace will be established on earth Until then, the closest point on earth to God remains the towering ruin of the Second Temple's western wall where the religious slip messsages to the lord into the crevices between the stones, and those who can't come in person, sends faxes addressed to Him to nearby fax shops from where they are duly posted

On Sunday mornings, peals of church bells wash over the Temple Mount The gilded Dome of the Rock built by the Caliph in the nineth century to commemorate the Prophet's ascension into heaven, and also, to show Jews and Christians that their religion had been superceded, stands on the Mount itself All the semitic religions are represented here, and all, in one way or another, claim Jerusalem for themselves

At present, the modern state of Israel holds sway, and the most recent exiles are of course, the Palestinians The most immediate search is for peace between these two sides Before the PLO won its autonomous areas in Gaza and the oasis of Jericho, large numbers of Palestinians came to work in and around Jerusalem Now they can no longer move freely They have to take passes from the Israelis, and they are often not forthcoming

One farmer in Jericho complained that he couldn't explain to his sons why he couldn't take them for a day out to the city and asked what he would do if he had to take someone to hospital But Israelis in Jerusalem told me that restrictions on movement had controlled terrorist attacks, and that they preferred to employ immigrant labour than unreliable Palestinians

An invisible line still divides Jerusalem despite the fact that Israel has held the entire city since it was captured from Jordan in 1967 Many Jews do not visit the eastern, or Palestinian, side of the city at all and have not since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising

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An invisible line still divides Jerusalem despite the fact that Israel has held the entire city since it was captured from Jordan in 1967. Many Jews do not visit the eastern, or Palestinian, side of the city at all

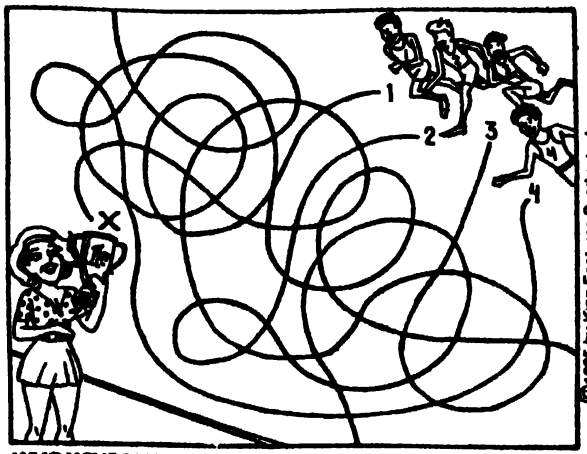
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But the search for peace is beginning to bear fruit A lawyer friend was able to persuade friends of his to cross to the East for the first time in over six years to have dinner with us at an Arab restaurant They were nervous at first but it was the chef's birthday and by the time the staff had enthusiatically sung "Happy birthday to you" in Arabic and handed out pieces of cake, they relaxed.

The lawyer said, "You see, after the Holocaust, we had no option, where else could we go? And the Palestinians had no options either They are right and we are right" He belives in compromise, and in the end that is where peace lies

(Sanctuary Features)

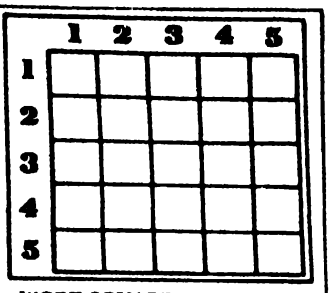
JUNIOR WHIRL ⁂ HAL KAUFMAN



WHO WINS? Which runner will be first to cross the finish line — 1, 2, 3, or 4? Trace path to see if your choice wins

WIPE-OUTS! 1 Remove a water transport, and a beach deposit remains BSOAANTD 2 Remove a green tree, and a sky object remains PSITNAER 2 Remove a body of water, and a shore bird remains PGOUNLDL

1 Boat sand 2 Pine, star 3 Pond, gull



WORD SQUARE CHALLENGE
FIVE five-letter words are required to complete the word square exercise above That is to say, you are to find five words that will read the same both across and down Definitions are as below

1 Sudden explosion, as when a spacecraft is launched
2 Midday event (or adventure?) at school
3 Wild and stormy, as the sea at times
4 Take leave in a hurry (sl)
5 Fragrant herb used in seasoning

Remember, words are to read across and down

1 Blast 2 Lunch 3 Angry 4 Scram 5 Thyme

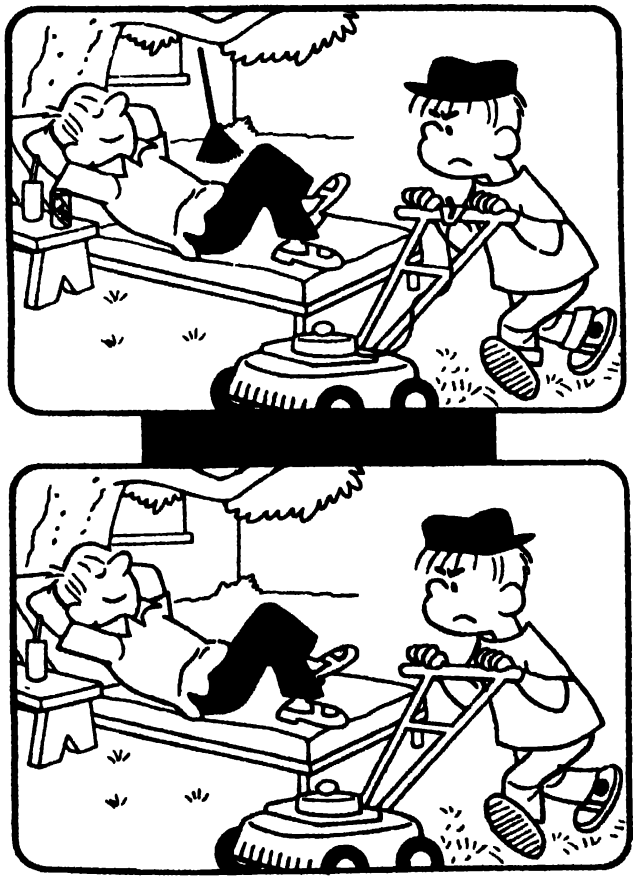
PEN SET! All eyes are on the six animal pens below because the person who built them claims to be able to remove one of the 13 partitions and still have a total of six pens remain How is it done? P S Pens do not have to be rectangular in shape

Give up? Alakazam, arrange six partitions so that they extend out like spokes from the hub of a wheel, and use the remaining six to form the rim

Others ways may be possible



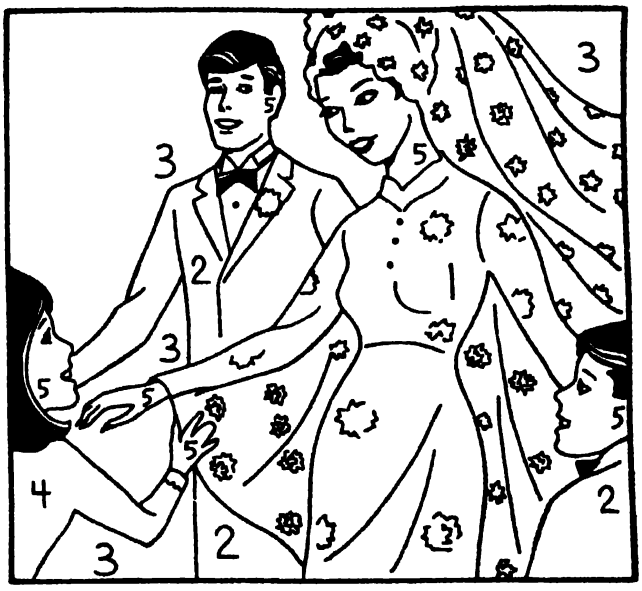
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Can is missing 2 Rake is missing 3 Foot is moved 4 Cap is reversed, 5 Mower control wire is missing 6 Curls are missing

FUNSPOT



SEE, HERE! Here are the newlyweds, let us wish them well. Use crayons or colored pencils to add colors by number: 1—Pink. 2—Dk. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Green. 5—Flesh tones.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

EARNINGS

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 30 points.

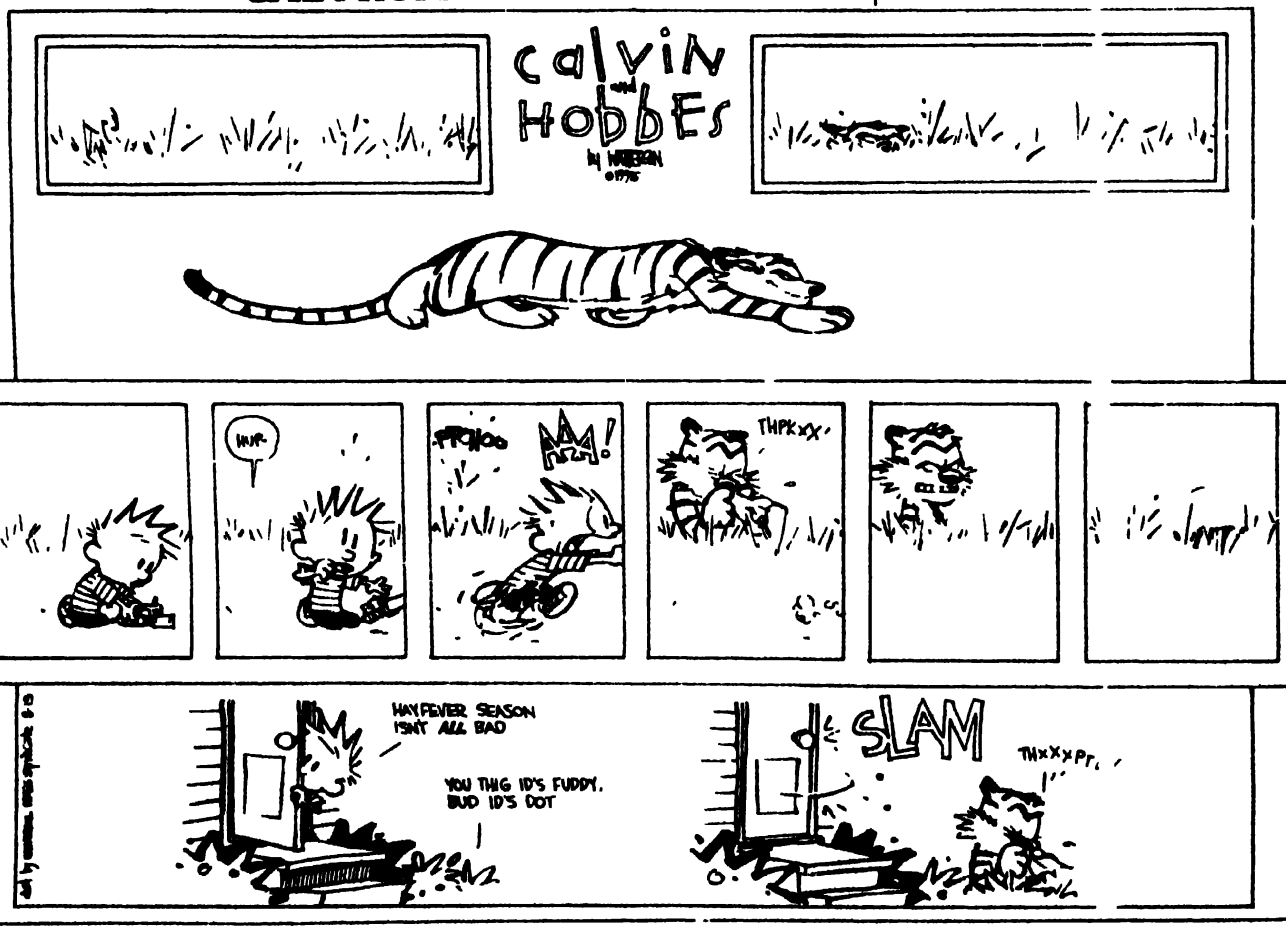
Possible lessons. Snag, rain.

COMICS

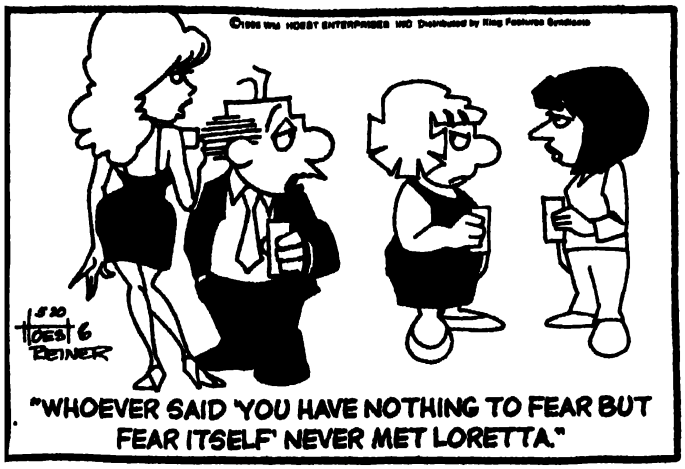
ARCHIE



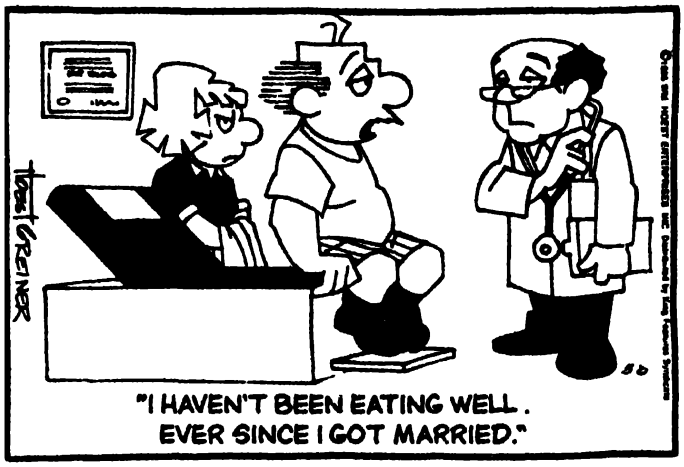
CALVIN AND HOBBES WATTERSON

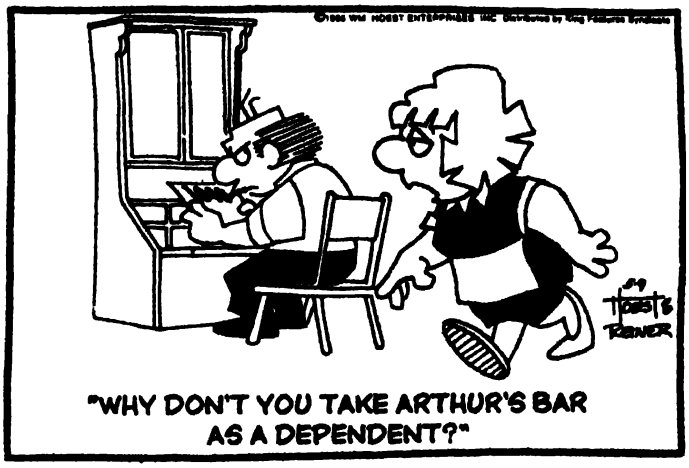


THE LOCKHORNS









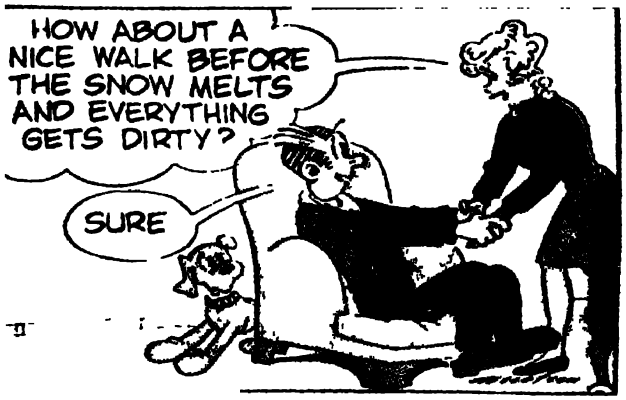
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



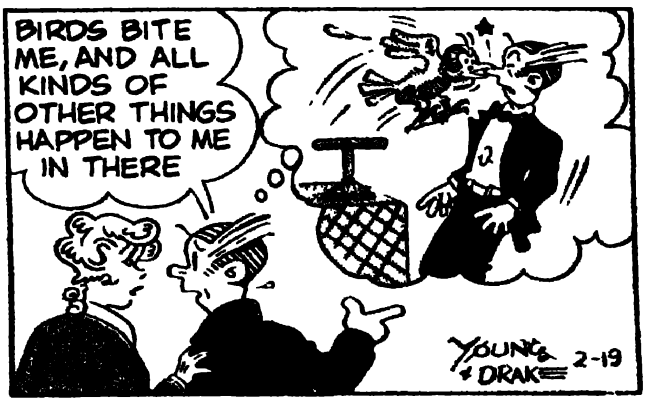


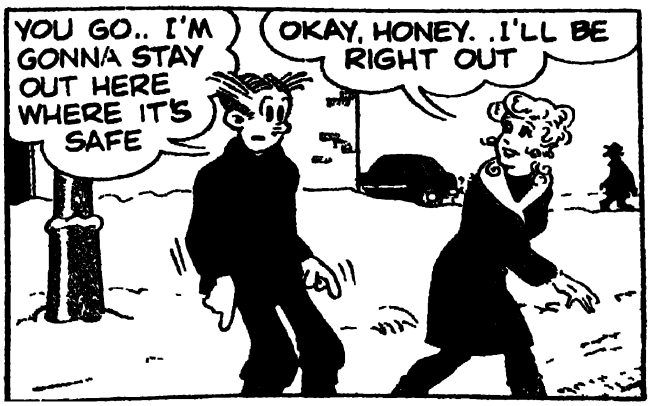


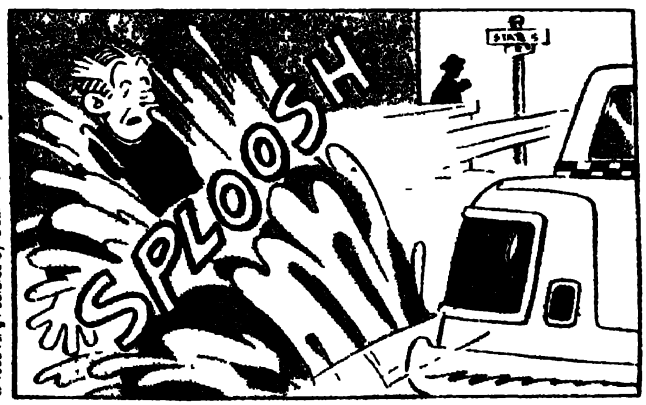












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Puja shopping made easy!

Pujas in Bengal can be a real heady experience Of course, there are festivals that are celebrated with great pomp and pageantry in almost every region in the country Yet the Pujas are different For, where else would you come across a festival that the calendar informs will last a mere four days while the people celebrate it for one whole month If not two

Actually, the Pujas begin about two months earlier In case you doubt that, a short trip to one of the 'Puja Bazaars' is recommended You will find that the flavour of the Pujas has already arrived



In fact, this is also the time of sweet and sour feelings Sweet, when the controller of every home's finances, the housewife, pulls off her bargains And, a little sour, when on that rare occasion it's the shop-keeper who comes up triumphant

But unfortunately, in keeping with the times, this sweet and sour experience now faces a bitter truth inflation

Costs have gone up While the incomes have not The only way, therefore, to stretch the rupee is to cut a few items off the shopping list Unless, of course, a better alternative is found

So, The Telegraph and Philips have come together to make life better And to do that, they are introducing The Telegraph Philips Puja Bonus

Every weekday, from Monday, August 21, you will find one special coupon in The Telegraph This can be cut and collected with others that will keep appearing on subsequent days They can then be redeemed at the shops mentioned in the list given in the next page It will also be published every Sunday in The Telegraph

So readers will not only be able to make substantial savings, but can also win fabulous Philips products as prizes in a special contest The contest card will be available at all the participating shops

So start cutting and collecting the coupons And Puja shopping will never be the same again!

List of shops where you can redeem The Telegraph Philips Puja Bonus coupons.

PHILIPS

Philips Dealers

CALCUTTA -*Abhishek,* Near Lal Bazar Crossing ***Amco Electronics Pvt. Ltd.,*** Wellington ***Anandamela,*** Ganahat Crossing ***Associated Electronics,*** Ganahat ***Aurobindo Enterprises,*** AJC Bose Road, Beckbagan ***Bambino,*** Ganahat ***Betar-O-Alo,*** Manicktola Market ***City Electronics,*** Nager Bazar ***Capital Electronics,*** VIP Road, Behala, Ganahat, Howrah ***Danish Music Corner,*** Madan Street ***East India Trading Co.,*** World Trade Centre, Ezra Street ***Electronics House,*** Bansdroni Bazar ***Fairdeal (International),*** Behala ***G.Rogers & Co.,*** Dalhousie Square East, Theatre Road ***Harmony House,*** Park Street ***Khosla Electronics,*** Hazra Crossing ***Multichannel Electronics,*** Gol Park ***Music Corner,*** Dharmatala Street ***Peerless Bazar,*** Esplanade ***Pleasant,*** Ganahat ***Prakash Electronics,*** Chitpur ***R.Shantilal Radio & TV Co ,*** Canning Street ***Radio & Allied Stores,*** Chowringhee ***Raman Music House,*** Madan Street ***Surolaharee,*** Opposite Rabindra Sadan Metro Station ***Surovani,*** Hatibagan ***Sound of Music,*** Free School Street ***Symphony,*** New Market ***Wachel Molla & Sons (P) Ltd.,*** Dharmatalla ***Philips Show Shop,*** 7 Camac Street **CALCUTTA SUBURBS: *Anandalok,*** Habra ***Basak Vision,*** Berhampore ***Doordarshan,*** Capital Market, Barasat ***Electronics Research,*** Rishra ***Gramo Radio House,*** Barrackpore ***Gopal Radio Clinic,*** Serampore ***Howrah Electronics,*** Howrah Maidan, Ramrajatala, Shibpur (Opp Jute Mill) ***Kalamandir Electronics,*** Nager Bazar ***Karali Radio Stores,*** Ranaghat ***Mitali Electronics,*** Jhangipara, Champadanga ***National Radio Service,*** Panchanantala, Howrah ***Radio Corner,*** Salkia, Bally ***Salkia Radio Enterprises,*** Salkia ***Sathi Traders,*** Sodepur ***Skytone,*** Kanchrapara ***Studio Snap,*** Arambagh ***Standard Electronics,*** Shantipur ***Supersonic Radio,*** Tarakeswar **SOUTH BENGAL- Asansol:** Radio Electronics Corpn , Reco Electronics **Bankura:** Goenka Stores, **Berhampur & Farakka:** Mondal Radio Stores **Bolpur:** Bhakat Bhai Pvt Ltd , **Burdwan:** Betar Silpa Kendra, Sangeetalaya, Joy Electronics, **Durgapur:** Durgapur Radio Service, Benachity Video Plaza, Benachity **Kharagpur:** Bhandari Enterprises **Midnapore:** Bani Prabha Niketan **Rampurhat.** Radio Stores **NORTH BENGAL: Cooch Behar.** Mahabir Radio Service **Darjeeling·** A C Banerjee & Sons **Gangtok:** Rajeev Electronics **Jalpaiguri.** Electro Radio House, Tant Electronics, Subhas Cycle Stores **Siliguri:** Bijlee Works, Classic Electronics System, Fairdeal Agencies, Hemlata Electronics, Radio Museum **Scheme also available at any Philips dealer in West Bengal**

Other shops

NORTH - *Sutanuti Junction,* 32A Shyampukur Street (Restaurant) 10% ***Radu & Co.,*** College Street (Shoes) 10% ***Ananda Publishers Pvt Ltd ,*** 45 Beniatola Lane (Books) 15%***New China Bowl,*** Hatibagan (Restaurant) 10% ***Dalia,*** Bidhan Sarani (Handloom Sarees) 7 5% ***Asha Stores,*** 215 Bidhan Sarani (Handloom Sarees) 7 5% **EAST - *Mainak,*** Kankurgachi Junction (Fast-food) 5% ***Kolapuri Centre ,*** Kankurgachi Junction (Designer Chappals) 7 5% ***Trisha Beauty Parlour (Ladies),*** Kankurgachi Junction (Beauty Parlour)15% ***Sudeepta,*** C A Market - Salt Lake (Sarees and Garments)10% ***Sudeepta Emporium,*** C A Market - Salt Lake (Gifts/Hosiery/Toys) 10% **CENTRAL - *Omco,*** 59 Bentinck Street (Gents Garments)10% (7 5% against Credit Cards) ***The Omco Textiles,*** 59 Bentinck Street (Suitings & Shirtings) 10% (7 5% against Credit Cards) ***Nundy Brothers-(Cycles),*** 34/A Lenin Sarani (Cycles/ Luggage/Matresses)10% ***NuYork,*** New Market - (Garments All Categories) 7 5% ***Ananda Designs & Prints,*** Queens Mansion - Russel Street (Sarees & Garments) 10% ***The Proshop,*** Rawdon Street (Proline Products) 10%(7 5% against Credit Cards) ***Suchanti & Company,*** 44A Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road (Kurlon Showroom)15% ***Laveena Music House,*** F-54 New Market (Audio/ Video Cassetts & CDs) 10% ***Nundy's,*** 99C Park Street (Matresses & Multigym) 10% **SOUTH - *Bedwin Khas Mehman,*** Golpark (Restaurant – Indian) 10% ***Kolapuri Centre,*** Ballygunge Phari (Designer Chappals) 7 5% ***Sunita,*** 113/ 1B Rashbehari Avenue (Sarees & Garments)7 5% (5% against Credit Cards) ***Twinkle Fung-Shway,*** 1/1 Dover Lane (Oriental Restaurant) 10% ***K.Bhojraj,*** 113-1-B Rashbehari Avenue (Exclusive Sarees) 7 5% (5% against Credit Cards) ***His-N-Hers,*** 14/5 Ganaha Road (Gents & Ladies Garments) 10% ***Kamal & Kamal,*** 18/1 Ganahat Road (Shoes) 5% ***The Prince,*** Ganahat Junction (Ladies & Gents Beauty Parlour)15% ***His N Hers,***149 D H Road, Behala (Gents & Ladies Garments) 10% **DAKSHINAPAN SHOPPING COMPLEX - *Saree Mahal,*** (Sarees)10% ***Samrat ,*** (Garments All Categories) 10% ***Ria,*** (Children's Garments) 10% ***Shiela,*** (Ladies Garments) 7 5% ***Lokenath,*** (Authorised Vimal Showroom) 10% ***Pratima,*** (Gwalior Showroom) 10% **CHANDANNAGAR - *La Vogue*** Station Road, Baghbazar, (Vimal Showroom) 10% **MONGINIS CAKE SHOPS *All Monginis Cake/Pastry and Fast-food Shops in Calcutta & Bolpur* - 5%**

Using the coupon

1 You can either get a special price offer at the nearest Philips shop, or a percentage discount at other shops This special price-off will be available on all Philips audio and video products starting from Rs 300 against cash purchase only Ask for the Puja Bonus price list at your nearest Philips dealer This list of shops will be published in The Telegraph, Anandabazar Patrika and Sananda

2 If the discount on a particular product is less than Rs 50, you will need one coupon to avail of it The right-hand side will carry this denomination

3 Now consider the other participating outlets If a saree shop offers a maximum discount of 10%, you can present coupons totalling 10% If your coupons add up to, say, 8%, you can get only 8% off Remember that every coupon will be worth a different percentage of discount on different days This denomination will be printed on the left-hand side of every coupon.

4 Every coupon will carry a code number When you are presenting a set of coupons totalling a certain amount/percentage, to an outlet, no two coupons should have the same code number

5 The coupons must be presented in perfect condition - mutilated coupons will not be accepted

6 You can redeem these coupons from August 21, 1995 to September 30, 1995 at the Philips outlets and up to October 25, 1995 at the other outlets

The Telegraph

PHILIPS

PUJA BONUS

Expect the unexpected

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Estrangement

Mute and helpless
He stands alone
At the crossroads of humanity
One who mobilised the whole country
En masse to freedom
Now bears the air of inertness?

The lines on his face — perhaps deeper now,
His stooped back, shoulders weaker,
He leans on his staff
As if holding on his staff
As if holding on in sheer desperation
The unholy work of Man is not yet over.
"Where did I go wrong?"
Says the pained look on his face

The hungry baby cries as he still tugs
at his mother's dry breasts
Power-blinded greed still holds sway over millions
And people have led themselves
Out of one prison into another

And when
On a misty October morning,
Smiles in their hands,
They garland the Father of the Nation,
Not even one can see
In the corner of his eye--
A lone tear
On its way down the dusty pedestal

Arundhati Kar

The Gigolo

I creak the door shut on tiptoe
so as not to wake the kids up.
They got in at two last night
and must have their eight hours
After all, health is wealth.

My freshly ground cup of coffee
and a splash of tap water
cleanse my mind of all thoughts
Thoughts of creeping back in under
the pink bordered eiderdown
That we were so lucky to pick up
at a discount sale last fall

I need inspiration, a divine flash
I need to be deep, profound
and yet keep in mind
That irreverence, marijuana and
melifluous wordiness they were paying me
a dollar a word

What would I choose to enlighten
my paying public about aujourd hui?
Which social taboo would I scrutinise,

which evil would I criticise?
While keeping in mind
I must not moralise.
After all, cultural diversities and differences must not be forgotten

Poverty perhaps No, I am getting typecast that's what
my last review said
Lurid commercialism, the lucre of green?

Dowry deaths may be, with a touch of bride burning
After all, people musn't forget
that we are a nation where
young girls are mere commodities
That are sold or bartered
to the highest bidder
Or may be our spiritual bankruptcy, selling out...

what shall I sell today?

Rajorshi Chakraborti

PIN UP

LA BELLE DAME MARCEAU

And we are talking about Sophie's choice: the French bomb's first English-speaking film in Hollywood

And so it was not just Demi Moore who proudly bore her pregnancy, stunning the world with her turgid tummy on *Vanity Fair*'s cover.

Sophie Marceau, the hottest actress of France's new generation, stole the show as she appeared at most star-studded events, including Cannes and the Oscars, in a smug state of pregnancy.

Last month, the 29-year-old *femme fatale* gave birth to her first babe, a boy, in a Paris hospital to where the father, Polish director Andrzej Zulawski, rushed, carrying with him a big bouquet of flowers.

Marceau, who has Bardot's sex-kitten charms and Deneuve's petite ice maiden looks, has enjoyed a string of successes ever since she appeared as the effervescent teenager in the 1980 hit, *La Boum*, a film which shot her to instant fame.

Former President Francois Mitterand had opted to take her on a visit to South Korea for she typified the very essence of the French feminine aura.

She captivated audiences with her stage performances in Jean Anouilh's *Eurydice* and George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*. Her crystallisation as a mature actress was possible in large part due to the actor, Gerard Depardieu, director Phillipe de Broca and Andrzej Zulawski.

Hers is the earthy sensuality combined with what fashion designer Emanuel Ungaro calls "a soft, blossomy innocence".



Hers is the earthy sensuality combined with what fashion designer Emanuel Ungaro calls 'a soft, blossomy innocence'

After 15 films in France, the Gallic star intended taking all that innocence to Hollywood. Sophie made a choice: she was willing to gamble her chances in Hollywood where foreign actresses are known to be ground to splinters. After earning money and fame at a precocious age, there were two alternatives: Live off her success at home or test her limits in cinema. "So I decided to choose the second course," she said.

Sophie is due to start a fresh round of publicity with the release of *Braveheart*, her first English-speaking role where she plays the 13th century French-born Princess Isabelle, who has a fling with Mel Gibson when she realises he is as dangerous as he is dashing.

Sophie is shockingly beautiful outshining even the dazzling Catherine McCormack who plays Gibson's tragic bride in the film.

Though she admits to a language barrier (her next goal being to improve her English), she does feel French actresses in Hollywood have their "own charms that, if things work out right, can look good on film.

Rajlakshmi Bhattacharyya

FIRST PERSON

ARPANA CAUR, *40, one of the most acclaimed painters in the country today, whose works adorn the walls of the Kunst Museum, Dusseldorf, Ethnografic Stockholm, Bradford Museum and the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, is a self-taught artist. Once described as someone who can never become a 'drawing room artist', the national award winner was recently commissioned by the Hiroshima Museum to do a painting on Peace to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. She has held solo exhibitions in London, Copenhagen and Glasgow among other places.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
There is no such thing as 'perfect happiness'. To realise this is to be happy. The key to happiness is contentment with what one has.
What is your greatest fear?
Losing the one person dearest to me, to the inevitability of death.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mother. She is more daring than I am, very progressive, a dreamer and a doer, and is my ideal.
What do you dislike most in others?
Corruption which is the hallmark of our whole social system and has eaten into our souls. And violence which is becoming a cult as a result
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My occasional outbursts of anger. I try hard, but have not been able to control this monster which I know harms me more than the object of my anger
What is your most precious possession?
My mother.
What objects do you always carry?
The name of the Giver Who has been exceptionally kind to me
What makes you most depressed?
This very unequal and shameful socio-economic system where most people cannot afford even the basic necessities like food, medicine, a roof, education, dignity
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
That is for others to tell.
What is your favourite word?
Love.
What is your favourite journey?

What is your nightmare?

Another Hiroshima



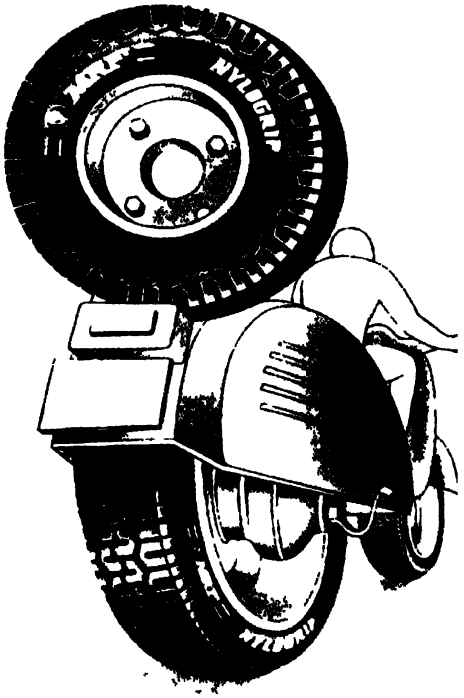
What do you dislike most in others?

Corruption which is the hallmark of our whole social system and has eaten into our souls. And violence which is becoming a cult as a result

The yearly journey I undertake to the mountains in Garhwal and Kumaon This helps me cope with the madness of Delhi for the remaining 10 or 11 months
What is your favourite dream?
A society where everyone has food, there are no weapons and where only love prevails, in other words, an impossible dream But artists are impossible dreamers, anyway
What is your nightmare?
Another Hiroshima
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Not my painting, but my mother As long as she is around me I feel charged with energy and can lose myself totally in my painting
What is your source of sustenance?
My Guru Shri Sahibji, and the *ashram* he has created on the outskirts of Delhi where I go twice a week with my family He teaches here with great humaneness, humour and respect for work, how to improve ourselves day to day in the midst of our domestic and worldly lives
On what occasions do you lie?
When I do not wish to answer the phone or receive visitors. Then 'I am not at home', 'nor in my studio'.
What is your greatest regret?
Let that, at least, remain a secret please. ..
What has been your happiest moment?
The latest I can think of is a commission from Hiroshima Museum for a painting on Peace, this being the 50th anniversary of the holocaust.
What brings tears to your eyes?
The have-nots.
How do you relax?
By painting.
What do you envy most in others?
Easy-going people who have less sense of time passing than me.
How would you like to be remembered?
As a good painter.
How would you like to die?
Before the people I love go.

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VISION & IMAGES



3 SEPTEMBER 1995

The Telegraph

POSTMORTEM

Neither God Nor Father

■ It does not really become the Magazine to blow up a Hollywood scandal into a major story ('The Marlon Mystique', July 30)

With his debonair looks, Marlon Brando is one of Hollywood's best known matinee idols The Magazine would have delighted readers had it come out with a cover story concerning his craft

Sexual escapades are part of the Hollywood lifestyle Womanising, philandering, alcoholism are all part of showbiz and an accepted order So, what is so great about Marlon Brando running from one woman to another in search of whatever you say, security or love?

From the great Charlie Chaplin to Hugh Grant there have been very few actors in Hollywood who have not been involved in a scandal at least once in their lifetime

Manoj Kumar Jain,
Shyamnagar (W B)

■ The book extract offered a glimpse of Brando's eccentricities and his turbulent personal life His many relationships with women did not bring any lasting happiness to Brando In fact, there was very little to give him stability in life a broken marriage, a son in jail and a daughter who committed suicide

Brando's tragedy is a reflection of the average Hollywood actor's disturbed life behind a glamorous and fun-loving exterior Marilyn Monroe and Rita Hayworth drowned their miseries in alcohol

Reba and *Indubhushan Bose,*
Jamshedpur

■ Being the child of celebrity parents has always been a curse. Christian became a victim of his parents' unhappy conjugal life

With an alcoholic father who spent most of life and time in the studios and, when not working, preferring the company of his various girlfriends to his family, the young Christian was naturally dejected

In the absence of parental love, care and affection, a neglected child is bound to turn a rebel

Dipankar Koley,
Jhikra (Howrah)

■ The Brando-Anna Kashfi matrimony made headlines in the late Fifties His eccentricities apart, this colourful actor had many humane touches to his personality He was one of the participants at the Black Americans' famous long march in Washington

Maybe he did love his wife, Anna, but the manner in which he unceremoniously deserted her on the night of their honeymoon speaks very poorly of this gentlemanly actor

Brando paid a heavy price for his arrogance and his string of relationships

Sunil Banerjee,
Calcutta



To Err is Hugh-man, to Forgive 'Divine'

■ The grapevine has it that several Bollywood stars are now showing a keen interest to purchase BMWs Is it because Hugh Grant popularised this brand by being caught with a prostitute, Divine Brown, in it?

The company should thank Grant for this free publicity And, Elizabeth Hurley, who has displayed exemplary patience in the face of her boy friend's philanderings, deserves the 'Most tolerant woman of the year' award

Devraj Singh Kalsi,
Kanchrapara (W B)

INSIDE



Phal S Girota

Diu

PAGE 4

GOA MEANS food, feni and frolic Diu is serene and yet to find a parallel definition The two could not be more different from each other

PAGE 26

A NEW biography lays bare Hollywood actress Katharine Hepburn's life and lovers

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
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Cover Diu Fort, by Phal S Girota



A beach resort, Goa

COVER STORY

TAKE YOUR PICK



Martin Louis

Diu: A lot of peace

Phal S Girota

Both Goa and Diu have their points of attraction and, at first glance, it looks like a toss-up between the two for the traveller of the sea and sand ***Samita Bhatia*** *did a recce on the two*

GOA IS A CELEBRATION, DIU IS PERPETUALly in a slumber Goa's beaches are crawling and alive with those bitten by the wanderlust, Diu's sands are almost virgin. Goa leaves you heady, and there is a quiet about Diu. Goa is easily accessed, Diu still remains the undiscovered corner of the subcontinent.

Goa, in a nutshell, is food, feni and frolic, Diu is yet to find a parallel definition.

Goa refuses to be included in any stereotype touristy brochure It is a special place where you can hear music everywhere — practically every village has a band of its own.

It is a state seemingly blessed with fabulous weather, even more fabulous beaches, delightful people, great cuisine, hilltop forts, little white-washed churches and soaring Portuguese-era cathedrals. A package deal that any traveller would find irresistible.

Diu is a small, picture perfect island Its beaches still hold the power to attract even the most seasoned beach lover. Unbelievably small at 13 kms by 4.5 kms, Diu is separated from mainland Gujarat by a narrow channel and extensive mud flats

There is also that narrow spit of land attached to the mainland, but jutting southwards towards the east of the island where the town of Diu stands. Along its shore are a number of inviting palm grit sandy stretches.



Phal S Groha

A Goa church One of many

Langour suffuses the air that you breathe in both Goa and Diu It is palpable and hangs heavy in the air Diu could well be a mirror image of a Goa a few decades back, but the major point of diversion is that it is completely devoid of the hordes of holidaymakers that one is wont to see in Goa on holidays or a weekend

While Goa is well connected to major points in the country, Diu is not so Close to Nagoa in Diu, stands a derelict aerodrome which had connected the island in pre-liberation times with Goa, Daman and Karachi Bombed later, the building continues to stand thus, a reminder of the days of yore

While the runway is just about operational, the locals speak of beefing up air connections that will cater to the anticipated tourist boom The nearest railhead is Veraval, 80 kms from Diu, which also provides onward connections to Ahmedabad However, access to Diu is mainly through Ahmedabad, Bombay Rajkot and Bhavnagar

A more expensive option could be a Gujarat tour aboard The Royal Orient that touches Ahmedpur, Mandvi and Diu Difficult access obviously reduces the potential of attracting tourists, but then some argue that Diu could well do without a situation where it might be overrun by foreign travellers

While Goa is crowded in season, there is room for anyone looking for accommodation, with something to suit every pocket — from budget hotels to posh five-star properties (And remember, if you want to rent a place for a year it will take just Rs 20,000 for a sprawling bungalow!)

As the sun and sand, sea and surf meet, there is an inevitable spill of beach hotels The number of hotels in Goa have proliferated phenomenally in the last few years, though some suggest that it might not be the best thing for Goa or its environs But the destination continues to be a paradise for travellers, particularly, those seeking the sea (tepid and safe), the sand (golden — in patches, when not polluted), seafood (fresh and varied) and silence (which can sometimes be deafening)

Undiscovered Diu has, in comparison, yet to get its act together The beach hotels that are so popular in Goa are few and far between in Diu There are several stretches of sandy beaches on the south coast of the island, but the best are those near the village of Nagoa

The sandy curve of the bay here is palm lined and there is even an attractive guest house for the stray foreigner who finds his way to this corner of the earth The Portuguese-style cuisine served here is great, we found

There are affordable and some luxurious hotels available in Diu, well appointed cottages built close to the beaches Hotel tariffs could swing between Rs 30 and Rs 400 per day However, tourism authorities bemoan a gross lack of room to take on any sudden influx of tourists

With distinct high seasons when business in Goa is brisk, come the problems The Goan has to contend with an image crisis

Charlie, who plies a taxi in Goa, is worried at the misinformation and too little relevant information about the destination reaching foreign shores

"This is the primary cause," he observed, "for Goa's distorted image as a hippie land "

He objects strongly to the fact that foreigners continue to see Goa as the veritable land for beach bums and packpackers

The hippies have long since gone but, in Goa, their passage has left a mark in its social history Certainly, a flea market on the beaches of Anjuna is a part of the chain they started which has withstood the passage of time The flower children seeking their own brand of *nirvana*

Hans J Bredt, general manager of the Leela Beach Hotel, Goa, and one who has been closely observing the tourism scene here, remarks that a recently published travel guide mentioned the state being promoted and dominated by hippie culture 'Which is why the upmarket and high-spending tourist has been giving Goa the go-by "

Other developments had added to this distorted image "Agitations launched by environmental groups against five-star hotels for alleged violation of coastal regulations were exaggerated many times over, which created scepticism among holidaymakers "

But tourists are untouched by these undercurrents as they amble through Goa's villages and streets A walking tour of unstructured fishing Goan villages and the streets of Diu prove to be exhilarating

Diu is bound to remind the traveller of some south European town The older homes are built of local stone soft to work on, but standing well to the test of time The large glazed windows with their louvered shutters are quite unlike those of the houses of Gujarat

While traces indicate that the walls were at some some point of time covered with frescoes, today they are coated with a wash of blue and ochre

Goa wears a different look today The straw huts of yesteryear that peeped from behind sylvan foliage and made Goa so distinctive, are giving way to the more solid and picturesque sloping red-roofed pucca houses

Charlie keeps up a chatter as he drives us for a leisurely sight-seeing tour

"With 80 per cent of the men away to the Gulf there's more money at the disposal of the families Thus, the new constructions That's also why you'll see less farming happening here " Which explains why the markets and shops are dominated by women workers

Bars and toddy shops dot the Goan landscape becoming the very *leitmotif* of this resort town Driving from the airport to the southernmost tip to the Leela Beach, you will come across innumerable bars and liquor joints — some wholesalers, too

If you find one closed just yell and draw the attention of the owners who will make an appearance from one of the adjoining bungalows Most of the shops double up as STD/ISD booths So there is no way you will feel cut-off

Visit any Goan tavern and you will see the locals drinking their favourite brew — cashew or palm feni The untrained palate must beware, for the concoction could hit you like a sting of a hundred scorpions and the aroma may feel like an equal number of rotten apples

Goan wine on the other hand is wel-

A view of Diu



Pinel S Carola



Horse riding at Leela Beach, Goa

come---a favourite accompaniment to any spicy Goan meal Vinicola, the popular local brand, comes in variously fancy bottles and even sachets good enough for two wine goblets These make ideal gifts for friends back home

We chanced upon the Vinicola factory and found 100 women — women yet again — (the only employees) at work "We make the wine and the men drink it," laughed one

Diu, which the locals believe was the original Dwarka, the land of Krishna in comparison to magnetic Goa may, appear primitive but it too offers in plenty what nearby abstemious Gujarat lacks in — alcoholic beverages, cheap and plentiful

In Diu a majority of the bars are located near the waterfront, around the square or near the *sabzi mandi* Diu really has not any mineral wealth to talk about, but the two most prosperous factories on the island today are those manufacturing liquor, for which sugar is imported!

And it is along the waterfront that you will also find the fort completely dominating that end of the island and surrounded by its great ramparts Today there is no garrison posted here, merely the local jail, though one which is rarely used

Once the Portuguese ceased to hold sea power that they once enjoyed, they converted the awesome old fort into a penitentiary for hardened criminals And in the fort's garden stands the huge bronze statue of the first governor, Nuno da Cunho---against an ancient bell and a pile of cannonballs

The explorer in you will find two lighthouses within the walls, one of them long since abandoned, but the other still signalling to the ships as they pass by in the dead of the night

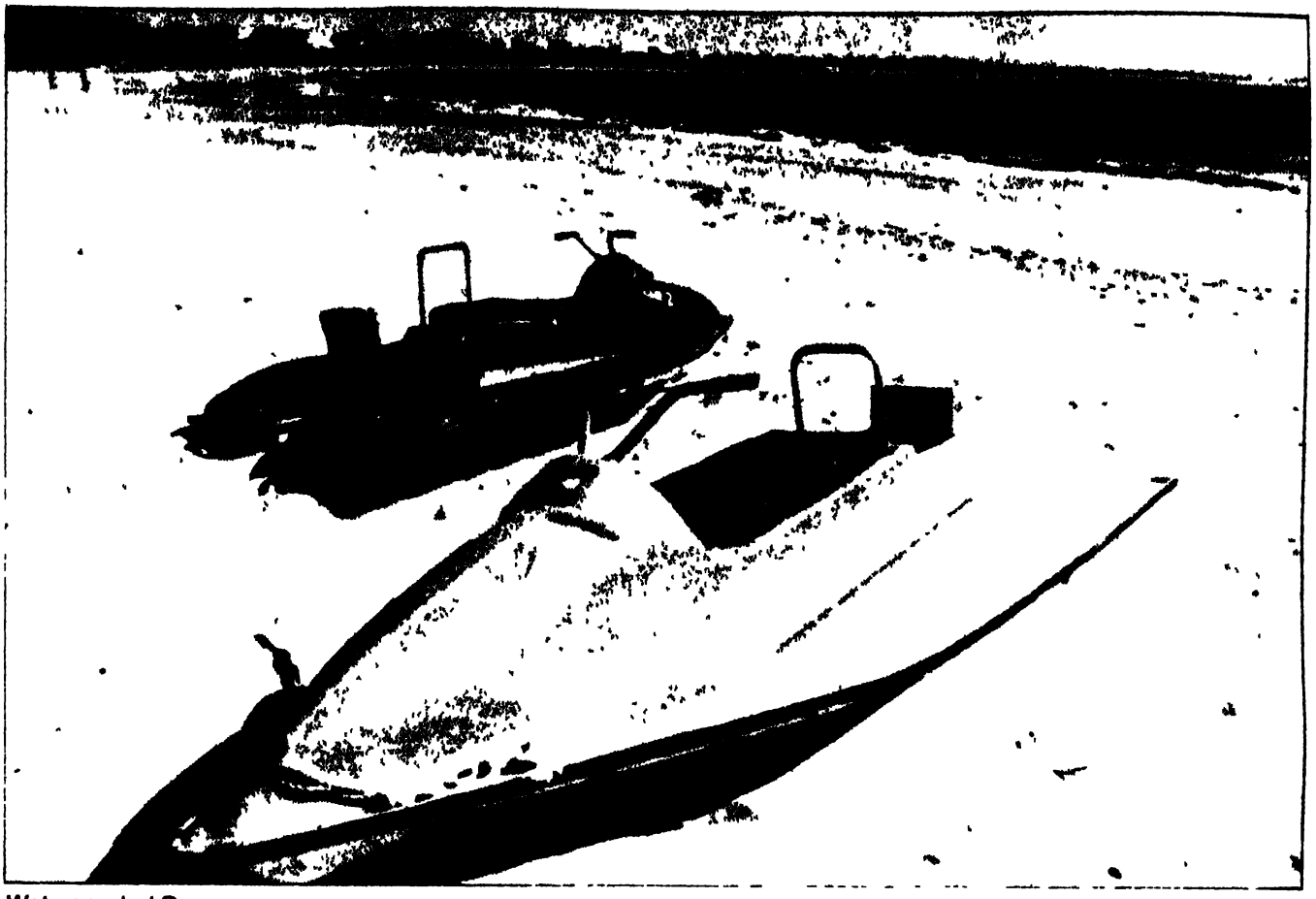
The sea here is rough, the rocks treacherous and the breaches on the fort wall are nothing but an invitation to disaster Our guide informs us that no one ever tried to escape from this fortress, it would be futile The fort is impregnable and today tourists casually weave their way between the cannonballs that lie around

The cannons that jut out of the fortress wall make excellent props for take-home pictures As the waters lap the fort's walls the lone crab battles the waves to keep a tenacious hold on the moss collecting on the wall

Northwards in Diu large fishing fleets bring their catch during the winter months The fleet is inactive in summer and monsoon and the locals depend largely on the dried stocks of fish for consumption Like Goa, however, the destination is a seafood lovers' paradise

The catch in Diu is variable, but there is plenty of pomfret, prawn, lobster, squid and even shark The rocky shores provide more seafood and when the tide is low you will find men and women scouring the weed covered ledges for crabs and shellfish

Seafood is Goa's forte, too, though Goan food is neither wholly Eastern nor Western Four centuries of



Watersport at Diu

Portuguese influence has left an indelible mark on the cuisine and contrary to popular belief not all Goan food is hot and spicy Lightly used spices enhance rather than dominate the inherent flavour of the fresh seafood

Salmon curry eaten with plain boiled rice and the flamboyant vindaloo must, *must*, be tried *Glass plus* types need worry a wee bit for Goan food is not traditionally known for its vegetarian fare

The thread of commonality between the two destinations is that both were colonised by the Portuguese during the early part of the 16th century The colonial lifestyle of the Portuguese was extremely luxurious and indolent, despite the searing heat Affluence was not visible in their dresses, belongings and cuisine, but in their lavish architecture

The Portuguese influence is visible in Diu in each edifice — the main gateway, St Paul's Church, the church of St Francis of Assisi and even in the maze of streets The ornate facades and the tower of the church of St Francis of Assisi must be visited Tourists are guided to the statue of the Virgin whose eyes appear to be real — luminous and expressive

So, too, Goa specially its northern stretch where the capital lies — Panaji and another 10 kms off in the Old City This area boasts of more churches per square kilometre than Rome, more icons on the altars than the Gods themselves in heaven and baroque at its best

Here, tourists usually head for the tomb of the first Portuguese woman who set foot on Goa and eventually married the governor

They love to clamber all over the ruins of the church of the Augustinian monastery where the solitary remaining tower reaches for the sky

A suggestion If your idea of a great holiday is staying at a good base camp accessible to all spots around, Panaji will be your best bet Ten kms from Old Goa, 20 kms from Ponda, the heartland of Hindu temples, 9 kms from Dona Paula beach Distances in Goa are great and so 35-60 kms will have to be trekked to get to the beaches of south Goa and 12-20 kms from those in the north

And if this is not enough you can visit the very site of the inquisition stake where the souls of those hanged and maimed returned to earth at the stroke of midnight, or the dry well where the women of the *zenanas* of the Bijapur noblemen who once ruled Goa hurled themselves to escape rape at the hands of the Portuguese soldiers sometime in 1510

What about Goa's bird life? Not too much to write home about However, Diu will take the avid birdwatcher by surprise The bird life is rich and in winter there is an onslaught of the migrants from Russia Cranes circle the skies and Rosy pastors collect in the bushes And there are more ducks, coots, purple gallinules and-jacanas The gaily coloured kingfishers and the blue reef herons, the fish-eating osprey all stalk the waters looking for food

Do keep your eyes peeled for the occasional jackal and porcupine and the giant sea turtles as they surface in the waters every now and then

Yes, Diu could mean many different things to different people Can you not hear it call — the sun and sand, sea and surf?

But, and a big but Despite it all in Goa be prepared to face a few hardships Bumpy roads, power cuts and water shortage even in deluxe accommodations, a gross lack of facilities at the airport and exorbitant rates charged by private taxi operators

LIKE BAD PENNIES?

Portugal, which ruled Goa till as recently as 1961, is keen to re-establish economic, cultural and social links with India How do Goans view this grand return of the colonialists? ***Frederick Noronha*** *on the bitter-sweet memories that still haunt the people of this region*

Nearly three-and-a-half decades after its hasty and inglorious exit, Portugal is once again speedily rebuilding its relationships with India

Goa, the former capital of what was once grandiloquently dubbed 'Portugese India', is at the centre of this exercise

A spate of events in the recent past indicate the return of the Portuguese to Goa They include Portuguese film and book exhibitions, a high-level business delegation visit, the setting up of a Portuguese-funded cultural centre, attempts to give local viewers a glimpse of Lisbon's TV channels, the building of India's largest dry dock with Portuguese collaboration, and even flying in top Portuguese chefs to display their culinary expertise

Goans have greeted these happenings with mixed feelings For large sections of Goa — youth under 30 and those born outside the state, including those of Goan origin — memories of the Portuguese are simply non-existent There are others who are suspicious of the return of the descendants of a country which ruled parts of India for a record four-and-half centuries

On the other hand, some Goans, mainly those who belonged to the privileged elite class of earlier times, are doing little to hide their glee at the renewed friendship

Portugal today is just one of the less influential and tiny European nations But its importance is still obvious if one recalls it was the first European power to rule in Asia, including India Its seafaring pioneers discovered for Europe the sea route to India in 1498

By 1510, the Portuguese conquered Goa Coming here way before the British and even the French, or other European powers, they stayed on for the longest period — till Indian military action ended their rule in Goa in 1961

But the Portugal of today is a different nation from the obstinate one which had to be forced out of India Two decades ago, a coup in Portugal ended the right-wing dictatorship and the Socialist President, Mario Soares, whose qualifications include contacts with Goan freedom fighters while in jail, was quick to normalise ties

Lisbon, in a widely appreciated gesture, returned gold pawned by Goans, and which had been taken to Portugal in 1961 In return, India reciprocated with an out-of-the way permission for Lisbon to set up its Consulate in Goa, outside the four metropolitan cities where consulates are normally set up in India

Ever since, there has been no turning back

A Portuguese trade team in Goa



Strangely, the Portuguese legacy in Goa is something which is still cherished in some quarters And for sound reasons, too Hoteliers find that it pays to portray Goa as some sort of a Europeanised, Portuguese-influenced destination, rather than compete with the rest of the Indian coastline as a place offering scenic beaches Some hotels go out of their way to give Portuguese names to their restaurants, rooms and even toilets

Businessmen are suddenly realising that they can put to good business use the former colonial ties The Portuguese language, despite being the fifth most widely spoken tongue in the world, is used by only 200 million people And most of them have no great purchasing power since they live in countries like Brazil, Angola and Mozambique, apart from Portugal (which has 10 million inhabitants)

Yet, knowledge of Portuguese has suddenly become an encashable asset, since Lisbon is showing considerable business interest in Goa

"Goa is the preferred place (for doing business) We have a natural capacity to understand each other We could use Goa as a home basis for our operations," president of the Portuguese trade body, ICEP, Minguel Athayde Marques, told businessmen recently



Goa chief minister's wife, Vijayadevi Rane, at the Portuguese food festival in Goa

GOA BACK?

It is not roses all the way for the Portuguese as they navigate a slow and uneasy route to India. Opposition has come, not unexpectedly, from politicians who feel the re-entry of this small Iberian nation will only re-open the wounds of the past

Italians are welcome and play a giant role in Goa's iron-ore trade. The Japanese often come down on business visits Even Germany has its honorary consul — a local businessman — operating from Panaji

But, the very idea of the Portuguese setting up a consulate in Goa has evoked strong protests not only from the Opposition, but also from some freedom fighters.

The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party, which draws its support from Goa's Hindu voters, has made its stand clear about the Portuguese re-entry. Perhaps, this is not too surprising since the earlier colonial Portuguese [illegible] by dictator Antonio Oliveira Salazar for much of this century, and governments in earlier centuries, too, were theocratic and communal in nature.

Of late, the MGP and a section of Goa's press circle are raking up controversies which could make life difficult for the Portuguese here.

In the Assembly, many hours were spent debating whether the Portuguese had the right to hoist their country's flag over a building which actually was not part of the consulate

A driver, claiming to be a tenant in a palatial house bought over by the Portuguese consular officials — reportedly for one crore of rupees — got support for his claims from the MGP opposition. Neighbours in the locality, however, dismissed the veracity of the claims

So far, the Bharatiya Janata Party has been rather ambivalent about its stand over the Portuguese return. Still searching for a base here, the BJP has not yet ventured into this issue in a big way.

Oddly, this ultra-nationalist party which held its National Executive meeting in a hotel here had, as its backdrop, [illegible] of Portuguese heroes and conquistadors.

Students in Goa, which is a sleepy backwater compared to the facilities available in any other major Indian metro, also seem eager to cash in on the scholarships and other pickings offered by the return of the Portuguese

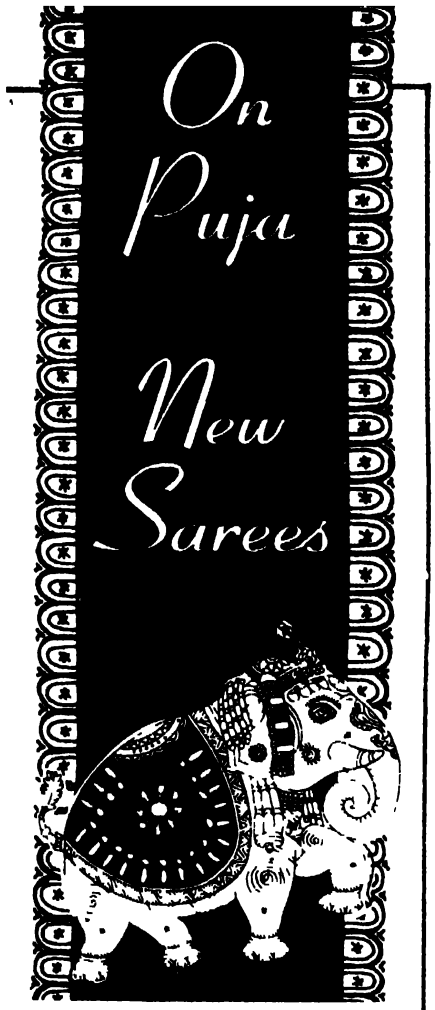
In recent years, an eager number of students have showed interest in learning Portuguese, which can be studied as a third language in Goa

But it was not like this all along

Since 1961 the unceremonious way in which the Portuguese had to be pushed out left a bitter taste behind Resentment against the Portuguese was also considerably strong, and the rather-theocratic nature of the government they ran in the past caused quite a backlash against things Portuguese

Unlike the exit of the British, or even the French, suspicion prevailed between India and this former colonial power Both sides were not even on talking terms till the mid-Seventies

In Goa, ties with Portugal snapped completely Their language was completely forgotten, as many switched to either English or Marathi for education Goa's regional party, the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), which ruled throughout the Sixties



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and Seventies, was virulently anti-anything Portugese

Politically, the Portuguese have had a smoother time with the rise of the Congress in Goa, particularly since with this party, national concerns and real-politik mattered more than the emotions based on the hard feelings of the past

Over the past three-and-a-half decades, the Portuguese influence has been fading fast Barely a couple of Portuguese programmes are aired on Panaji's All India Radio each week In 1983, India's last Portuguese daily, *O Heraldo* (The Herald), was converted into an English broadsheet

Unlike the misconception, the large bulk of Goans were not Portuguese speakers even during colonial rule (And it is just a myth that Goans — with the exception of a microscopic minority — are of part-Portuguese ancestry

For that matter, Goans get badly irked if they are referred to as "Goanese" as some do)

The Portuguese have much to gain if they can reestablish their link with this region One main advantage is economic Lisbon gave a hint of this when its high-level team of 28 trade representatives and officials spent three days in Goa in early April

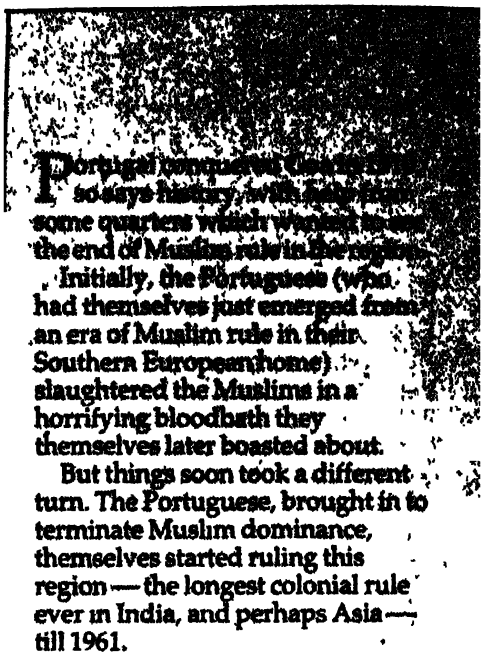
Currently, Portugal's shipbuilding group, Lisnay, said to be the second largest in the world, is completing India's largest dry dock oft Goa in collaboration with the Western India group Lisbon is also aiming to increase the slender toe-hold it currently has in the vast Indian market

There are emotional reasons, too For a country which had its heyday in the 16th century, Portugal remains rather sentimental, living somewhat in its past Some feel that, perhaps, recollecting its role in 'Portuguese India' helps to enhance the self-esteem of a country struggling on the lower rungs of the west European scale

There are even better reasons In 1999, Lisbon's administrative control over the island of Macao, off mainland China, comes to an end Like Hong Kong, this tiny region, too, will be returned to China In this context, it might make good sense to build other baskets in which Lisbon's egg could be laid, so to speak

The Portuguese initiative obviously is three-fold — economic, cultural and social Of these, the attempted business links have been the least controversial

On the cultural front, the Portugue



Portugal conquered Goa [illegible] so says history, with [illegible] some quarters which [illegible] the end of Muslim rule in the region. Initially, the Portuguese (who had themselves just emerged from an era of Muslim rule in their Southern European home) slaughtered the Muslims in a horrifying bloodbath they themselves later boasted about.

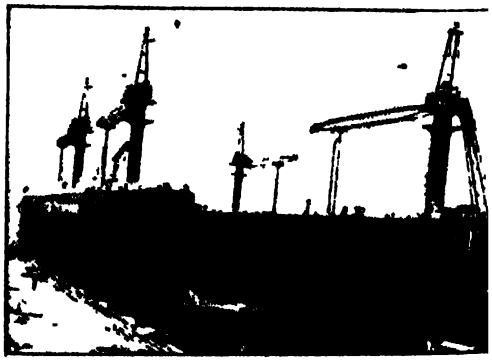
But things soon took a different turn. The Portuguese, brought in to terminate Muslim dominance, themselves started ruling this region — the longest colonial rule ever in India, and perhaps Asia — till 1961.

se have flown in singers and chefs, held book exhibitions and linked up with satellites for Portuguese programmes here A Portuguese foundation, called Fundacao Oriente, which has its base in the offshore enclave of Macao, and Lisbon recently set up headquarters in Goa

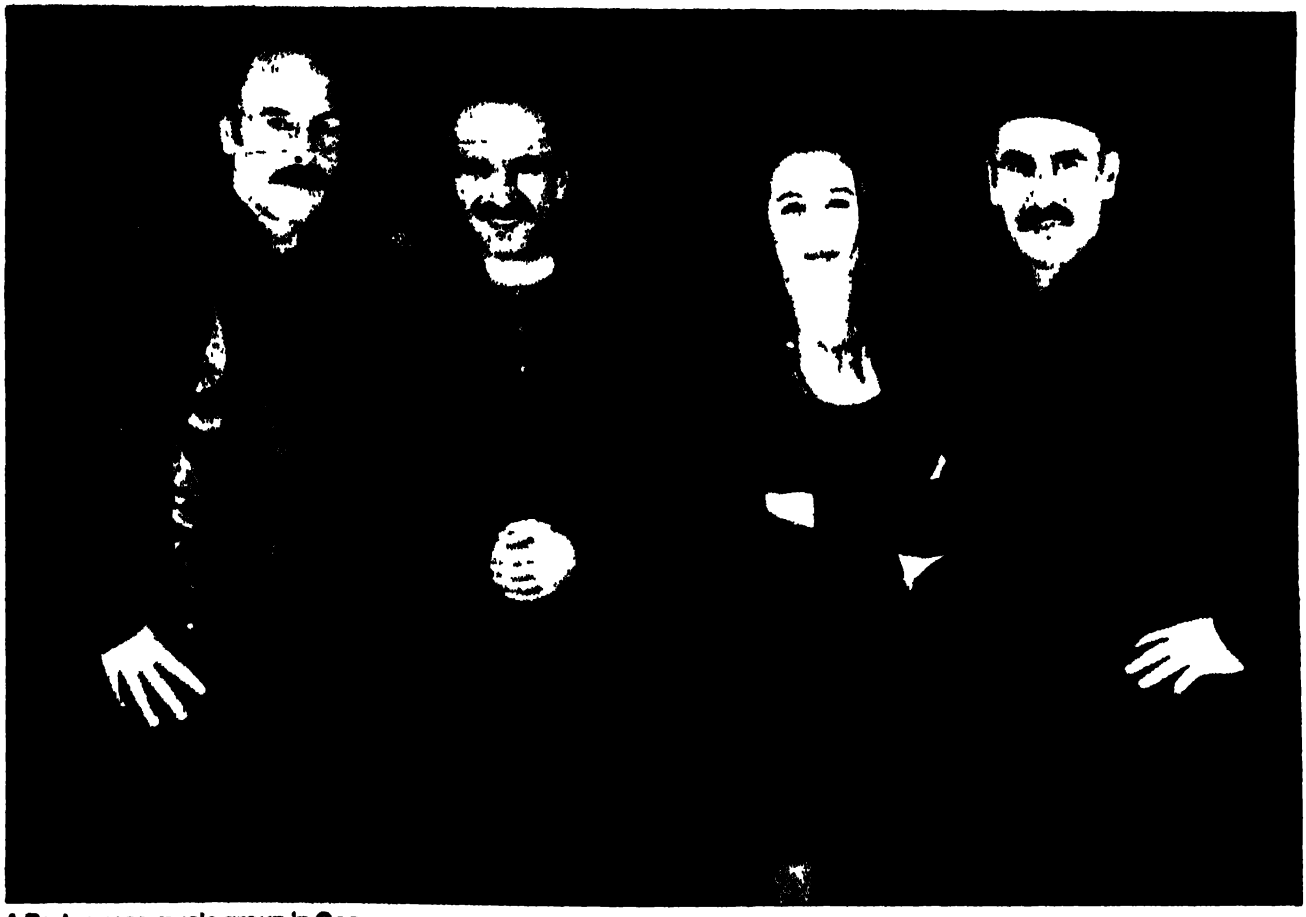
Just as it was being set up sometime in April, there were objections that Fundacao Oriente was actually being funded by gambling money from Macao Carlos Monjardino, Fundacao Oriente president, acknowledges the accusation is true But it is nothing unusual, he maintains, for gambling is legally sanctioned there and there is no moral revulsion attached to it in either Macao or Portugal

During an exhibition of Portuguese books, the titles were priced very cheaply, reminding one of the former USSR's political tracts sold at throwaway prices in India earlier Within five minutes, all the dictionaries in Portuguese were sold out, amid a small stampede of sorts Some

India's largest dry dock set up in Goa with Portuguese help



MOON



A Portuguese music group in Goa

700-plus page dictionaries were sold for as little as Rs 50

"Nobody gives you something for nothing. With cultural grants or aid, there are always strings attached. The purpose is to gain an influence," cautions South Goa MP and Union minister, Eduardo Faleiro He points out that India, too, indulges in this "in good measure" in regions like Mauritius or the Caribbean.

Chief minister Pratapsing Rane has already noted the importance Goa was giving to do business with the Portuguese. With mixed feelings — indifference, and uncertainty about the outcome — the moves are firmly on to re-establish ties which go back centuries

Much of the suspicion may be misplaced But as in fairytales, could there be a happy ending to this relationship which was often unhappy in earlier times?

BENGALI AHOY!

When it comes to travelling, none can beat the Bengalis
***Bishakha De Sarkar** on the great mobile (upwardly, downwardly, horizontally, in any direction) race*

After a bone-wrenching trek, our friend, Malini, reached the last Indian village near the China border after a six-day-long, ordeal with a group of mountaineers

Huffing and puffing, their feet aching, their backs breaking, their lungs bursting, the trekkers finally paused for breath at Chitkul in Himachal Pradesh

Malini looked at the awesome mountains that circled the tiny village in the back of beyond, next to the no-man's land that bordered China This, then, was distant Chitkul in Kinnaur, where few outsiders had ever been Malini soaked in the fresh mountain air, the wild colours of untouched flowers, the warm rays of an unknown sun, the silence of a desolate land

Suddenly, a decrepit state transport bus screeched to a grinding halt near the village And out trooped a column of Bengalis old grandmothers in starched white cotton saris, ageing men in *dhotis* and sneakers, young sons in woollen trousers and off-white shawls, wives in crisp Bengali *taant* and their little children in monkey-caps

"*Ai, idhar gorom jol milegaa* (Is warm water available here?)," a gentleman with a loud voice asked befuddled villagers

If the story has a moral, it is simply this much as you may try, you just cannot keep a Bengali traveller down

Harsh deserts, snowy passes, idyllic hideouts and bustling towns — you will find Bengalis everywhere

They are there during the mellow days of the Pujas, in the cruel months of winter, in the frisky weeks of spring, in the dead heat of summer and in the tempestuous period of the monsoons Umbrella in hand, Borolin in pocket, Digene in bag and monkey-cap on head, the Bengali has touched the remotest spots on the Indian map

Of course, other Indians travel, too, but few seem to do it with the single-minded determination that spurs the Bengali The Bengali journeys against all odds, with little money, but with



immense dedication They are great day-trippers, touch all points of interest next to their base, assiduously visit museums and forts and imbibe as much knowledge as they can in a packed seven-day schedule

The Malayalee and the Punjabi appear to travel more for business than fun It has been said — though unfortunately never verified — that when Hillary and Norgay climbed Mount Everest, they found a lone Malayalee on the world's highest peak "Coffee *venno* (Do you want coffee?)," asked the man with a steaming coffee percolator and a sharp business sense

Gujaratis are other inveterate wayfarers, but their mode of travel is substantially different from that of the Bengalis Gujaratis move around in music-blaring Marutis, put up at the best of hotels and dine in upmarket restaurants

Most Bengalis, on the other hand, travel by bus or train, stay at smaller and inexpensive hotels — usually at the market-place or inexplicably near the railway station — and generally move around on a shoe-string budget

Just last fortnight, three busloads of Bengalis were spotted on a Delhi highway The buses, with West Bengal numberplates, had brought them all the way from Calcutta and were taking them right back home after a tour of the North With towels and *gamchhas* acting as curtains over the windows, the tired Bengalis lolled around on their seats, looking both sated and spent

The Bengali, indeed, can travel in great discomfort But you will not see them late in the evenings, cavorting on the Mall in Manali or at Scandal Point in Shimla By dusk, they are in their rooms, with hot-water bottles, and getting ready to call it a day And early in the morning, when the sky is still an inky blue, they are to be seen at distant peak points, patiently waiting for the first sun rays to lighten up the dark sky

The only time we saw Bengalis a trifle put out was in Kosani in Uttar Pradesh some years ago It could have been a particularly fussy group, or it could have been the non-stop, all-night-long Dylan singing in the adjoining room that triggered the spark

By the next morning, a bunch of grim Bengali men had thrown the gauntlet There was a bitter fight between the group of 20-odd Bengalis — luggage in hand — and the hotel owners "And you should know, our ladies are used to commodes," said one Bengali as a parting shot — no doubt clinching the argument — before herding his family out of the hotel

Yet another aspect of travel that bugs the good Bengali is the unhappy fact that fish is not easily available everywhere

Of course, knowing the Bengalis' penchant for home food, most tourist spots have now made adequate arrangements to suit the picky Bengali palate Large placards proudly proclaim in shaky Bengali letters *"Ekhane maachh-bhaat pawa jaye* (rice and fish are available here)" are as common as the hydrangea blossoms in the hills

Not that all Bengalis like to take a chance when something as grave as food is concerned A group of people from West Bengal, travelling in the Kumaon hills, had prudently taken their own *maharaj* (cook) along That summer, tourists meandering through the Kumaon had to often give way to three Bengali men purposefully carrying a squawking cockerel each

A tourist operator in Delhi holds that though the Bengali traveller is more open to tasting alien cuisine today, he still wants his staple Bengali diet every now and then But stubborn places like Mussoorie continue to deny the poor Bengalis a taste of aquamarine life, *a la kalia* or *shorshey*

"So many Bengalis travel to Mussoorie," rues the operator, "and not one place where they offer Bengali fish"

Enterprising Bengalis, of course, always find a way out of such hardships Some years ago, a Bengali tourist, travelling extensively in the then Soviet Union, yearned for a bit of *maachher jhol*, but there was none to be found in the uncompromising restaurants of Moscow

Then suddenly, just by chance, he managed to lay his hands on just what he wanted He ordered some fish soup, and found — to his great glee — that the bland, clear liquid with pieces of fish floating helplessly in it was just the right substitute for *maachher jhol*

So, as all Bengalis will tell you, when there is a will, there is a way And, of course, as everybody else will say, wherever there is a way, there is a Bengali there ■



TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC-742	0850	1 3
			IC-742	1050	4, 6
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1, 3, 5, 7	PF 702	1610	1, 3, 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
D2 806	1330	1 3 5, 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1010	1, 3, 6 7	IC-722	1250	1 3 6 7
BHUBANESWAR					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC-544	1115	2, 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2, 4, 6	IC-770	2120	2 4, 6
VF-106	1820	1, 4, 6	VF 105	1720	1, 4, 6
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
AI 681	2330	1			
DELHI					
IC 263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 101	1155	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF 737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC-257	1520	2
GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1, 3 4, 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6, 7	IC 230	1620	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	D2-181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
4S 816 811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF-736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF-738	1740	3 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1820	1 4 6	VF 105	1720	1 4 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JAIPUR					
D2 806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
JORHAT					
IC 213	0630	7	IC 213	1035	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2, 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1125	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1720	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0610	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2, 6
TEZPUR					
IC-213	0630	7	IC 213	1035	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1, 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3, 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL-870	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
BANGKOK					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0455	2 4 5 7	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
TG 314	1 55	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 4, 5 7
AI 306	1 10	5	AI 309	1825	6
BUCHAREST					
RO 076	1950	5 7	RO 075	1055	5 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG 698	1735	2 5	BG 697	1655	2 5
DHAKA					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG 094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KATHMANDU					
RA-214	1030	4 7	RA 213	0945	4 7
IC 747	1130	2 4 7	IC 748	1800	2, 4, 7
LONDON					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA 143	1450	3, 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARO					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Romanian Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways **VF** ● VIF Airways Limited

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6 45	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 35	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tue Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thur Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	11 50	2306
2307	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**	3 40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	2 00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 15	3046
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 30	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep Sat Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	1 30	948
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	00	3010
3007	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	10 30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 50	3020
3021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 50	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	6 30	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 10	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7 55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	1 30	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	7 55	1182
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express**	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 2	3104
5085	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6-55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8-20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandel (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
0[illegible]	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	–
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 15	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
	11 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
--	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	–
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
	11 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THE WORDS RUN ON

I must have been eight or nine when my father gave me a small diary, and I began my first tentative forays as a writer or wordsmith, as I have sometimes described my calling Many of those early diary entries were lists- -books read, gramophone records collected, films seen and enjoyed — but even this indulgence was a discipline of sorts and was to stand me in good stead in later years

It made me neat and meticulous, and helped me form the habit of keeping notes and filing away facts, not perhaps essential attributes for a writer, but useful ones

Young writers with natural talent are often handicapped by untidy working habits A friend of mine wrote quite brilliantly but always contrived to lose his manuscripts He now breeds Angora rabbits

During World War 11, my father was serving in the WAF and had to put me in a boarding school in the hill-station of Simla, then the summer capital of British India

I discovered Dickens in the school library, and, captivated by David Copperfield, decided I was going to be a writer like David, who was really Charles Dickens

At the age of 12 I did, in fact, write a short novel, an account of school life —eulogies of my friends, mostly — but it was confiscated by my teacher who thought I was wasting my time He may well have been right

These schoolboy efforts were, however, not really wasted I found I could write in a busy classroom, noisy dormitory, or corner of a playing field That is, when I really wanted to As William Saroyan once said, "All you need is paper" and there was no shortage of that — empty paper bags, wrappers, pages torn from exercise books, the backs of calendars and school circulars The wartime paper shortage did not defeat me

Writing under such conditions, sometimes with a pillow-fight raging around me, was good training too Later in life I found, I was able to write in the crowded compartment of a moving train, or in a room full of children

I love solitude and there is no pleasure to equal that of writing a poem under a blossoming cherry tree, but I am a compulsive writer and when I want to put words to paper I am not fussy about the conditions

Even as I write this piece, a wedding procession is passing along the road beneath my window It is led by a twelve-piece band, at least six of the instruments being trumpets! The drummers have stationed themselves beneath the window My cherry tree is a far cry Yet the cacophony won't stop me from completing this essay Play on, band! Blow, blow, thou windy trumpets! Your piercing notes may have loosened the wax in my ears, but my hand remains steady, the words run on

I had lost my father before I finished my schooling, and at the age of 17, I found myself in the English Channel Islands working in a grocery store, and writing late at night in an attic room provided by an aunt

Most of my relatives were pessimistic about my literary prospects and there were no literary influences on the Islands Late one winter evening I walked along the sea-front, a lonely



Late one winter evening I walked along the sea-front, a lonely figure on the esplanade while a wind of gale-force blew in from the sea, whipping the salt spray against my face. The tide was in, great waves crashed against the sea wall, sending plumes of water over the ramparts. 'This is it!' I thought, these are signs and portents. I must have more resolve. I must not give up

figure on the esplanade while a wind of gale force blew in from the sea, whipping the salt spray against my face The tide was in, great waves crashed against the sea wall, sending plumes of water over the ramparts "This is it!" I thought, these are signs and portents I must have more resolve I must not give up

I decided I would leave for London the next day I was David Copperfield, of course, the grocery store found itself short of an assistant while a London travel agency was richer by a very inexperienced clerk I think it suffered a little because of me, but we both survived, and the first novel got written in fits and starts at weekends and on holidays I was bold enough to look for a publisher and brash enough to find one

'All glory comes from daring to begin' said the blurb on the dust cover of my book But in truth, Glory did nothing of the sort After receiving a few encouraging reviews, the book all but disappeared from sight But the advance I received enabled me to return to India More determined than ever to be a full-time writer



In Dehra Dun, the small town I had known as a boy, I set up a 'shop' in a small apartment near the bazaar and made a precarious living from submitting my stories and articles to the English language press in India

But this was one of the happiest periods of my life Still in my twenties, I was independent, free to write as I pleased, monarch of all I surveyed — which was the local bus stand, a row of small barber shops, and a large tamarind tree dominating everything else When I passed through Dehra the other day, I was glad to find the tamarind still there

After two years of freelancing, circumstances took me to Delhi and Bombay, but I have always preferred the small towns of India to its cities I feel lost in the big city, and too much the stranger in a village I'm a small town person and when I came to live in the hills and freelance again, it was on the outskirts of a small town that I took up residence

This is, for the most part, a quiet place, and it suits a quiet person If I want to write on a sunny hillside or in the shade of a chestnut tree, there is nothing to prevent me from doing so But I like my desk near the window, close to the busy little road leading to the bazaar The daily business of life does not distract me

The marriage procession with its out-of-tune band has moved on Now a car has stalled on its way up the hill A truck on the way down cannot get past There is a furious honking of horns and an exchange of words which are not in the best interests of global harmony It is all part of my writing life Blow your horn, charioteer! My hand is steady, and the words run on

(Sanctuary Features)

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

SUMMER IN SUBURBIA

Summer in England, once schools have broken up, is a time to learn Parents gird their loins and prepare to travel up to London to take their children to the Natural History Museum, or the zoo, or the London Dungeon or Madame Tussaud's or the excellent Museum of the Moving Image where they can stand back and relax as their children fly like Superman up the Thames, take part in a mock TV interview, or learn to make a primitive cartoon

Wherever they go in London they will feel they are in a minority This is, you see, also the time of the year when foreign students descend in droves Once Britain colonised and ruled a huge pink area on the globe, its language a symbol of its might

Now, each summer England is itself colonised, if only temporarily, by tens of thousands of youngsters all come to sightsee and practice their English, perhaps the country's last great asset

I, too, with my best friend in school, became a guide for five young Sicilians fresh from Palermo Together, on one very hot summer's day we visited the Houses of Parliament, St James' Park, Trafalgar Square, The British Museum, Covent Garden market (for shopping — Italian students love shopping), Waterloo Bridge and the Museum of the Moving Image

We started with five students and we ended with five which is a miracle because today's children just won't walk in crocodiles and whenever I counted them during the day I could find no more than four I was exhausted by the evening and so, I am glad to say, were they

In the process I learnt many things For example, British television's coverage of the House of Lords often shows peers of the realm reclining on the red upholstery as if asleep or dead However, they are neither Small amplifiers are fitted into the seats in such a position that you cannot hear speeches through them unless you are practically supine

Taking other children to the zoo and the Natural History Museum, I was forced to learn more about the damage we are doing to our environment and the species we are destroying But, then, even in suburbia you cannot escape ecological disaster stories

The last one I mentioned in this column was the falling fertility levels in Europe due to pollution Word of mouth in suburbia had it that we were inhaling substances which disbalanced hormones That is not necessarily true It seems more likely that these substances are in food and drink

First the evidence A team of Parisian doctors led by Dr Augur studied donations to a Paris sperm bank by 1300 donors between 1973 and 1990 Their conclusion, a blow to macho French pride, was that sperm counts of Parisian men had fallen by a third over this period The finding confirmed evidence from three previous studies which had already reported that European fertility patterns were changing

Although the French government and the chemical industry attempted to discredit Dr Augur's evidence, the British government accepted it and has linked falling fertility with rises in breast and testicular cancer

Now each summer England is itself colonised, if only temporarily, by tens of thousands of youngsters all come to sightsee and practice their English, perhaps the country's last great asset

But why is this happening? Ecologists think they have the answer They put the blame on synthetic organic chemicals, 197 5 billion kilograms of which are produced in the US alone each year, most of which ends up in humans

Ecologists point out that hormone-disrupting chemicals have been found in wildlife from the Arctic to Antarctica If their hormones can be disrupted, so can ours

The defence, represented by governments, scientists and industry (the latter nowadays funding much scientific research) argue that chemicals are innocent until proven guilty and that tests they make prove chemicals are safe

The ecologists reply that this is a polluters' charter and that present-day testing methods are hopelessly outdated Many scientists, too, believe that we cannot correctly assess the effect of chemicals we do not fully understand on our biology which we don't prperly understand either There is no long-term research on the effect of these chemicals, either singly or in combinations, on humans

Such research would have to be extensive to be effective, bearing in mind that over 1,000 new chemicals come on the market each year

In short, we do not know for sure what is causing fertility rates to fall, but something certainly is

Public opinion in suburbia and many other parts of the West, however, backs the ecologists against industry and its allies, government and scientists

Although the green lobby's scientific claims often lack objectivity, they have been proved right on such issues as the dangers of nuclear radiation, asbestos dust causing cancer, CFCs causing ozone damage and the dangers of acid rain The triumvirate of vested interests has too often been seen to be forced by them into considering the public good

(Sanctuary Features)

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries
March 21—April 20



The planets in your sign help you to get over any obstacles that might be troubling you, renovate the house and get set for a holiday You will also chalk out a plan or a project for the next few months, despite the delays and disputes There will be enough to keep you occupied

Taurus
April 21—May 20



The planetary sextile indicates a journey, hectic correspondence, contracts and contacts, and a good boost to your self-esteem You may also go in for totally different and new activities Loans and funds will be available for both work and pleasure Health of elders may cause concern

Gemini
May 21 - June 20



The sudden burst of activity will prod you into renovation, decoration, selling, buying, and transactions Trust your intuition to guide you You are likely to embark on a journey and a home away from home might be on the cards Focus on news, views and messages

Cancer
June 21 July 20



You will entertain in style and amuse others around you in many ways Research, finances, leasing and selling take up much of your time Your leadership quality will make itself felt The planetary formations are such that they will help you to reach out to people and places

Leo
July 21—August 21



The stars will promote gains, gaiety and the good things of life Loans, funds, insurance, joint finances, and a legacy are on the cards Close ties and connections will certainly develop You are assured of a home away from home in the next fortnight or so

Virgo
August 22—September 22



This week fortells a round of hard work with rewards thrown in for good measure You might opt for a change of job, or an entirely new line of activity might open up for you in your profession or business Ceremonies, journeys, and publicity will keep you busy and contented

Libra
September 23—October 22



Things will now happen swiftly and suddenly You will be involved in behind-the-scene activities A romantic encounter, secret affairs and sudden help are foretold Your spiritual insights will open up making you more introspective Health caution is essential

Scorpio
October 23—November 22



The moon in your sign makes you regain your stability, make quick bucks, take chances, attend to the house close deals and live life to the very full Lucky breaks are definitely in store Group activities are foretold, so be prepared to be outgoing Travel and trips are probable

Sagittarius
November 23—December 20



The planetary conjunction suggests there will be romance, creativity at white heat, hobbies, research and a busy social life The birth of children or conception could be a distinct possibility You will excel at meetings and conferences Learn to make adjustments if you want to do well

Capricorn
December 21—January 19



Be open to ideas, communicate more freely, fan out to people and places as it is necessary to get off to a quick start You may have to go in for buying, selling leasing and funding A journey is definitely foretold This is going to be an action-packed week for you

Aquarius
January 20—February 18



This a time for you to have fun and enjoy the good things in life For your leisure has been well earned Monetary transactions will figure importantly this week Sports, research, children, education give joy Close and intimate ties are foretold You will be extremely popular among friends

Pisces
February 19—March 20



Ties, links, connections and partnerships are definitely going to matter this week Your social circle will widen considerably Friends and well-wishers will prove their devotion and loyalty to you Mid-week seems lucky for you Get set for hard work

BIRTHDAYS

September 3: This could be a year when dreams come true You will be immensely popular with those around you Those in publicity do well.

September 4: Learn to find out who are your friends and who are your foes The health of elders could cause worry and stress, but be practical

September 5: There are a lot of opportunities knocking at your door So make the most of it Those who are in travel and trade do splendidly

September 6: Help will surely come your way, provided you cooperate. Your true merit will finally be recognised, and friendship, laughter and love comes your way

September 7: This is a time for journeys, collaborations, and moments of inspiration Your homefront will take up a lot of your time

September 8: You will do well in your area of work So there is no cause for concern Your enemies will be active but be open and friendly

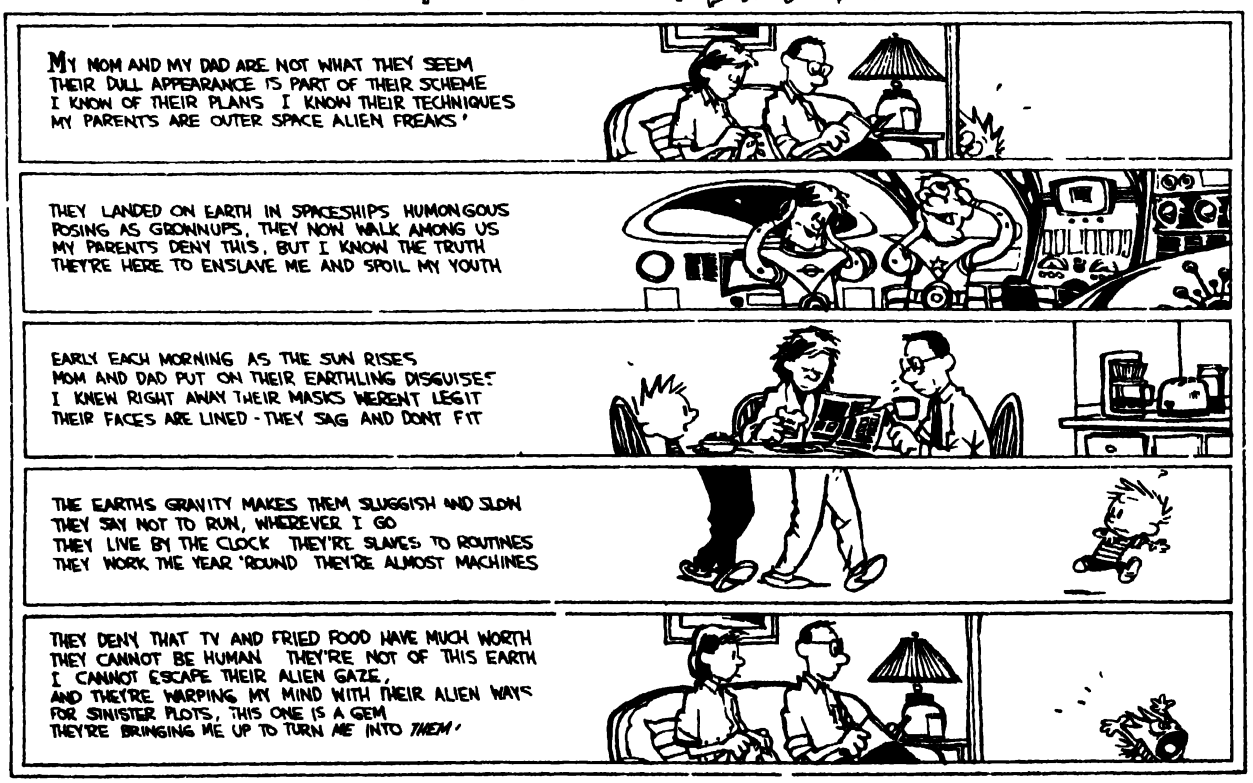
September 9: Take things one at a time That way you will be able to tackle adverse situations better Socially, this could be an eventful birthyear

Owing to pressure on space, 'Junior Whirl' could not be carried this week — Editor

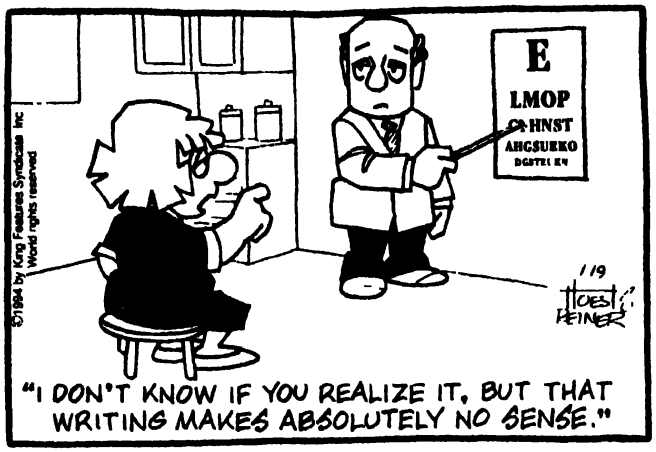
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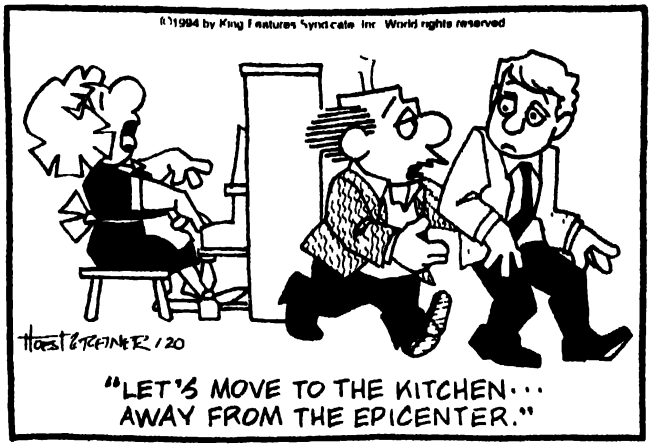


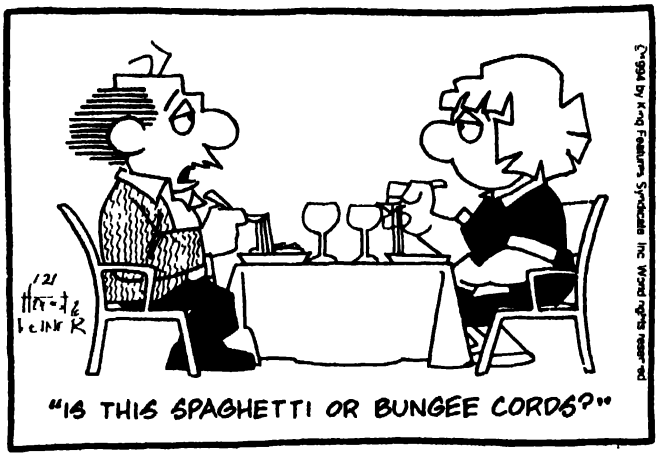
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON

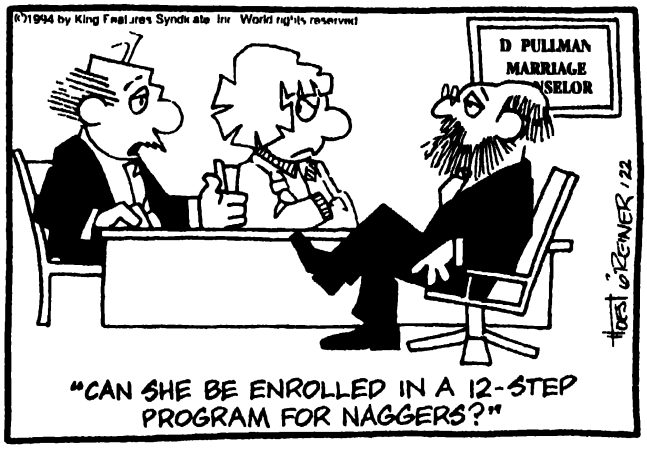


THE LOCKHORNS

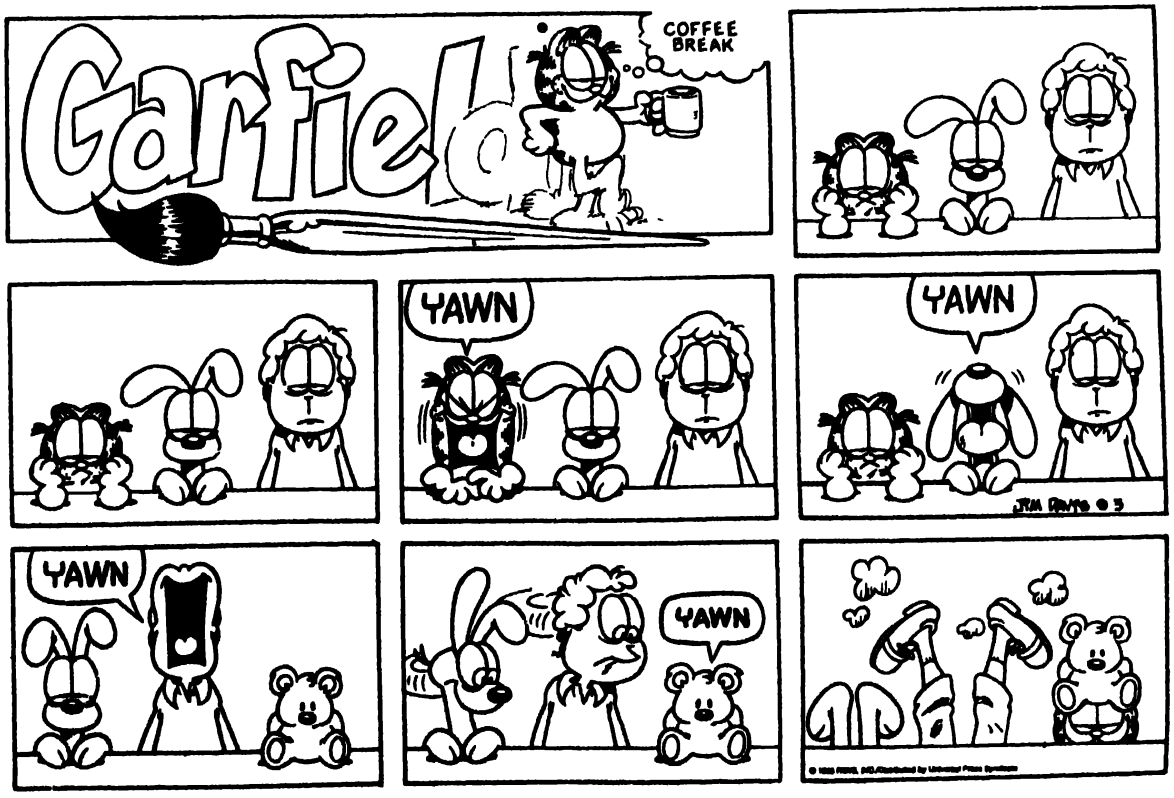






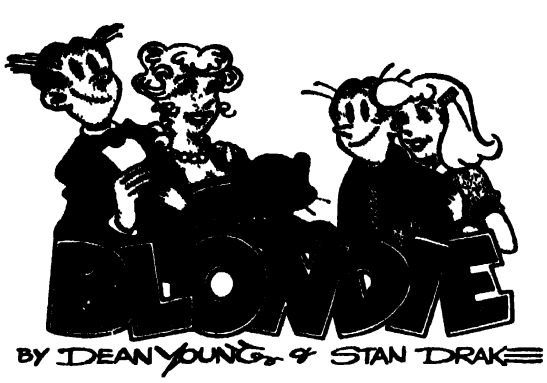


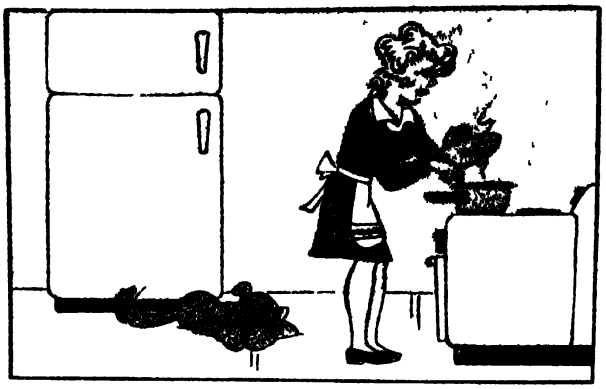
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

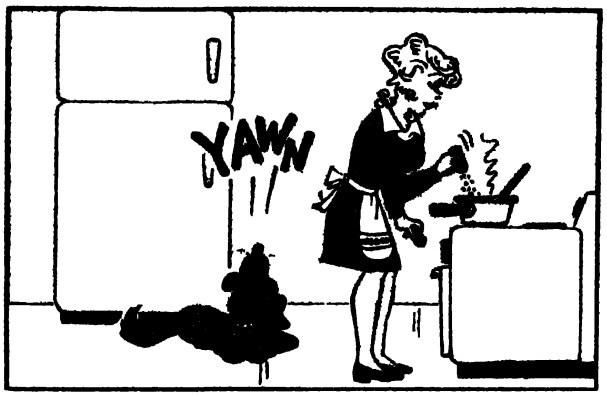


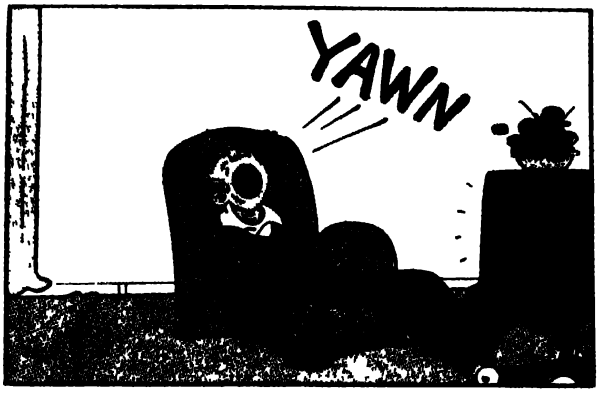
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

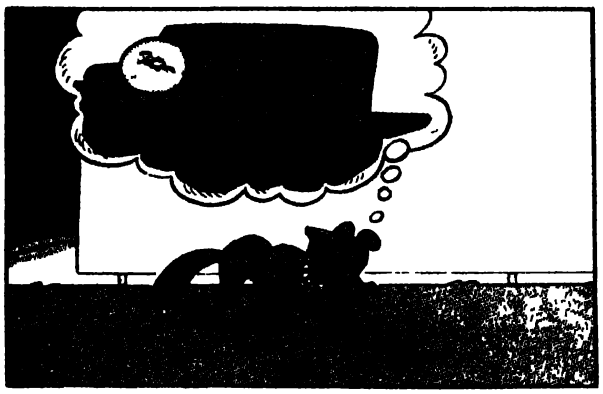


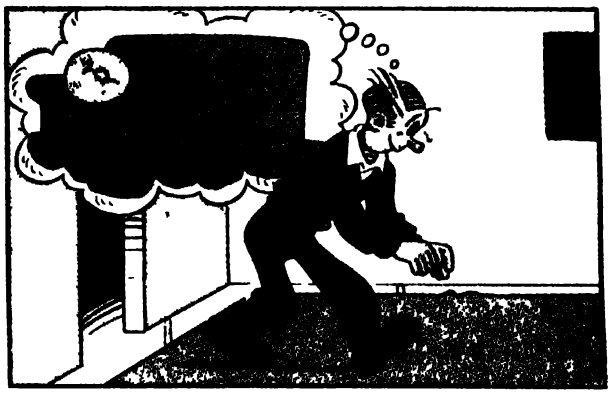


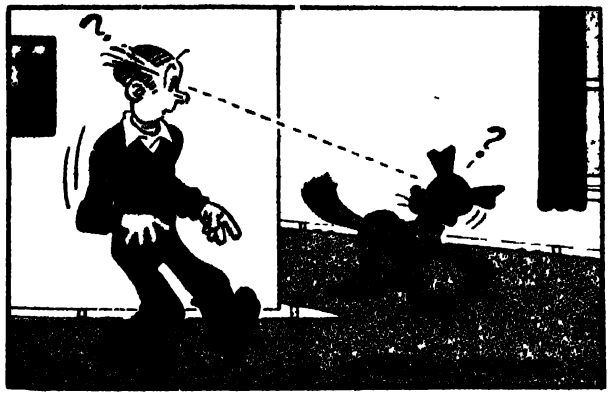




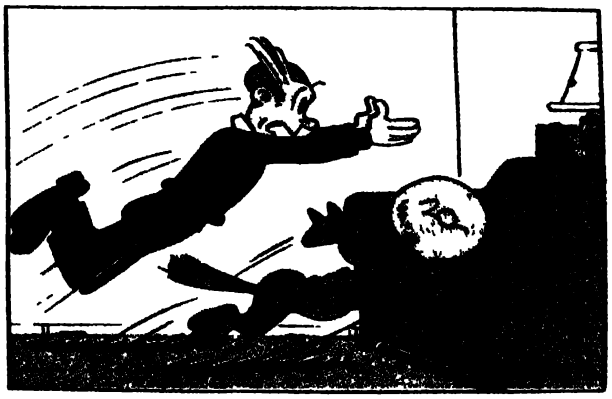








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BURNING DESIRES

Books continue to be written about Katharine Hepburn, one of Hollywood's most enigmatic characters. The latest biography, says ***Martin Walker,*** *dwells on her life and lovers including Spencer Tracy (who thought she was a whore)*

Only one woman knows the answers. And Katharine Hepburn is not telling whether she had an affair with director John Ford, or whether her lifelong lover, Spencer Tracy, had VD and thought of her as a whore

"My privacy is my own I am the one to decide whether it will be invaded," is perhaps the best known line from the only Hollywood actress to win four Oscars

She is now fiercely guarding that privacy in the storm over the 20th book her life has inspired "The rest is silence," was the only on-the-record comment to emerge from Hepburn's camp, told by her agent Freya Manston The fuss began with the publication of Barbara Leaming's new biography, *Katharine Hepburn*

Its ecstatic review in the *New York Times* was followed by an almost unprecedented two pages of attacks and defence Dan Ford, grandson and biographer of the director who made *Stagecoach* and *The Grapes of Wrath*, complains that John Ford was no drunk and that there was no grand affair

Leaming, he concludes, has wildly exaggerated the relationship as "one of several convenient plot devices to add drama, mystery and a new twist to what is otherwise another ho-hum biography." Selden West, the authorised biographer of Spencer Tracy, is apoplectic, accusing Leaming of bending "the facts to establish a romantic triangle that simply never existed"



With Spencer Tracy in *Woman of the Year*: Rage pair

Katharine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy and John Ford are as eminent a triad as Hollywood has ever produced.

And a feud which has their heirs and biographers locked in a vicious dispute over who did what with whom in Hollywood's golden days would be news enough. But from her first screen hit in *Little Women*, Hepburn has always been a symbol of a great actress She fore-

shadowed a generation of self-confident, assertive and above all intelligent feminism that was to become a social and political force in the Seventies The great power of her films with Tracy, from *Woman of the Year* to *Adam's Rib*, stemmed from the way that this unusually self-reliant woman was fated to subordination by her own will

The great fascination of her life story stems equally from the degree to which it was parallel ed in her film life with Tracy They never married, because he would not give up his Catholic wife But they were together for 27 years, and made nine films together He died 17 days after they finished *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and she has never been able to watch it, although the role won her an Oscar In Hepburn's autobiography, *Me*, she chronicles an extraordinary relationship

It saw her sleeping outside his hotel bedroom when he was on a drunken bender and saying her farewell at the funeral parlour, leaving him to be buried by the woman who was still his wife "I always say Spencer grew me beyond my potential," was Hepburn's own summary in a film she made two years ago, called *All About Me* "I made it. I know a lot about life I've been lucky. Thank you, Spencer."

In Leaming's account, the relationship becomes a nightmare, with a man who beats up prostitutes, and believes his VD caused the deafness of his son. "A cruel, erratic figure" who was driven to drag Hepburn down into his own misery and darkness. "Full of self-loathing as he was, he seemed to enjoy humiliating Kate by bringing her down to his own level; turning a woman of that calibre into his mistress. Tracy reminded himself and others of the moral depths to which he had sunk."



Hepburn: 'Katharine of Arrogance'

Leaming presents Tracy as the antithesis of the Hepburn family and its feminist values. She chronicles a disastrous visit when Hepburn took him to the patrician family beachhouse on the Connecticut shore

"The Hepburns did not argue with his conservative views or ask whether he intended to marry their daughter " Tracy's official biographer counters that there is no evidence for the venereal infection, and that it is "an utter falsehood" to assert that he would visit Hepburn in the evening, have his drunken way "and leave when he had finished".

Leaming does not suggest the Hepburn-Ford relationship was sexually consummated Although she calls them "lovers", she admits she does not know But she does claim that Ford was the only person who understood Hepburn, while going on to infuriate his family by claiming he was "a periodic alcoholic" who turned to Hepburn to escape his "shrill and argumentative and monstrous wife"

The usual drama of Hepburn's private life has been dated to the Forties and Fifties, the years with Tracy The documentary record for the Ford-Hepburn affair is thin; five letters from him, of which only one is explicitly romantic, and 16 from her, including postcards and telegrams.

Since Hepburn is not talking, we may never know what happened. Her autobiography says only. "We became friends, and from time to time during his life we met." Whatever its flavour, the friendship with Ford took place during the most gruelling phase of her career "Katharine of Arrogance" became her Hollywood nickname, reflecting the spiky, uncompromising personality which matched the screen roles that enthralled, but also baffled the cinema audiences of the Thirties

Sylvia Scarlett in 1936 saw the first overt flirtation with androgyny, a blurring of male-female roles that was as old as the theatre, but startling in Hollywood Her studio, RKO, tried to force her into roles she despised She bought out her contract, weathered the charge that she was "box-office poison" and Dorothy Parker's celebrated sneer that "Miss Hepburn runs the gamut of human emotions from A to B"

She remade her career by starring on Broadway in *The Philadelphia Story*, and armed with the film rights to the play came back to storm Hollywood again. But this time it was on her own terms, and she remained as assertive off-camera as she was on set, quite ready to bully any man, except Tracy.

"She lectured the hell out of me on temperance and the evils of drink," recalled Humphrey Bogart, after they made *The African Queen*. "She doesn't give a damn how she looks. I don't think she tries to be a character I think she is one."

And so she remains, after a new biography and a literary row which has the publishers celebrating As Hepburn says in *The Philadelphia Story* "Oh, we're going to talk about me, are we? Goody!"

(The Guardian News Service)

Ford was the only person who understood Hepburn, while going on to infuriate his family by claiming he was 'a periodic alcoholic' who turned to Hepburn to escape his 'shrill and argumentative...and monstrous wife'

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

The Fringe

The train gathered
speed,
Time is crucial to a
tarveller
eager to be gone
Outside, the daylight
was failing
and I had left my life
just like a parked car

When I pushed up
the window of the
compartment
strange faces
flurried against my face
As the train raced
towards the curve of the
earth
I realised —
the disguise had been
taken off me

Stripped of my mask
my body looked unreal
as though sprayed
with blue paint
and suspended on a cliff
Here on the fringe
yesterday looks like a
vista
that has retreated
into a snowy haze

Swati Chakraborty

A Rare Bird

I am aware where the far-
mer in his farmstead
And the woman in her
slum are nightly
slaughtered
I know too, how
eccentric distortions
get vulgar acceptance
and pass as art

Here the river blesses
sprouting crops and
their roots
And it is here that
people lose a patch
Of the dark soil of their
dreaming

A dead artist's gifts
remembered
incites the feelings
and the stern trees bend
in grief

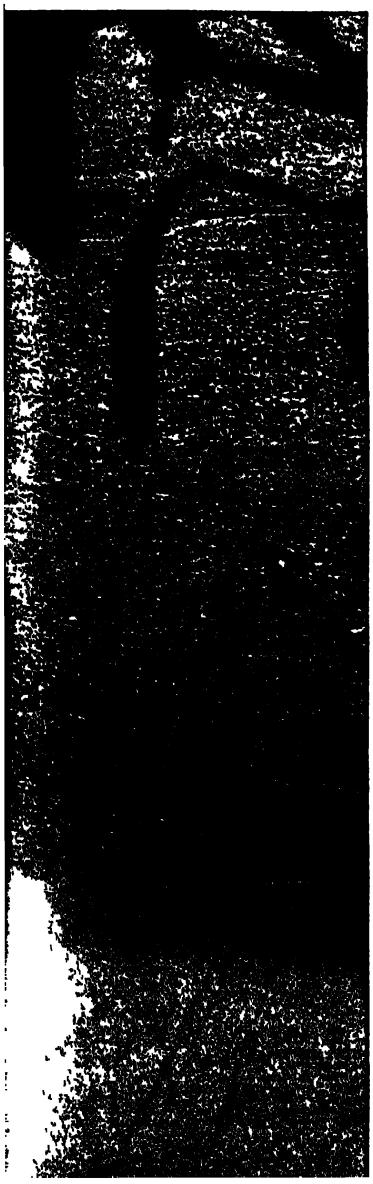
It's scaring the way
animals hunt here!
Some just knock your
shelters to the ground
While others whet a
taste for human flesh



It has come to such a pass that
even if his flute emits a lone note
predators stalk and kill the unwary cowherd

Such a pass that
even he is a rare bird of poetry
Who finds a friend in each standing tree

Cheniram Gogoi
(Translated from Assamese by Pradip Acharya)



Kaushik Bhattacharyya

Sea in the Fishermen's Village

Every night the sea
rushes into the fishing village
When black corpses
would be rolling on the roadside
When queers warm themselves
by the fire in the shivering cold
And when age dances
beneath the arrogant breast—
At all times the sea
rushes into the fishing village

It pushes open the frail
palm-frond door
Moving on tiptoe to put
out the oilwick lamp
Laying out the wounds
to dry on a fishy mat
Plunging into a body of bones
And smouldering in the smoke
of burnt sandalwood
Towards morning the
shadows of blood
Grow long to reach the seashore,
The sea gets lost in some island,
Corpses would be arranging the pyre
The queers dressing themselves in expensive silks

And slowly, the light
would be coming back

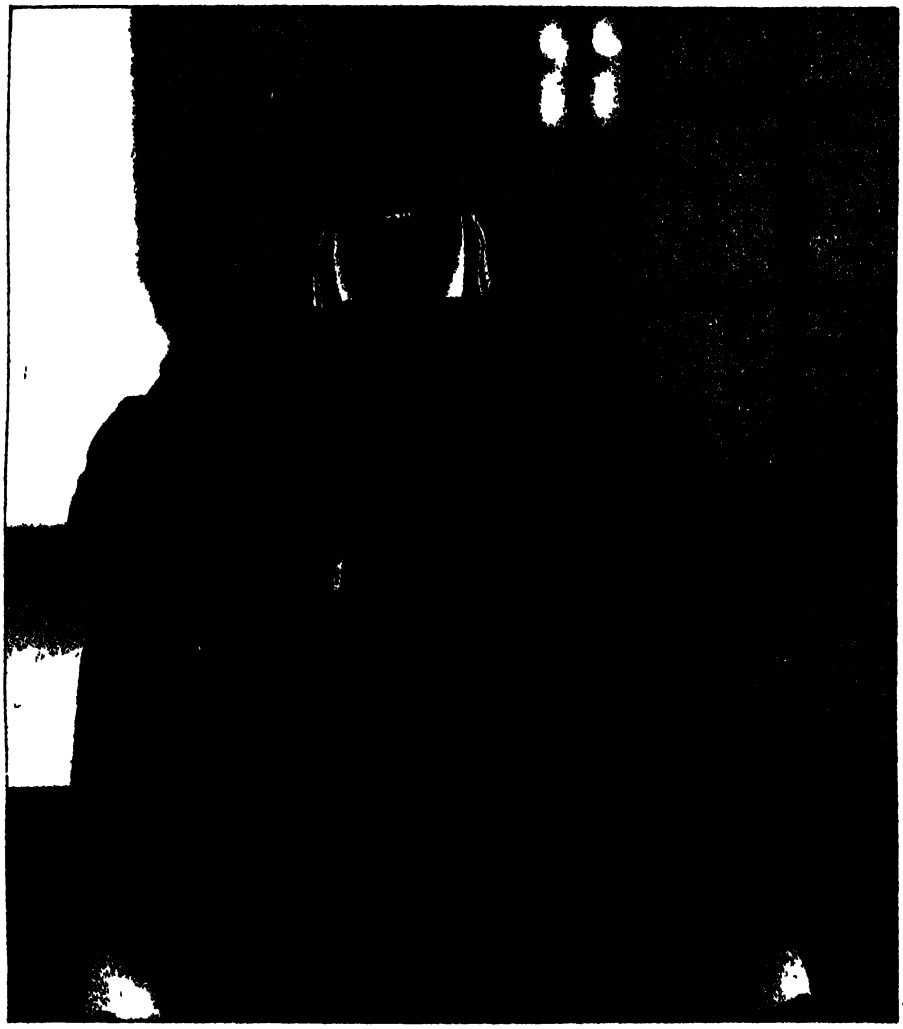
Once again darkness
piles up
In the sea's eyes, and
each night
The sea rushes into the
fishing village.

Samarendra Nath Mahapatra

(Translated from Oriya by Jayanta Mahapatra)



VINOD KAMBLI, *for much of his career, has lived under the shadow of his younger school chum Sachin Tendulkar. Except, of course, for a while in early 1993 when he registered double-hundreds in successive Tests. In more recent times, he has not had the same luck. In the Asia Cup, he was even dropped from the first 11. But Kambli, who is prone to experimenting with earrings and his visage, is more than determined to be a megahit in the coming season*



Tarapada Banerjee

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Peace of mind. Success, self-satisfaction, love, give and take.
What is your greatest fear?
God.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
God. My family. My wife and her family. My cousin, Avinash Kadam. Achrekar Sir and Gavaskar Sir. Sachin.
What do you dislike most in others?
Dishonesty and jealousy.
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My temper.
What is your most precious possession?
Ability to play cricket and I hope to play for the country for long and in the proper spirit.
What objects do you always carry?
Nothing.
What makes you most depressed?
When I don't reach a target I've set.

What is your favourite journey?

Life and, yes, cricket which is a journey

How would you like to die?

In the arms of my beloved wife.

What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My black, or brown, skin.
What is your favourite word?
Love.
What is your favourite journey?
Life and, yes, cricket which is a journey.
What is your favourite dream?
Becoming the world's number one cricketer.
What is your nightmare?
Getting out for zero.
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
God, my family and my wife's family, Sachin and Avinash.
What is your source of sustenance?
Loyalty and confidence.
On what occasions do you lie?
Just for fun. And even when I do, I make sure it does not hurt anybody.

What do you dislike most on your appearance?

My black, or brown, skin

What is your greatest regret?
Nothing.
What has been your happiest moment?
When my parents brought me into this world.
What brings tears to your eyes?
Poverty, the sight of people without food, shelter and communal riots.
How do you relax?
Listening to music (at home or in the car) and in my wife's company.
What do you envy most in others?
Honesty. Good sense of humour.
How would you like to be remembered?
As a good human being.
How would you like to die?
In the arms of my beloved wife.*

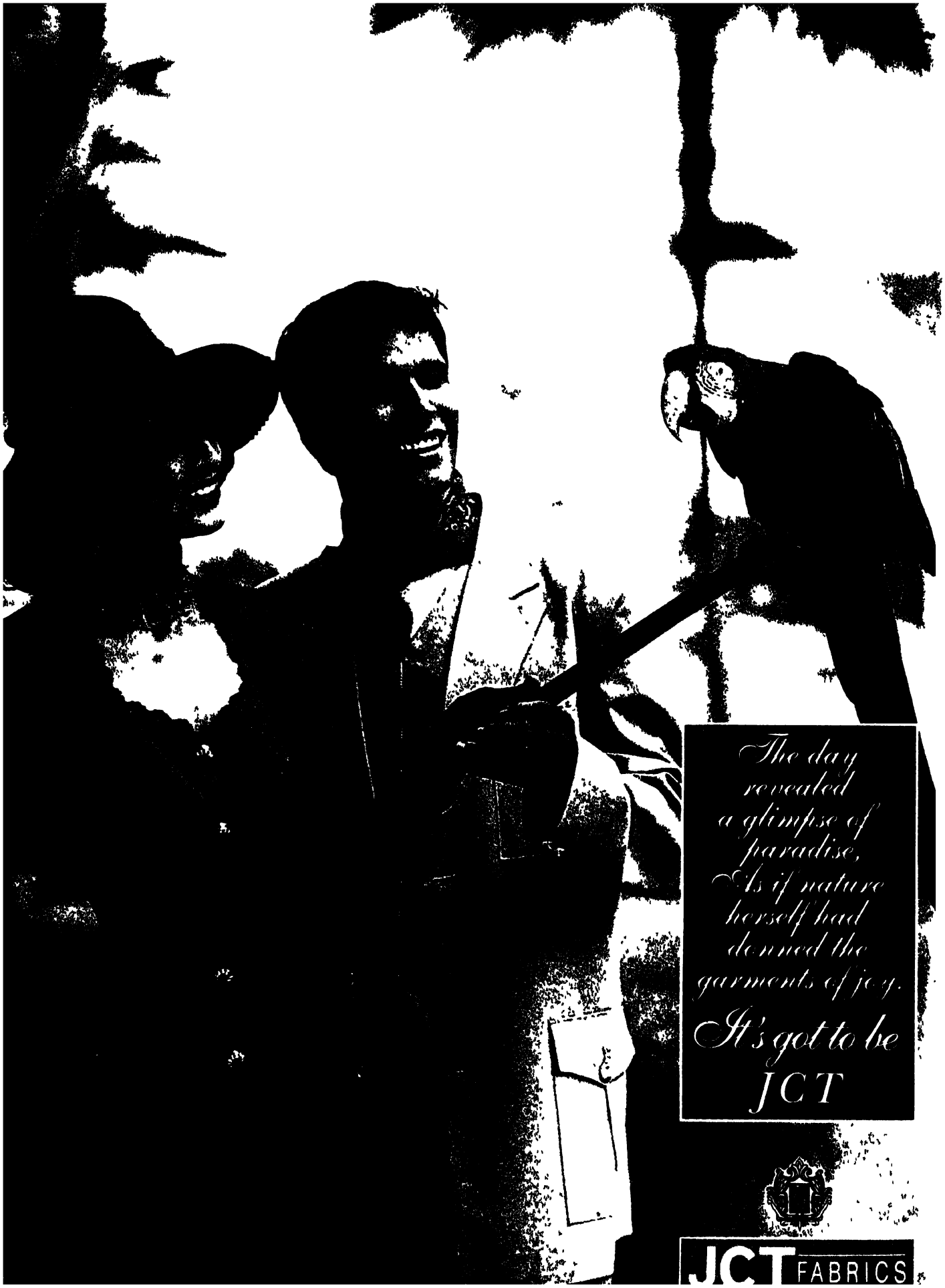
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THE MACHINE..
THE TYRE...
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Tyres with Muscle


The day
revealed
a glimpse of
paradise,
As if nature
herself had
donned the
garments of joy.
It's got to be
JCT
JCT FABRICS

10 SEPTEMBER 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Trouble in Tribal Land

■ Though the decline of ancient tribal traditions is lamentable (because of various religious influences), it cannot be denied that such forces contribute greatly towards the well-being of these sections ('At the Crossroads', August 6)

Both Hinduism and Christianity are highly advanced religions, modern in thought and outlook, and have a deep impact on believers

Cut off from the mainstream and living in a world dominated by pagan beliefs and rituals, the tribals are grossly unaware of science and still hold many evils (like killing their womenfolk for being witches) as part of their life

Religious forces should work towards eradicating such ills from tribal society and not just make them pawns in their nefarious designs to acquire power.

Talking of keeping alive tribal culture and tradition sounds politically correct, but does it also not mean keeping them in the darkness of ignorance?

Manoj Kumar Jain, Shyamnagar (W B)



Jagdish Yadav

The tribals of Chhotanagpur: Pawns for political gains?

Brando's Last Tango

■ That Marlon Brando had a disastrous personal life is known to all, but did it warrant so many pages of graphic reporting ('The Marlon Mystique', July 30)?

Brando as an actor and star is unsurpassed in Hollywood; each film presented him in a fresh role — *A Streetcar Named Desire, On the Waterfront, Viva Zapata, The Godfather, The Last Tango in Paris.*

As lovers of Hollywood movies and its icons we would like to learn more about Brando as an actor. Why do we need to delve into his personal affairs?

A genius, we all know, is most often eccentric And for such a superb actor caprices and eccentricities cannot be ruled out.

Siddhartha Ghosh, Calcutta

Remember Romeo?

■ The cover story, 'So You Think 13 is Unlucky?' (July 9) where the writer talks about Romeo and Juliet was highly offensive William Shakespeare must have turned in his grave

It would prove very lucrative for the writer if he turned to penning scripts for third-rate Hindi films

I had expected the cover story would help erase the stigma attached to the figure 13 But it turned out to be a story full of cheap humour

I have been reading the Magazine since my school days and I have been noticing a discernible deterioration in the quality of its articles

As this is the 50th anniversay of World War II why don't you publish something on this?

Malini Bhupta, Calcutta

Best Man

■ No matter how many high-voltage celebs you feature in First Person including, of course, the vibrant Kajol (August 6) none of them can exude the same charm as did the Common Man (July 9)

Sunil Banerjee, Calcutta

***The Common Man was forwarded all the bouquets from our readers. He could not understand why the flowers had been plucked and destroyed in the first place. And then, reciprocated with:* Mera sar jhuka hai, jhuka hi rahega tumhare liye... — Editor.**

INSIDE



PAGE 4

IF IT'S a coup, it's got to be Rekha again This time she's grabbed another revolutionary role in Basu Bhattacharya's film, *Aastha.* And Bhattacharya, who specialises in the man-woman film, promises this will be a bold film.

PAGE 26

AFTER *THE Client* and *The Firm,* John Grisham tops the bestsellers' list again with *The Rainmaker*

SECTIONS

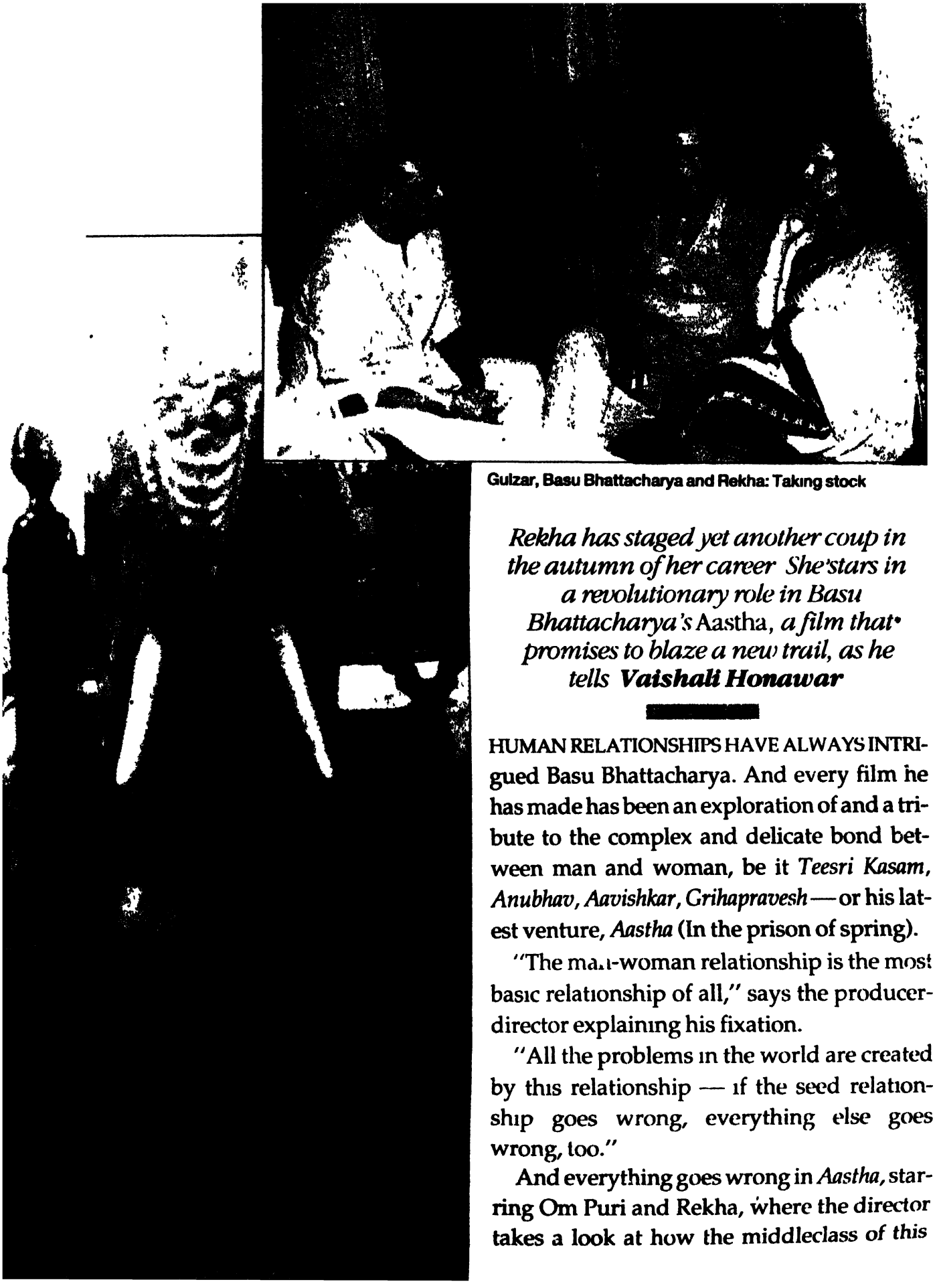
16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 FOCUS
29 IN
30 HUMOUR

COVER STORY

STAR PLUS

Rekha as the middleclass housewife who strays; in *Aastha*





Gulzar, Basu Bhattacharya and Rekha: Taking stock

Rekha has staged yet another coup in the autumn of her career She stars in a revolutionary role in Basu Bhattacharya's Aastha, *a film that promises to blaze a new trail, as he tells* ***Vaishali Honawar***

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS HAVE ALWAYS INTRIgued Basu Bhattacharya. And every film he has made has been an exploration of and a tribute to the complex and delicate bond between man and woman, be it *Teesri Kasam, Anubhav, Aavishkar, Grihapravesh* — or his latest venture, *Aastha* (In the prison of spring).

"The man-woman relationship is the most basic relationship of all," says the producer-director explaining his fixation.

"All the problems in the world are created by this relationship — if the seed relationship goes wrong, everything else goes wrong, too."

And everything goes wrong in *Aastha*, starring Om Puri and Rekha, where the director takes a look at how the middleclass of this



Basu Bhattacharya deals with the woman's sexuality head-on.... 'She's a loving wife and a loving mother, but she's sexually unfulfilled and as a prostitute that is something she gains,' he says. 'Which doesn't mean she doesn't love her husband. She tries to make their sex life more interesting...'

country copes with the pressures and lure of consumerism

The film, written, produced and directed by Bhattacharya himself, is about an honest professor who earns just his salary and nothing more because he needs whatever spare time he can get to spend with his wife and daughter

They, on the other hand, want more of the worldly comforts they see around themselves than he can afford

The daughter goes to boarding school where she studies alongside the children of rich parents and soon she begins to ask for 'rich things', too When she wants a pair of Nike shoes and the mother pleads with her husband to buy them, he counters with middleclass logic "What she needs are shoes, they don't have to be Nike "

The film takes a rather shocking turn when the wife, having failed to prod her husband into taking tuitions after college hours, lets herself be drawn into prostitution through a procuress (played by the child actress of yesteryear, Daisy Irani) to earn that extra buck

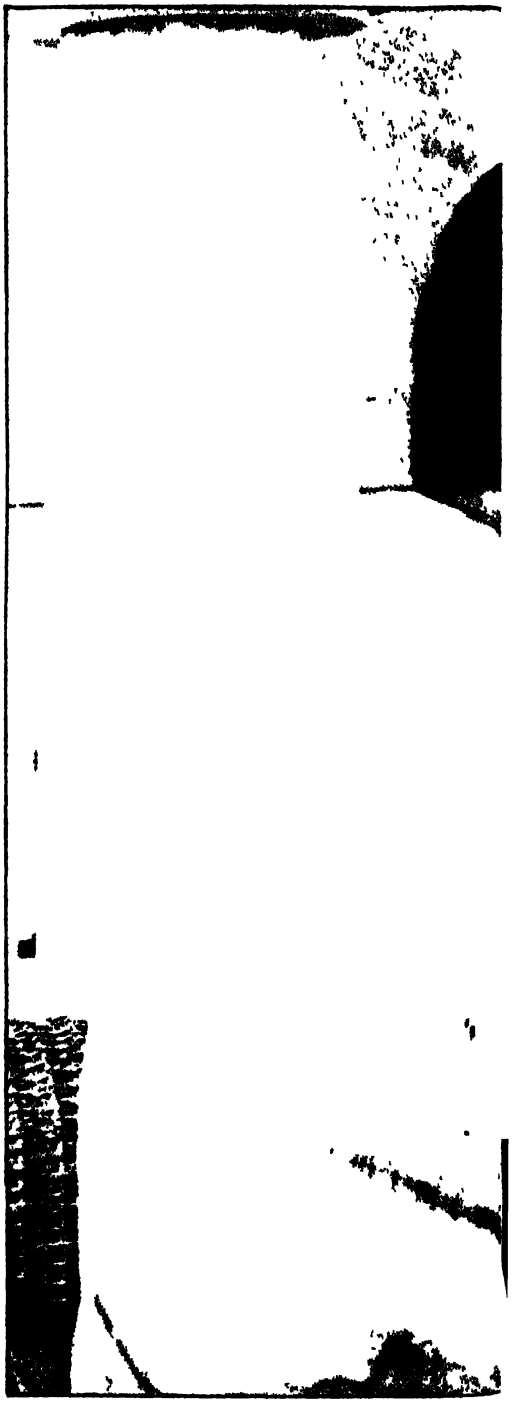
And she starts lying to her husband to explain away the expensive things she buys

Bhattacharya deals with the woman's sexuality head-on instead of skirting it "She's a loving wife and a loving mother, but she's sexually unfulfilled and as a prostitute that is something she gains," he says

"Which doesn't mean she doesn't love her husband — she would never leave him She even tries to make their sex life more interesting with her newly acquired knowledge and when he asks her where she learnt it, she tells him she saw a blue film at the neighbour's house "



Om Puri and Rekha: Estranged bed fellows



Om Puri with Anweshna Bhattacharya: Moral

Parallel to this tale runs the story of a collegian couple, the girl played by Bhattacharya's daughter, Anweshna Here, too, Bhattacharya takes life into the fast track, with this daughter of well-to-do parents letting a middle-aged man at the restaurant of a five-star hotel mistake her for a hooker, while she's waiting for her boyfriend who's stuck in the local train

She goes to bed with the man and walks out with even more money to entertain her middleclass boyfriend in a restaurant where "people eat money".

One cannot help but wonder if such



questions

a story of frank promiscuity will be swallowed by Indian audiences, leave alone digested, but Bhattacharya is quite confident "Our audiences are very mature, they can take anything if there is truth in it And I haven't portrayed a thing in this film which is away from reality All these things are happening around us, given the consumerism in today's world "

Bhattacharya is simultaneously shooting the film in English and Hindi This is the first time he is making a bilingual as he feels the subject has international appeal and he would like to screen it abroad as well

The film has been shot mostly in Bombay, in Bhattacharya's own picturesque house off Bandra Seaface, and has music by Sharang Dev with lyrics by Gulzar Eighty per cent of the film has already been shot and Bhattacharya is hoping to release it by October this year

Rekha, who is working in just a few films at the moment, including Mira Nair's *Kamasutra*, has been totally deglamorised for *Aastha* and wears a sari and no makeup through most of it

So what made Bhattacharya cast glamourpuss Rekha — this is the first time he is working with her — with the realistic cinema hero, Om Puri? "I saw them just as two very good actors," he says, admitting that many have been stunned by the combination "I needed talented people, not good-looking or glamorous ones "

Rekha is certainly capable of delivering the goods, and so is Om Puri And Bhattacharya himself has consistently proved his worth as a director over the decades

But the acid test remains will the film convince the Indian mind?



THE ULTIMATE RIDDLE

If Churchill had met Rekha, would he have changed his mind about Russia?

If to Winston Churchill, Russia was "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma", he had obviously not encountered Rekha People began writing her off 15 years back, and have been doing so every two years or so But Rekha, the ultimate *Madame X*, continues to defy age, their predictions and even, perhaps, her own expectations

Her last 'comeback film' (when did she ever go away?), *Geetanjali*, might not have done much for her image (at last, at last, her critics cried), but she unleashed a series of devastating photographs in magazines again She, as usual, has to be seen to be believed

Even if it is only the face everyone concentrates on, no other face must have been put so consistently on the covers of non-film magazines, and for so long That's the true test of a filmstar who's really got 'it'

If one goes by her films, too, the *Sawan Bhadon* girl, crude and gross as they come, went on to become a *kaddu-chhaap* sex symbol with sufficient bovine appeal But after *Do Anjaane* and Amitabh Bachchan, she metamorphosed into a cosmetic butterfly, soon to be unrivalled

Come to think of it, *Do Anjaane* itself was a revelation of her acting skills The role, even at the time of its making, was fairly daring, almost an anti-role, which most leading ladies at that time would consider suicidal to touch She played an ordinary housewife who is lured by the arclights and decides to walk out of home, husband and child for her own personal ambition

If she played a strong willed *tawaif* in *Muqaddar Ka Sikandar*, giving a strong hue to a typical role, her lead role in Girish Karnad's *Utsav* was certainly a coup Later, Muzaffar Ali's *Umrao Jaan*, with Rekha in the title role, became an art film which acknowledged the fact that without Rekha it could not have been half as perfect, it harked back to the casting of Meena Kumari in Kamal Amrohi's *Pakeezah*

The other films she did by art filmmakers were Shyam Benegal's *Kalyug* and Govind Nihalani's *Vijeta*

Hrishikesh Mukherjee dared to call her one of our finest actresses even while she was doing commercial films (and he was hung up on Jaya Bhaduri) and the distinction between 'art' and 'commercial' films was very sharp, the fact that she went on to do those 'art films' was, therefore, only proving Hrishida's point

About that time, he also cast her in *Alaap* and *Khubsoorat*, one serious and the other a ripoff film, where she did an incredible ripoff on HIM!

betrayed wife, rather than the other woman, in Gulzar's *Ijaazat* with rare panache

And you had *Ghar*, arguably her best performance to date, where she plays a rape victim Her husband, Vinod Mehra, is understanding and supportive, but nevertheless she has to go through trauma the brilliance of her performance is matched only by the meatiness of the character



With Amitabh Bachchan in *Do Anjaane*: The film that changed her life and career

In *Khoon Bhari Maang*, she played a scorned woman, an ordinary housewife again, who transforms herself into a ravishing model so as to ensnare her rat of a husband

A film that will go down in history as the casting coup of the century, however, is Yash Chopra's *Silsila*, an autobiographical replay of current history by Amitabh, Jaya and Rekha At the opposite end, she played the

And you thought this time she was really through? Mira Nair didn't She has cast her in her forthcoming *Kamasutra*, and no, she didn't consider Mamta Kulkarni or Shilpa Shetty for the role first Not to speak of the bold character she portrays in Basu Bhattacharya's *Aastha*

Sanjay Prasad

KNOT SO EASY

Basu Bhattacharya continues his obsession with the man-woman relationship



Rajesh Khanna and Sharmila Tagore in *Avishkar*

The delicate dialectics of the man-woman relationship, at once intimate and alienating, has obsessed Basu Bhattacharya It all began with the cinematic gem, *Teesri Kasam*, an unusual love story of a *gaadiwaan* and a nautch girl whom he ferries across to his village for the *nautanki* and falls head over heels in love with

She, too is charmed by his simple and winning ways, but tries to break off to get over a guilt complex he is too simple to understand that she is, after all, a *naachnewali* with loose morals But their love is fated and fated to doom, too

The turmoil in the man-woman relationship continues because of ones search for peace and progress beyond the four walls of the homes "We want to find happiness in the marketplace," claimed the filmmaker referring to the unabashed consumerist culture swamping our lives

If this is the theme of his latest venture, *Aastha*, it also dominates his earlier trilogy, *Anubhav*, *Avishkar* and *Grihapravesh*

In *Anubhav*, a rich creative man who got married to a middleclass woman has an ethos which is markedly different from that of his wife The film begins six years after their marriage and ends when they fell in love The woman tried to create a situation where she would be indispensable to the man – an attitude of a beloved wife, not a beloved's

She confesses to her husband when he suspects her, that her boyfriend, without so much as a touch, has given her in six hours what he could not give in six years That is an enormous statement and her husband understands, as does Amar in *Aastha* towards the end

In *Avishkar*, the lovers get married They are two individuals striving to become one, fighting to salvage their crumbling relationship Proximity breeds irritability and trivialities begin to loom large and drive a wedge between the two

And in *Grihapravesh* the man is an accountant whose dream is to save up for 10 years and then make a home, little realising that youth, unlike money, cannot be saved for a rainy day Naturally, the other woman enters the frame

Relationships are meant to be repaired, not replaced, an underlying motive which ran through his earlier trilogy and now through *Aastha* as well

In *Panchavati*, the woman lets go of her superficial marriage to a man who cannot understand her mind but covets her body, and has children by his elder brother with whom she shares a curious bond

Though the elder brother is going through a broken marriage, it is Sadhvi, the heroine, who has the guts to break the fetters of convention and create a '*Panchavati*' of her own The film throws up the query as to why physical union is called 'sleeping together

It is not a coincidence that in the trilogy, as in *Aastha*, the names of the two main characters are Amar and Manasi Amar, meaning somebody who does not die, and Manasi, meaning creation of the mind Both these names embody love, affection, caring and sharing

Though not exactly prototypes, they are tools with which the director communicates to his people Togetherness brings in fulfilment, says the filmmaker, no wonder *Aastha* begins with a scene in a classroom where the professor tells his students that *Romeo and Juliet* is not a love story for the characters suffer on their own Love stories are always *lived* together by people

And there are directors like Basu Bhattacharya to create them

Rajlakshmi Bhattacharyya

LOVE IN THE AFTERNOON

The re-release of Belle de Jour *in America has propelled France's Catherine Deneuve to new heights of glory and fame*

Age does not wither her or her glacial charms For 'Paris symbol', Catherine Deneuve, had America recently in the grips — of her icy mesmerising spell

So what if her film, *Belle de Jour*, is 28 years old It continued to enchant America, raking in the dollars

Directed by the surrealist Spanish director, Luis Bunel in 1967, the film made a comeback in late June this year, by no means ready to return to the archives

Lauded by critics, the film has swept across 70 cinemas in the country, earning $1 5 million at the box-office — a shocking figure by art film standards

For nearly 20 years, Bunel's *Belle de Jour* was in the cans, until filmmaker Martin Scorsese got the rights and released it

The film has nothing by way of modern pyrotechnics, but an eroticism that could hardly be called sexually revealing

The key to all the fizz in the film is Deneuve's timeless good looks and tantalising reserve — both on and off-screen, ensuring she is still a woman of exquisite loveliness

The film's story, drawn from a novel by Joseph Kessel, has Deneuve playing the young Severine, the bored wife of an affluent Parisian doctor Severine lives out her fantasies by day when she goes to work for a brothel at Madame Anais' establishment

When afternoons titillating clients are over, she slips back into her Yves Saint Laurent dresses — and into her husband's life, prim and proper at the decent hour of five

Though a story of sexual fantasy, Bunel does not pander to public taste with explicit scenes, leaving them to visualise a lot of what is delicately hinted at

As reverie and reality mingle, Deneuve comes across as what Bunel himself said "beautiful as death, as seductive as sin, and as cold as virtue"

Her return to America seems to herald the choice of a new *genre* of films (though she had not quite disappeared from America's public memory and certainly not from the French arclights) "Even today, people talk to me about the film," said Deneuve of *Belle de Jour*

Her screen persona is one of icy sensuality, where she has had to often portray the role of a seemingly innocent girl driven by an intense sexuality which sometimes overwhelms her, or as a call girl or mistress where sex is the pivot of her relationships

In *Tristana*, Catherine plays a willing innocent seduced by her elderly guardian Roman Polanski's *Repulsion* had her in the role of a young girl who locks herself in a flat with her sexual fantasies for company, in Robert Aldrich's *Hustle* she is the mistress of police officer Burt Reynolds besides being a whore

She seduces the unsuspecting hero in *Benjamin*, played the mistress of a Marseilles gangster in *Dirty Money*, and in the fairytale, *Donkey Skin*, it is her own father who wants to get her into bed

Even frothy musicals like *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* showed her jumping into bed and becoming pregnant



Catherine Deneuve in *Belle de Jour* Living it up by day

Compared to Greta Garbo for her extraordinary beauty and ability to act, Catherine's real life has traces of what she enacted on screen, specially when it comes to her independent attitudes about men and sexual morality

She is one who likes secrets and has had two children outside marriage — she refused to wed Roger Vadim by whom she has a son, and a daughter by the Italian actor, Marcello Mastroianni Marriage to actor David Bailey (1965-67) did not last

She continues to do at least one film a year, with parts that are written specially for her as in *Indochine*, which won an Oscar nomination in 1993 Right now she has worked in John Malkovitch's *The Convent*, screened at the 1995 Cannes festival

Just when America was doubting the stability of its suburban convictions, Bunel's carefully crafted film or bourgeoise marriage has touched the right chord

Moreover, it has shades of Clint Fastwood's *The Bridges of Madison County*, which dwells upon the same theme of the housewife's inner desires springing to bloom

As for Catherine's own desires, she chooses to keep her distance, defending her right to privacy with quiet dignity "I am not an inaccessible star In a sense, I am a star who has given birth to a great many characters I am a privileged actress with an important place in the difficult world of cinema "

Rajlakshmi Bhattacharyya

THE 'OTHER' FILMS

Basu Bhattacharya may have done it; Rekha may have done it But there were others, too, who dared to make films about contemporary sexual mores, as ***Sanjay Prasad*** *thinks back*



Dimple Kapadia in *Drishti*

Basu Bhattacharya's *Aastha* is certainly a bold film in concept and could be a little ahead of its time in terms of acceptance

Of course, films that were bold for their time — whether Rekha starrers or Basu Bhattacharya films — met with varied degrees of success

The B R Chopra camp must have been the one to make the boldest films of its times, always ahead of the hour glass *Dhool Ka Phool* was about a bastard child and an unwed mother, *Naya Daur* struck out for the communist message, *Kanoon* was the first to go songless and be based almost entirely on verbiage in the court of law, *Daag* for the first time didn't make lame excuses for bigamy, *Ittefaq* cast the heroine in the villainous murderess' role, and in *Sadhna*, starring Vyjyanthimala, the Chopra's not only made the heroine a prostitute, but stood by her in the whole film

After *Sadhna*, films began to project

Shabana and Naseeruddin in *Masoom*





Raakhee and Mukul Sharma in *Paroma*

the golden hearted nautch girl till it became a cliche, as for instance in Hema Malini's *Sharafat Chhod Di Maine* (Indian style) or Parveen Babi's *Deewaar* (Western style) In between there were classics, however, like *Devdas* or *Amar Prem* or even bio-films like *Bhumika* (based on the life of actress Hansa Wadkar) or *Pakeezah* (a near autobio-film) and the unforgettable *Guide*



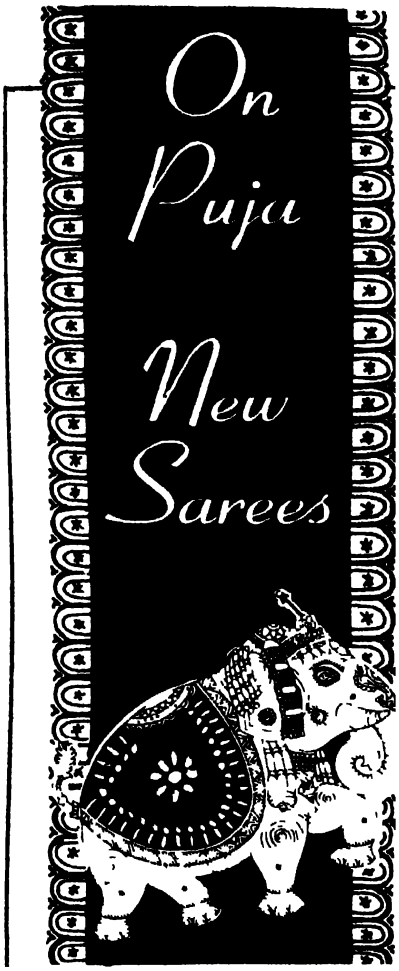
Vinod Pande's *Phir Bhi* was a frank discussion of infidelity and were followed by Shekhar Kapur's *Masoom*, Aparna Sen's *Paroma*, Kalpana Lajmi's *Ek Pal* Aruna Raje's *Rihaee* and Govind Nihalani's *Drishti*

When it comes to incest, something still considered taboo, it Yash Chopra made *Lamhe* he was preceded by Sukhwant Dhaddha's *Ek Chaadar Maili Si*

Interestingly, *Raat Aur Din* was portrayed by Nargis after the autumn of her career, and it wasn't a film about twins, one bad and the other good, but about a schizophrenic

In the Sixties, there was a Sunil Dutt-Leela Naidu-Rehman starrer, *Yeh Raaste Hain Pyar Ke*, based on the famous triangle, double murder Nanavati case, which was a pretty daring thing to do, and artistically made, too Years later, Gulzar's *Achanak* looked like a remake of *Yeh Raaste Hain Pyar Ke*

So, it's not as if this *raasta* has been untrod even while admitting that Basu Bhattacharya's *Aastha* will take some accepting by the Indian public ■



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INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says the full moon makes you introspective and restless You could be called upon to look after the ailing, the sick, the less fortunate than yourself, or just the old and the infirm If so, do so, gracefully Service before self is pretty strong this week Jobwise, excellent

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Despite hindrances and slight opposition, rest assured you will win the day Romance is definitely in the air, thanks to wellplaced Venus You will be interested in distant places and may have work connections, too Children, research, education, and entertainment make the astro menu

Gemini

May 21—June 20



Thanks to sun-Neptune excellent formation, you will be working full steam ahead in your job, business and profession Keep yourself occupied, otherwise temporary melancholia might ride on your back Home influences will be thick and tentacled for Geminis

Cancer

June 21—July 20



Destiny in the form of creativity, travel, collaborations, ventures, enterprises beckon you and you will respond gamely New assignments come your way within just four months Hobbies and amusements open up a brand new world for you There is much to look forward to

Leo

July 21—August 21



Venus and Pluto work like trojans for you and relieve economic pressure More importantly, it helps you to work more efficiently But health could need instant attention and medication Messages, calls, news, views, and teamwork foretold

Virgo

August 22—September 22



You will rise from your ashes, as it were, and snatch the booty from your rivals and enemies Writers, musicians and editors do a sparkling job The trick and the ticket is not to give in to melancholy and diffidence You could do a discovery rivalling archaeologist Kent Weeks

Libra

September 23—October 22



You will be put through the wheel and asked to jump By September 14, you will be able to do it Yes, this is a week of contrary pulls, pressures and health posers Relationships may need adjustments and alignments Expenses could blow up like an underground mine

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



You can hit a roaring sixer, be it romance or finance or just daily chores which need to be done Mars in your sign gives you pep and go The right time to be a parent or a grandparent if so interested Those in employment are due for a promotion, a pay hike or a bonus

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Focus will be on health, home, family and the domestic scene as such Ganesha claims, you should be wary of flatterers and bandwagon followers Funds, loans and investments, however, ease pressures Time to take care of work that has been long pending

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



Neighbours, relatives pitch in quite a bit for you and you reciprocate quite warmly Paradoxically, trouble comes from the same direction and therefore, it will be a mixed fare Deeds and documents will be signed You will have to socialise, accept invitations and go to meetings

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Finances and deals hold the key to a better life Working conditions should improve, too By December, latest, expect gains, goodies, perks and rise The seeds of success will be sown now, and therefore, the week is important Time to go on trips that could benefit you in the long run

Pisces

February 19—March 20



The full moon in your sign means one cycle is coming to a close and another is about to begin for you Health, expenses and responsibilities could go hand in hand. Between now and the middle of next year, engagement, marriages and immigration tours are fated

B I R T H D A Y S

September 10: Venus-Neptune trine means loans, funds, investments, all of which yield good results' Affairs of the heart give rare delight.

September 11: Moon-Mercury opposition could lead to misplacing of goods and depreciation unless you double-check it Control tongue and temper

September 12: Moon-Mars opposition means more haste and less speed. It will not do to blame anybody, except yourself Journey and ceremony are destined.

September 13: Venus trine Uranus will bring luxury, comforts, money, gains and gaiety Long-distance connections are foretold

September 14: Sun-Saturn opposition, Venus sextile Pluto cause mixed results While there will be a difference of opinions Given patience, these can be resolved.

September 15: Moon-Jupiter opposition leads to misunderstanding and consequent heart burning A slight money squeeze is possible

September 16: Sun trine Neptune makes you rather flaky and verbose But it also gives you insight and intuition. Money will come, too

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 6
IC-743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1, 3 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
D2 806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4, 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1 3 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 3 6 7
BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1820	1 4 6	VF 105	1720	1 4 6
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0740	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 706	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
AI 681	2330	1			
DELHI					
IC 263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 687	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF 737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 230	1620	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S-811	1635	2 4 6
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
4S 816 811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3, 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3, 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4, 6
VF 106	1820	1 4 6	VF-105	1720	1 4, 6
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JAIPUR					
D2 806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
JORHAT					
IC 213	0630	7	IC 213	1035	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1125	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1720	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2, 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3, 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	0630	7	IC 213	1035	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL-876	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
KB-105	0850	2, 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 5, 7	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1, 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 5, 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG-091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC-724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3, 5, 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG-095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RA-214	1030	4 7	RA-213	0945	4, 7
IC-747	1130	2 4 7	IC 748	1800	2 4 7
[illegible]					
BA-142	2040	3 7	BA-143	1450	3, 7
[illegible]					
SU-538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
[illegible]					
KB 106	1105	3	KB-105	0810	2, 6
KB-106	1325	5			
[illegible]					
SQ-415	2345	2 5	SQ-416	2230	2, 5
[illegible]					
LZ-504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
[illegible]					
AI 306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Romanian Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways **VF** ● VIF Airways Limited

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6-45	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 35	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	22 [illegible]	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	3046
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9-30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21-00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	6 30	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7-55	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 30	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	7 55	1182

Up	Time	Sealdah	Time	Dn
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6 35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchenjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11 20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10 25	3104
5085	12 40	**Ganga Segar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21-00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21-25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Nagpur	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16-10	--
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10-45	2422
6329	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	--
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

A STRANGER IN THE CROWD

It was my second year at boarding school, and I was sitting on platform No 8 at Ambala station, waiting for the northern bound train I think I was about 12 at the time

My parents considered me old enough to travel alone, and I had arrived by bus at Ambala early in the evening now there was a wait till midnight before my train arrived

Most of the time I had been pacing up and down the platform, browsing at the bookstall, or feeding broken biscuits to stray dogs, trains came and went, and the platform would be quiet for a while and then, when a train arrived, it would be an inferno of heaving, shouting, agitated human bodies

As the carriage doors opened, a tide of people would sweep down upon the nervous little ticket collector at the gate, and every time this happened I would be caug' t in the rush and swept outside the station

Now tired of this game and of ambling about the platform, I sat down on my suitcase and gazed dismally across the railway tracks

Trolleys rolled past me, and I was conscious of the cries of the various vendors — the men who sold curds and lemon, the sweetmeat seller, the newspaper boy — but I had lost interest in all that went on along the busy platform, and continued to stare across the railway tracks, feeling bored and a little lonely

"Are you all alone, my son?" asked a soft voice close behind me

I looked up and saw a woman standing near me She was leaning over, and I saw a pale face, and dark kind eyes She wore no jewels, and was dressed very simply in a white sari

"Yes I am going to school," I said and stood up respectfully, she seemed poor, but there was a dignity about her that commanded respect

"I have been watching you for some time," she said "Didn't your parents come to see you off?"

"I don't live here," I said "I had to change trains Anyway, I can travel alone"

"I am sure you can," she said, and I liked her for saying that, and I also liked her for the simplicity of her dress, and for her deep, soft voice and the serenity of her face

"Tell me, what is your name?" she asked

"Arun," I said

"And how long do you have to wait for your train?"

"About an hour, I think It comes at 12 o'clock"

"Then come with me and have something to eat"

I was going to refuse, out of shyness and suspicion, but she took me by the hand, and then I felt it would be silly to pull my hand away She told a coolie to look after my suitcase, and then she led me away down the platform

Her hands was gentle, and she held mine neither too firmly nor too lightly

I looked up at her again She was not young And she was not old She must have been over 30 but, had she been 50, I think she would have looked much the same

She took me into the station dining-room, ordered tea and *samosa* and *jalebis*, and at once I began to thaw and take a new interest in this kind woman The strange encounter had little effect on my appetite I was a hungry school boy, and I ate as much as I could in as polite a manner as possible She took obvious pleasure in watching me eat, and I think it was the food that strengthened the bond between us and cemented our friendship, for under the influence of the tea and sweets I began to talk quite freely, and told her about my school, my friends, my likes and dislikes She questioned me quietly from time to time, but preferred listening, she drew me out very well, and I had soon forgotten that we were strangers But she did not ask me about my family or where I lived, and I did not ask her where she lived I accepted her for what she had been to me -- a quiet, kind and gentle woman who gave sweets to a lonely boy on a railway platform

After about half-an-hour we left the dining-room and began walking back along the platform An engine was shunting up and down beside platform No 8, and as it approached, a boy leapt off the platform and ran across the rails, taking a short cut to the next platform He was at a safe distance from the engine, and there was no danger unless he had fallen, but as he leapt across the rails, the woman clutched my arm Her fingers dug into my flesh, and I winced with pain I caught her fingers and looked up at her, and I saw a spasm of pain and fear and sadness pass across her face She watched the boy as he climbed the other platform and it was not until he had disappeared in the crowd that she relaxed her hold on my arm She smiled at me reassuringly, and took my hand again but her fingers trembled against mine

"He was all right," I said, feeling that it was she who needed reassurance

She smiled gratefully at me and pressed my hand We walked together in silence until we reached the place

The strange encounter had little effect on my appetite. I was a hungry school boy, and I ate as much as I could in as polite a manner as possible. She took obvious pleasure in watching me eat, and I began to think it was the food that strengthened the bond between us and cemented our friendship

where I had left my suitcase, one of my school fellows, Satish, a boy of about my age, had turned up with his mother

"Hello, Arun!" he called "The train's coming in late, as ususal Did you know we have a new headmaster this year?"

We shook hands, and then he turned to his mother and said "This is Arun, mother He is one of my friends, and the best bowler in the class "

"I am glad to know that," said his mother, a large imposing woman who wore spectacles She looked at the woman who led my hand and said "And I suppose you're Arun's mother "

I opened my mouth to make some explanation, but before I could say anything the woman replied "Yes, I am Arun's mother "

I was unable to speak a word I looked quickly up at the woman, but she did not appear to be at all embarrassed, and was smiling at Satish's mother

Satish's mother said "It's such a nuisance having to wait for the train right in the middle of the night But one can't let the child wait here alone Anything can happen to a boy at a big station like this, there are so many suspicious characters hanging about These days one has to be very careful of strangers "

"Arun can travel alone though," said the woman beside me, and somehow I felt grateful to her for saying that I had already forgiven her for lying, and besides, I had taken an instinctive dislike to Satish's mother

"Well, be very careful, Arun," said Satish's mother looking sternly at me through her spectacles "Be very careful when your mother is not with you And never talk to strangers!"

I looked from Satish's mother to the woman who had given me tea and sweets, and then back at Satish's mother

"I like strangers," I said

Satish's mother definitely staggered a little, as obviously she was not used to being contradicted by small boys "There you are, you see! If you don't watch over them all the time, they'll walk straight into trouble Always listen to what your mother tells you," she said, wagging a fat little finger at me "And never, never talk to strangers "

I glared resentfully at her, and moved closer to the woman who had befriended me Satish was standing behind his mother, grinning at me, and delighting in my clash with his mother Apparently he was on my side.

The station bell clanged, and the people who had till now been squatting resignedly on the platform began bustling about

"Here it comes," shouted Satish, as the engine whistle shrieked and the front lights played over the rails

The train moved slowly into the station, the engine hissing and sending out waves of steam As it came to a stop, Satish jumped on the footboard of a lighted comaprtment and shouted, "Come on Arun, this one's empty!" and I picked up my suitcase and made a dash for the open door

We placed ourselves at the open windows, and the two women stood outside on the platform, talking up to us Satish's mother did most of the talking

"Now don't jump on and off moving trains, as you did just now," she said "And don't stick your heads out of the windows, and don't eat any rubbish on the way " She allowed me to share the benefit of her advice, as she probably didn't think my 'mother' a very capable person She handed Satish a bag of fruit, a cricket bat and a big box of chocolates and told him to share the food with me Then she stood back from the window to watch how my 'mother' behaved

I was smarting under the patronising tone of Satish's mother, who obviously thought mine a very poor family and I did not intend giving the other woman away I let her take my hand in hers, but I could think of nothing to say I was conscious of Satish's mother staring at us with hard, beady eyes, and I found myself hating her with a firm, unreasoning hate

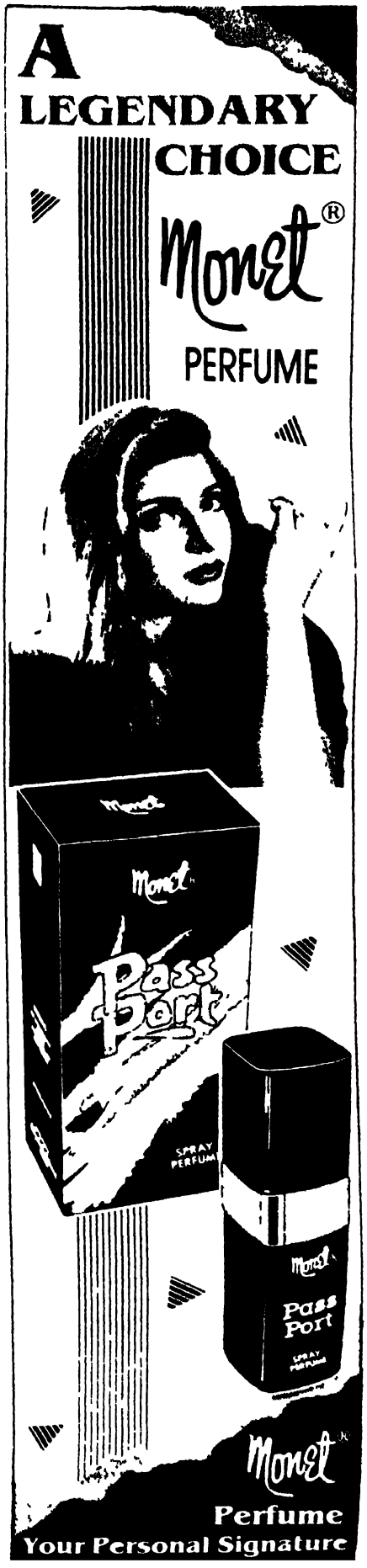
The guard walked up the platform, blowing his whistle for the train to leave I looked straight into the eyes of the woman who held my hand, and she smiled in a gentle, understanding way I leaned out of the window then, and put my lips to her cheek, and kissed her

The carriage jolted forward, and she drew her hand away

"Goodbye," I said to the other woman, "goodbye — mother "

I didn't wave or shout, but sat still in front of the window, gazing at the woman on the platform Satish's mother was talking to her, but she didn't appear to be listening, she was looking at me, as the train took me away She stood there on the busy platform, a pale sweet woman in white, and I watched her until she was lost in the milling crowd

(Sanctuary Features)



GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

RAGE OF AUTO-TERRORISM

It was April in London Overcoats tightly buttoned, a group of venerable old age pensioners gathered on a street corner Their faces set in anger, they marched down towards a line of cars parked on the pavement — their pavement, the pavement which belonged to pedestrians

They surrounded one car — a Volkswagen — and shouting encouragement to one another, began to bounce it up and down The car's suspension responded and slowly, inexorably, it was bounced on to the road

A hoarse cry of triumph rent the air at the pensioners moved on to the next car and did not cease until they had cleared each and every vehicle from the pavement

As summer warmed, Steve recommenced his dual existence By day a civil servant, by night a revolutionary Each evening, he and fellow members of the minimalist collective, the radical Pedestrians Front, set out with red paint to daub rude slogans over hoardings advertising new cars

Come May and the "disorganisation" known as Reclaim the Streets went to Camden Town and for five hours turned the High Street into London's largest car-free zone cum-outdoor party

Supporters danced on car roofs and bands played There were free burgers and beans for all-comers Helpless, the police could only divert motor traffic and infuriated motorists

In 15 cities across the land, militant cyclists hold mass rallies on the last weekend of the month in protest against motor transport Human zebra crossings block streets, and even the sober Pedestrians' Association (founded in 1929) has published information how to use a match stick to fix pedestrian crossing lights at permanent green

These are all symptoms of Car Rage, a Nineties' phenomenon How much rage you feel depends on whether you're in a car or out of one As Marshall McLuhan put it, "The car is the protective shell of suburban man"

Thirty-two cent of Britons are still shell-less, the majority are not But even the majority, when they emerge from their shells, are becoming pretty angry

There are several reasons for this summer sunshine and engine fumes create a particularly poisonous atmosphere — as all those living in Indian cities can confirm

Cauldrons of vehicular smog in Britain have sent asthma rates soaring and many schools now have "puffer rooms" where children go to use their inhalers

City centres are a noisesome motorised hell for shoppers Road-ringed suburbs are losing their butterflies, birds and other wildlife And the lovely, though limited English countryside is despoiled much more greatly now than in the Thirties when E M Forster spoke of it being "gashed to pieces with arterial roads" and put to "systematic ruination by auto terrorism"

Britain in many ways has followed America but Britain is not America — it does not have that country's wide open spaces or sparse population And while it might be all right for Americans to build countless roads and for every American, ideally to own a car — it doesn't work in Britain

In a recent poll even motorists themselves opted in a clear majority for closing city centres to traffic and restoring to them peace, clean air and ease of access for pedestrians

Car Rage is not therefore limited to the unemployed, the homeless and the disadvantaged, who form the main support-base for Reclaim the Streets, or to women and old people who are also notably anti-car

An important cross-section of British society is telling the government to leave the American pattern and become more European European cities are increasingly reserved for pedestrians and cars are banned Recently, Athens experimentally banned traffic from the city centre and there was hardly any protest

But this mood for change cannot overcome the dominance of the motor car either here, or in Europe In Germany, 60 per cent more land is used by motor cars than by houses In Britain, car ownership is expected to rise by 130 per cent over the next 20 years, and although ruling politicians pay lip service to anti-car concern, they have so far done little about it

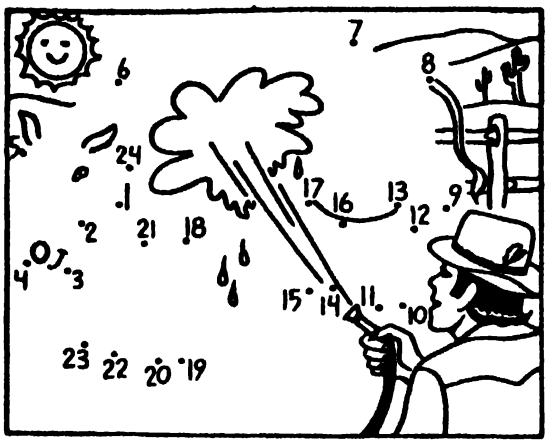
When smog levels become dangerous, they appeal for people to leave their cars at home and use public transport, but the Prime Minister and environment minister set a very poor example themselves Between them, they made no more than six rail journeys in the whole of last year

Ruling politicians will eventually have to respond to Car Rage to strike a new balance between man and machine The continuing damage to countryside and towns will have to be contained, but the remaining few who dream of victory over the motor car will be disappointed. Hardly any Britons could now honestly say with J D Salinger, "I'd rather have a goddam horse A horse is at least human, for God's sake' *(Sanctuary Features)*

Cauldrons of vehicular smog in Britain have sent asthma rates soaring and many schools now have 'puffer rooms' where children go to use their inhalers

JUNIOR WHIRL

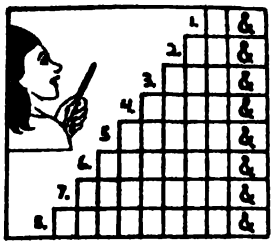
HAL KAUFMAN



POURING IT ON! What can you draw to complete the big splash scene above? To find out, draw lines dot to dot

PUT & TAKE! Wish you could be more orderly? Hear the words of Mark Twain "Have a _____ for everything and then keep it somewhere else, this is not advice, it is merely custom." Fill blank

Missing word "place."



SYMBOL WORDS & THEN SOME!

SYMBOLS displayed in panels above serve as stand-ins for the AND Thus, a four-letter word will complete the top row, a five-letter word will complete the second row,

1 Dune component
2 Slang for $1,000
3 A small chore of sorts
4 Bad guy of old
5 Connoisseur of good eating
6 Heels over head gymnastic feat
7 Smuggled goods
8 Country also known as Helvetica

1 Sand 2 (and 3 Errand 4 Brigade 5 Grour mand 6 Handstand 7 Contraband 8 Switzerland

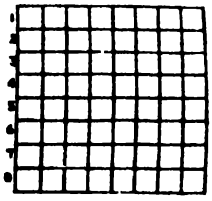
CHECK OUT! You are asked to insert a total of eight checkmarks in the diagram below in such a manner that no two checks appear in the same horizontal or vertical row, or in either corner-to-corner diagonal

Remember, eight checkmarks are to appear in all

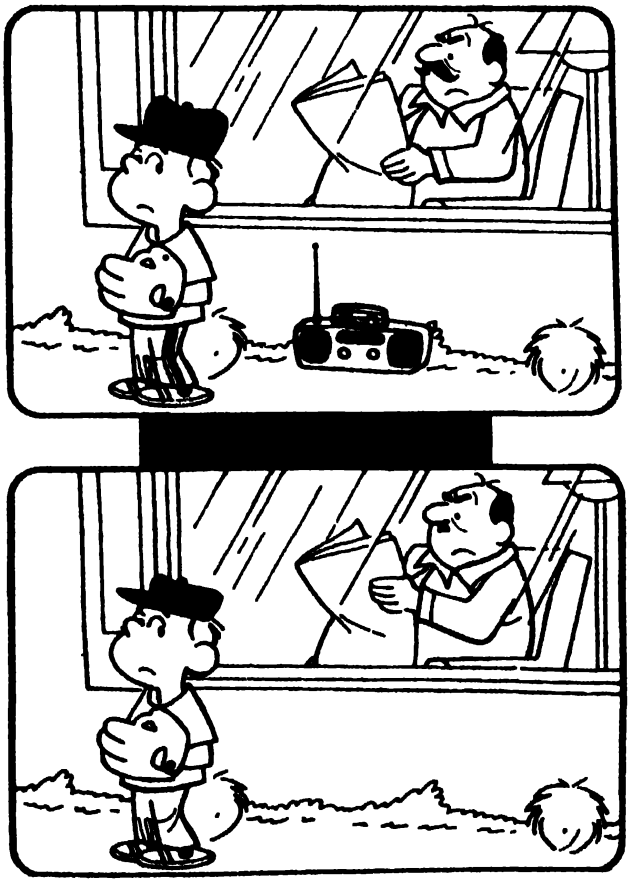
Patience will help, as will use of an eraser

P S , Numbers shown at side are for identification purposes in answer

(The way 1 check appears now by row: Row 1 1st 2 5th 3 6th 4 6th 5 3rd 6 7th 7 2nd 8 4th



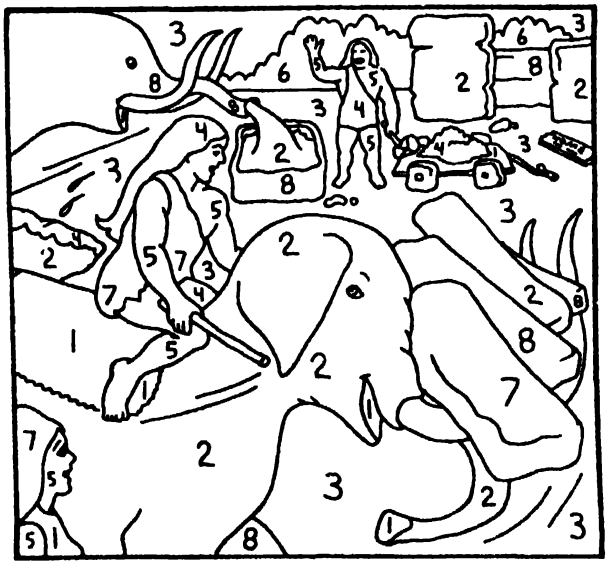
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Cap is smaller 2 Trouser stripe is missing 3 Radio is missing 4 Arm is moved 5 Mustache is different 6 Lamp is different

FUNSPOT



TUSK FORCE! Well, fancy that — mammoths doing mammoth tasks in the Stone Age Colors 1—Red. 2—Lt purple 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

MERCIFUL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

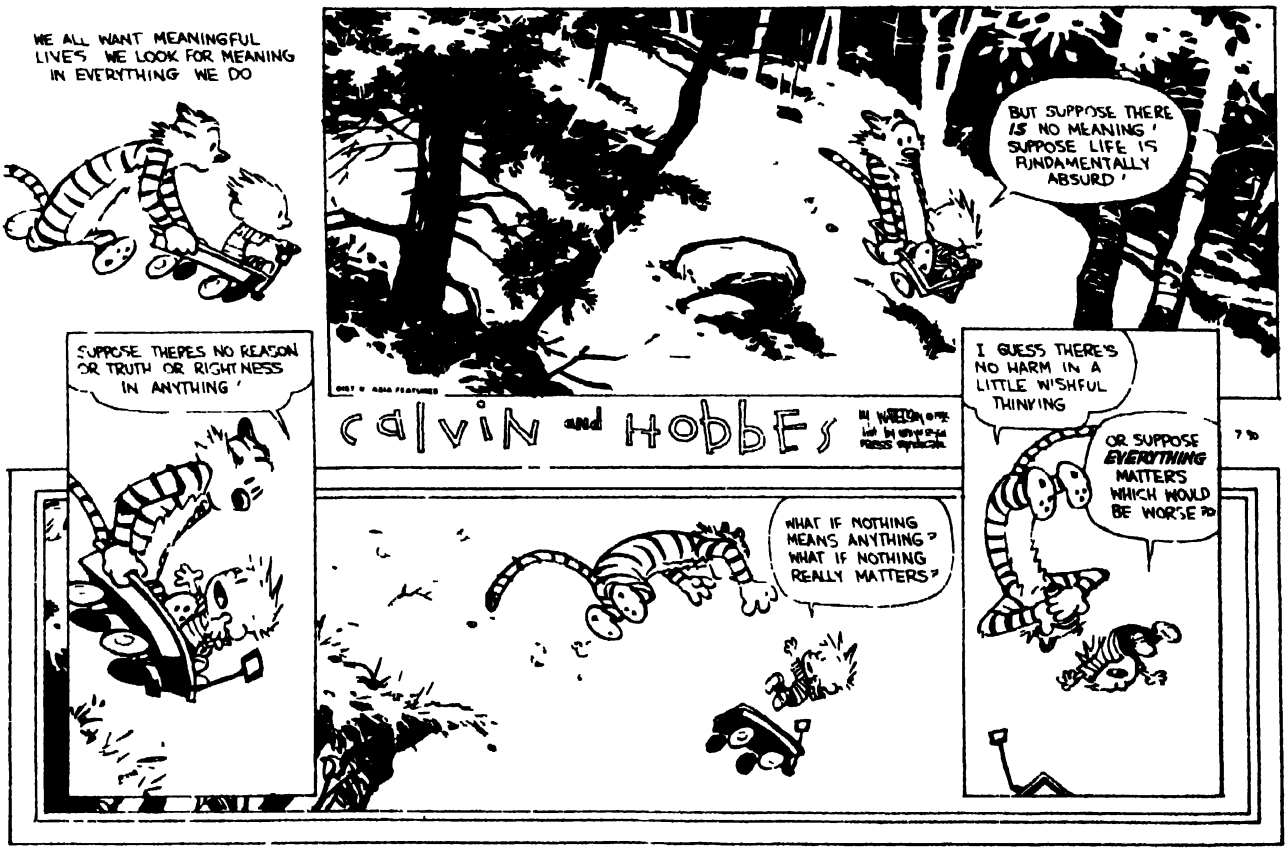
Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible Mesome Cure, Rim

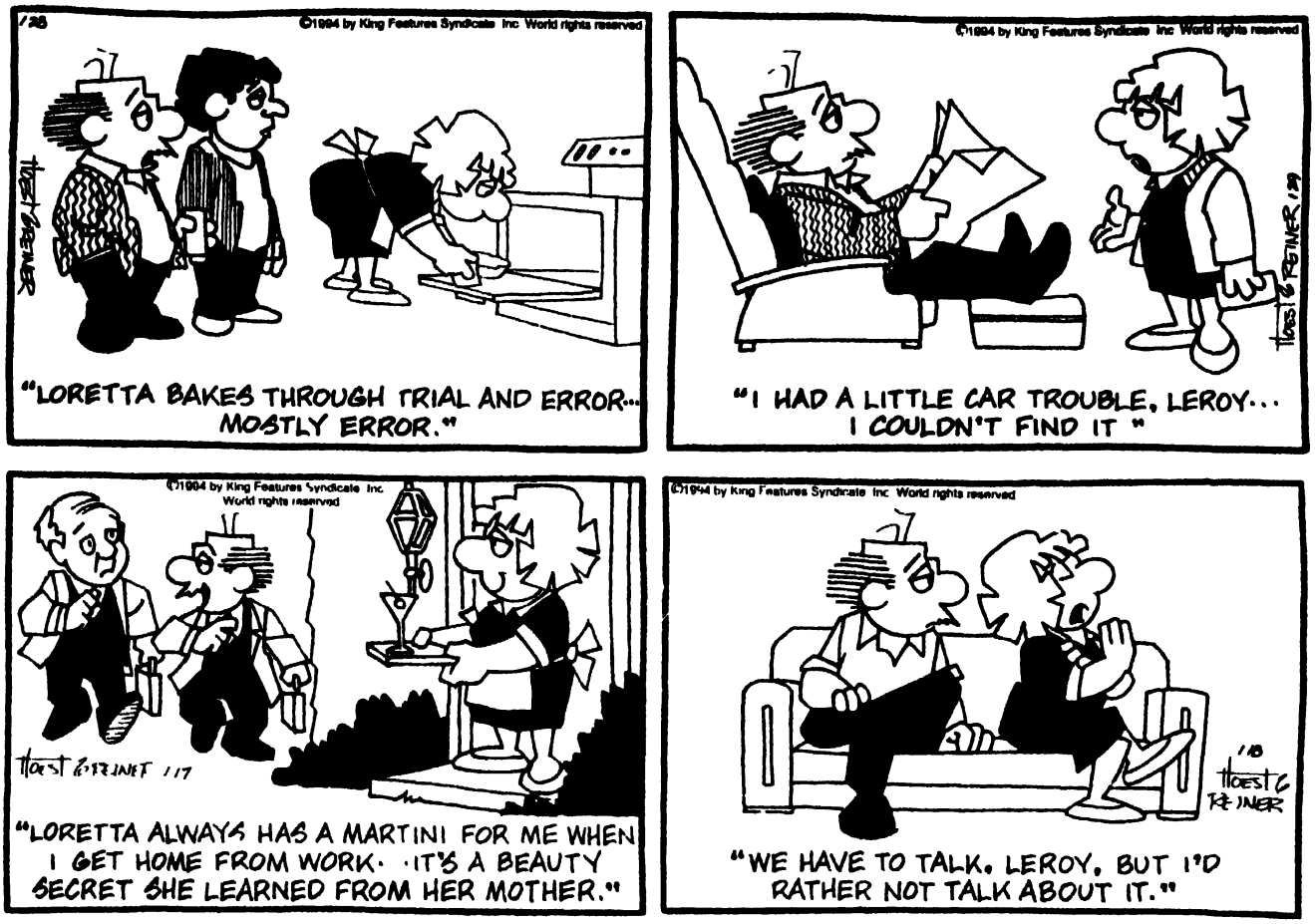
ARCHIE



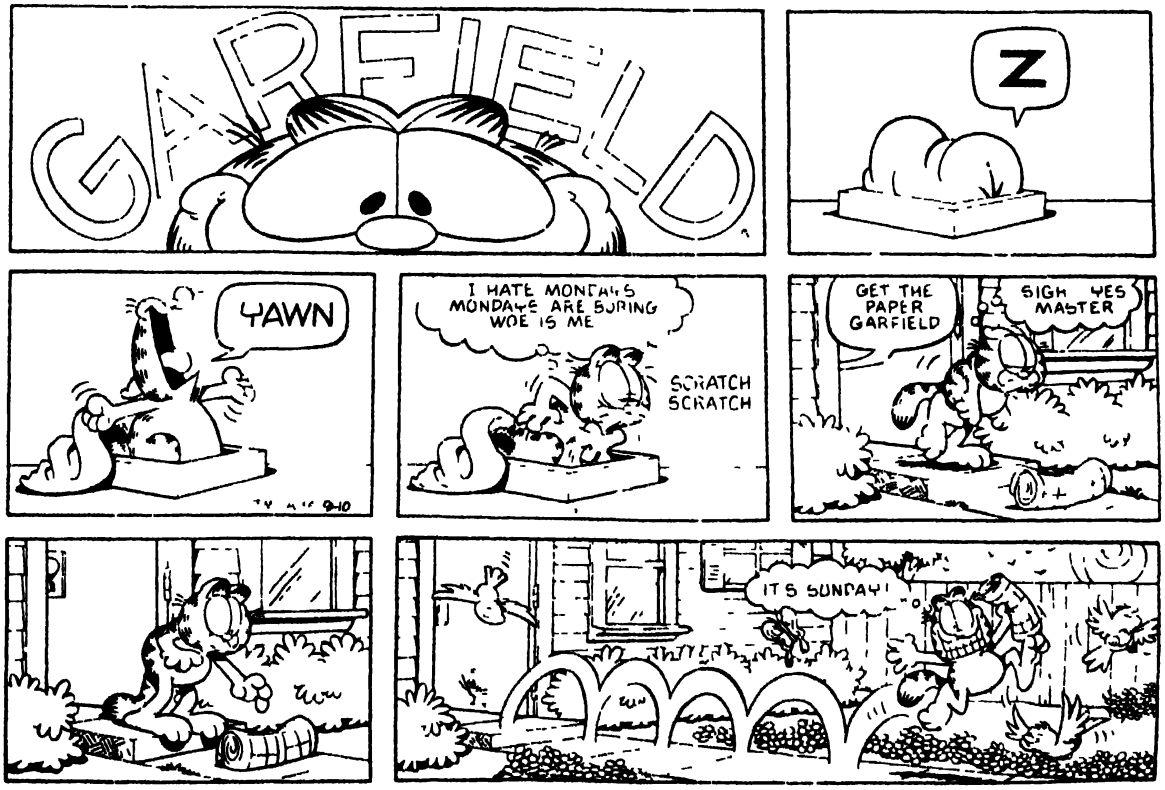
CALVIN AND HOBBES — WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

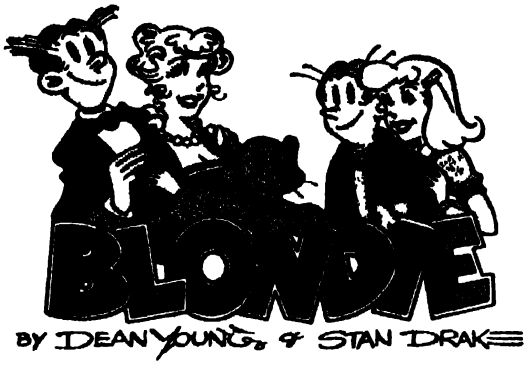


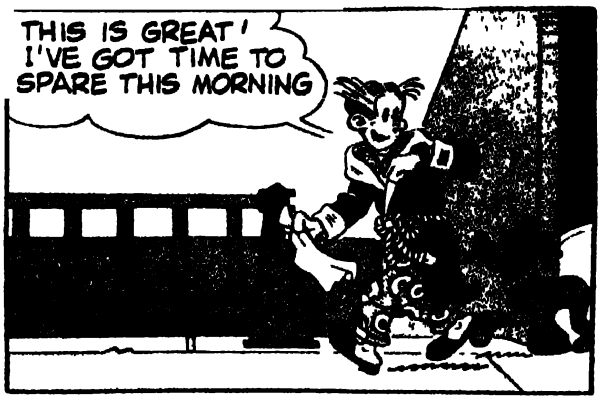
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP





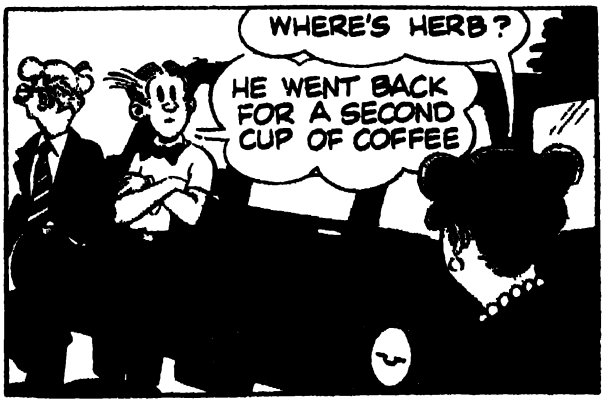


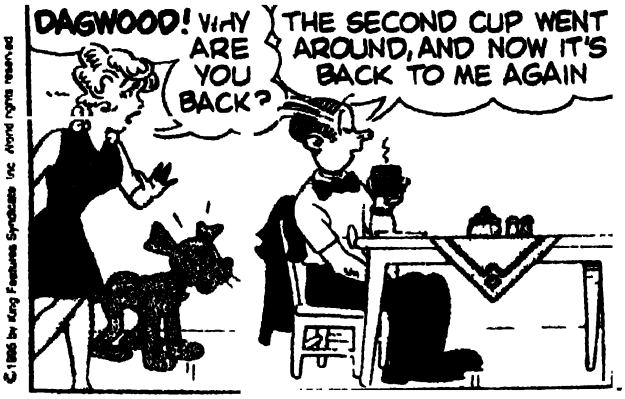












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IT POURS

In each of his novels, John Grisham celebrates the heroism of individuals against a powerful and corrupt machinery. Now, this writer of international bestsellers like The Client *and* The Firm, *is basking in the success of his latest all-time hit,* The Rainmaker. ***Arthur J. Pais*** *profiles the celebrity novelist*

For several months, John Grisham has been competing with himself. On one hand, his newest hardcover sensation, *The Rainmaker*, has been sitting at the top of the bestsellers' list in the US and on the other hand, the paperback edition of *The Chamber* has been refusing to move from the bestseller's list for several weeks.

The Rainmaker has sold about one million copies in the first five weeks, and *The Chamber* has sold nearly 1 5 million copies in paperback after having sold nearly one million copies in hardcover.

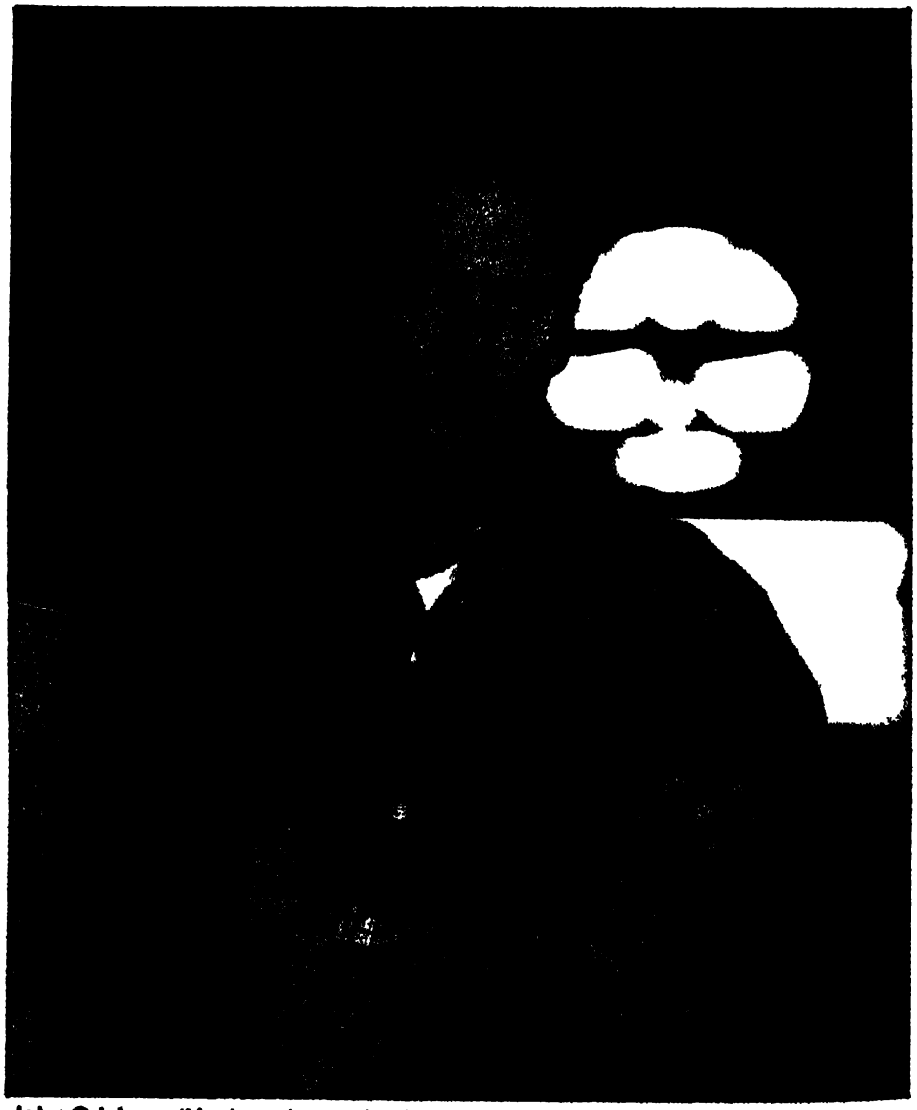
The Rainmaker is the biggest windfall Grisham has had in his 10-year publishing career, says Paul Noglows, critic and entertainment writer.

"Right now, Grisham is so hot that he is far ahead of the likes of Robert Ludlum, Tom Clancy, Michael Crichton and Robin Cook The only person he should really be scared of is Stephen King"

With *The Rainmaker*, a riveting tale of legal intrigue and corporate greed and Grisham's sixth novel, for which he got more than $12 million in international sales and movie rights, Grisham has gone back to the court in eight years since the publication of his very first novel, *A Time to Kill*

In paraphrase the story of *The Rainmaker* may not sound great, but Grisham has the supreme gift of making his readers' pulses race as they read each of his books

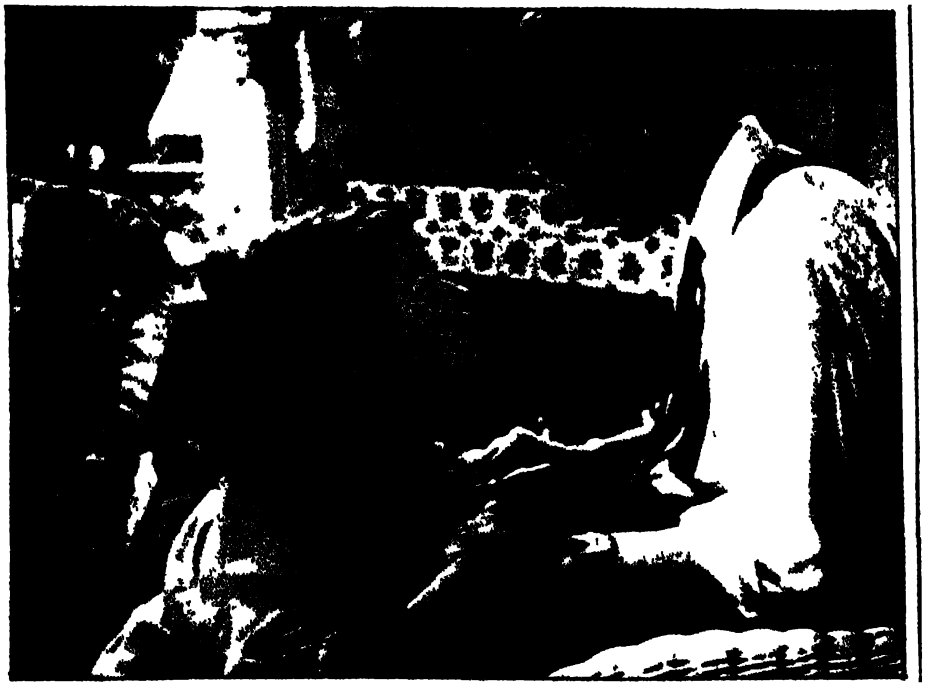
In *The Rainmaker* we meet Rudy Baylor who is soon to graduate from



John Grisham: 'Having a bestseller is so much fun'



Denzel Washington and Julia Roberts in *The Pelican Brief*



Tom Cruise and Jeanne Tripplehorn in *The Firm*

Memphis Law School and is assured of a position in a small law firm. Too bad that the firm, Brodnax and Speer, is bought out by Trent & Brent, and Baylor has no job.

Feeling defeated, he takes up a job offered by a personal injury lawyer, notoriously known as Bruiser, who uses the firm mostly to launder money. Imagine his surprise when Baylor brings him a real case and wants to fight it through rightful means.

An insurance company has wrongfully denied funds for a bone marrow transplant of a 19-year-old youth. Though he is passed saving, Baylor is determined to have the huge insurance corporation fined to the tune of multi-million so that in future poor people will not be denied medical insurance.

Further fuelling Baylor's determination is that the insurance firm is represented by Trent & Brent which had thrown him on the streets a few months ago.

The Rainmaker welds the courtroom savvy of *A Time to Kill* with the psychological nuances of *The Chamber* and shows that Grisham's imagination can hold its own in a courtroom as well as on the violent streets outside.

The world of his own youth was anything but violent. Grisham was born in 1955 in Arkansas; son of a migrant construction worker and a homemaker. He and his four siblings travelled throughout the southern US settling briefly wherever their father could find a job. "We would move into a small town and the first thing we would do was join a local Baptist church and the second was to go to the libraray and get our library cards and check out all the books we were allowed."

In 1967, the family took a permanent residence in a small town in Mississippi. "We didn't have a lot of money," Grisham says. "But we didn't know it. We were well fed and scrubbed."

Grisham says that he has always been extraordinarily self-assured and discovered as a baseball player in high school that he had a flair for thinking on his feet — and for winning arguments. In 1981 he graduated from the University of Mississippi with a law degree.

'Ten years from now I plan to be sitting here, looking out over my land,' he mused recently. 'I hope I will be writing books; if not, I will be on my pond fishing with my two children. I feel like the luckiest guy I know'

For a few years he ran his one-man law firm, growing dissatisfied with each of the cases he had handled. They were "garden-variety criminal cases", he says, adding that he wanted something more challenging.

He won his first jury trial in which he defended a man who had shot his wife's lover six times in the head at point blank range. Grisham argued that his client had acted in self-defence because the lover had fired a shot from a .22 calibre pistol that had fallen off the defendant's chest.

Tired of practising criminal law, Grisham switched to civil cases



Susan Sarandon and Tommy Lee Jones in *The Client*

and won a spectacular victory on behalf of a boy who had sustained burn injuries when a water heater exploded The 1984 suit, settled at more than $5 million, was the largest damage settlement ever recorded in the state by then

Ever impatient with his chosen careers, and dissatisfied with the way the politicians in his state behaved, Grisham ran for the state legislature and won two terms He wanted to reform the state education system more than anything, he says, and make it more accessible to the poor

But he realised that it was an uphill fight. "I realised that it was impossible to make changes the way I wanted them," he says in explaining why he resigned before his second term was over

Unexpectedly he got inspiration to write Grisham, who never wrote for the school or college magazine, and who had shown no interest in reading many novels, had no idea that his life would change for a dramatic turn when he observed a trial

"There was this 10-year-old girl who was testifying against a man who had raped her and left her for the dead," he recalls "I never felt such emotion and human drama in my 30 years

"I became obsessed wondering what it would be like if the girl's father killed the rapist and was put on a trial. I had to write it down "

For the next few years, Grisham arrived in his office at five in the morning, six times a week, and wrote in long hand, *A Time to Kill*

In the novel, a Black man is charged with murder of two White men who raped his teenaged daughter The book was finally published in 1987, after having gathered 20 rejections

The reviews were rather encouraging But the book, for which Grisham was paid $15,000, was not selling

The publishers had hosted a party to announce its release, but only the friends and family of Grisham attended the event. Neither Grisham nor his publicist knew how to attract booksellers and influential critics "Look, if we invite your mama and wife, your friends and all your relatives, we will do well to sell 50 copies," his publicist said. Of the 5,000 copies printed, Grisham bought more than 1,500

It is an altogether different story that *A Time to Kill* was reissued last year and sold more than eight million copies in paperback in the US alone, and Grisham got a record $6 million for its movie rights, with the provision that he would decide the stars and the director of the movie.

Despite the poor sales of *A Time to Kill*, Grisham decided to write more books for he was pleased with his first effort But it took him many more years to write the second book For he was thinking hard about writing a fast-paced novel that would keep people up all night.

The Firm, about an idealistic young lawyer's fight against a firm led by malevolent barristers, became an overnight success in 1991

The Firm sold more than one million hardcover copies and eight million paperback copies in the US, outside the US, it has reportedly sold more than five million copies in hard and soft covers

"Having a bestseller is so much fun," Grisham says. "But a lot of times in 1991 I felt that it was happening to somebody else."

It took him nearly six years to write his second novel, but the third, *The Pelican Brief*, was written in less than 100 days, and was published exactly a year after *The Firm*, and went on to become an even bigger success

Critics meanwhile began to find fault with Grisham's characters While they gave him full marks for his page-turning narrative, they said most of his characters were shallow and one-dimensional

By that time Grisham did not have to worry about critics — he had begun to enjoy the worldwide sucess that was not only greeting his novels, but also the movies adapted from them *The Client* and *The Chamber* that followed also became huge bestsellers

Even then, Grisham says that he takes some reviews seriously. "If someone writes a negative, but fair, review, I read it carefully and pay attention. This is one of the reasons he has given more importance to his characters in his recent books, sacrificing dramatic events in the process

He deliberately slowed it down in *The Client* and *The Chamber* so that his characters could develop fully.

His wife, Renee Jones, edits all his books before they are sent to the publishers "She is really good with women characters," he says "Not a day passes without having spirited discussions with her, but she has always emerged right That's the frustrating part!"

The Client and *The Chamber* were not as big hits as *The Firm* So in *The Rainmaker* one encounters more of Grisham's page-turning ability

All the millions, all the adulations, and all the attention in Hollywood has not detracted Grisham from the deep reality of his business.

"I am philosophical about all this, in that five or 10 years from now, things may not be as hot as they are now. Everything has X number of years to it, and I know it."

But he has wisely planned for the future, his friends say. He lives in a custom-built Victorian style home on a 70-acre farm in Oxford, Mississippi Recently, he invested $5 million to revitalise *Oxford Review*, a local magazine, hoping to make it the premier magazine in the South.

"Ten years from now I plan to be sitting here, looking out over my land," he mused recently "I hope I will be writing books, if not, I will be on my pond fishing with my two children

"I feel like the luckiest guy I know."■

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

Dangerous Minds Some of the toughest wars are fought, not on battlefields, and some of the most serious casualties are not those with visible wounds

Dangerous Minds which stars Michelle Pfeiffer, with George Dzunda, Robin Barlett, Austin Pendelton and Courtney Vance, is an intensely exciting film that deals with the everyday wars that are waged in America's classrooms to overcome despair and defeat

LouAnne Johnson, the one-woman show, is living proof that one person can make all the difference

The film is a true-to-life experience based on her book, *My Posse Don't Do Homework*, a moving account of the education crisis in America

Motivating her students to develop their self-esteem is only half the story LouAnne takes on the deeply entrenched educational system which tries to ruin her chances at every turn

Dangerous Minds is co-written by Ronald Bass, the Oscar winner for *Rain Man* and directed by John N Smith, maker of the highly charged *The Boys of St Vincent*

LIFESTYLE



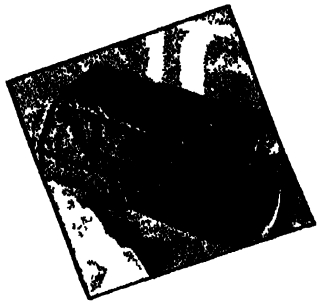
Peak of the Pujas: **A fabulous offer is in waiting, from Taj Bengal, with a 3 days 4 nights stay at Rs 6,900 per couple. Children under 12 can stay gratis.**



You can have all the pampering in the world and at peak season, too — complimentary breakfast, use of their health club including hydrotherapy and yoga, special gifts for the kiddies, 20 per cent discount on all meals and special buffet dinners, free passes for children visiting the zoo, guest cards to a leading club and a city sightseeing tour arranged on request.

Hurry, for this luxurious offer, between October 1-9.

Travelling light: **It is a bag to make travel feel like a breeze. With four zippered compartments to keep jewellery, cosmetics, toiletries and any other travel knick knacks, why, you would be the neatest and most organised person aboard the plane/train/ship. When shut up, it is a soft**



and compact 'bundle' with a handle 11' × 51/2' × 51/2'.

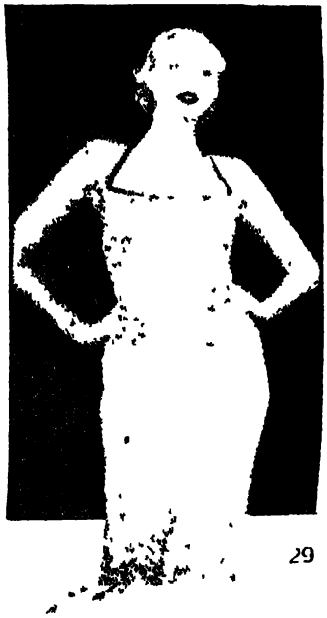
Open it, and hang the carrying case from a hook to provide easy access to all your travel items. Seems too cushy to be true, but a must for all those bitten by wanderlust. Ask someone to get it for you from abroad, or order through cheque/money order ($14.95) to Creative Solutions, P.O. Box 400821, Dept. CM P551, Des Moines, IA 50347-0821.

FASHION

Serpentine grace You can now see them in the urban jungle, too Snakeskins that is But they are being woven in the most curious ever fabrics, in vinyl or plastics, though you do have a more eco-friendly option in cotton to appease the 'green' conscience in you

Worn straight of course, the gown has a simple cut falling a little loosely at the knees In beige and tints of yellow, the islets in the apparel are repeated in a kind of random motif The elegant wear is neatly held by two pencil-slim strings tied into a seductive knot at the back

Looks fascinating when worn with little or no makeup on, save for a dash of pale eyeshadow and lipstick in a passionate shade of red This dressy take by Todd Oldham is best suited for your cocktails at noon



HUMOUR

AISH WHO?

***Bikram Vohra** on the formula that made a celebrity out of him*

When *The Telegraph* asked me to write a humorous column, I wanted to know if it would be slugged so

Nothing scares no more than columns that have 'Humour' on the page and would leave it to the reader to decipher that element for himself

I then asked if I could make fun of the editor, making fun of the editors being the best part of journalism and, therefore, great grist for any writer's mill

The Telegraph said, no

So, how about the owners of the newspaper, can I set them up in front of funny mirrors

I was told that the paper would be reconsidering its initial offer

I said, what about the government?

A letter came back saying there was a shortage of newsprint and the humour column would not be published

See, I told you, they meant to slug it that way

Consequently, I have been asked to write a serious column about the serious issues of our time and, for all I care, it can be slugged 'Serious' across the top

I know Shobha De She is one of the most beautiful women who ever walked the land I have never read her books but, then, I have never read Jackie Collins either, and since she is known as the Indian version of Collins, I guess I am constant

But I know her. I have been to her home, had verbal battles, all rapier sharp thrust and riposte and always enjoyed her company, although, unlike British Nandy on Mallika Sarabhai, I have not written a book of poems on Shobha.

I did have this undergrad crush on her in the Seventies, even persuading Mario Miranda to make a funny sketch of her for an article. The sketch was taken away by Khushwant Singh because he also had a crush on her and he pulled rank on me.

Now I am in Bombay at this swank do and beautiful people are floating about like prawns in a soup and suddenly, she is next to me, smiling and sultry With this second stunning looking girl

"Meet Aish," she says

I say, "Hello, Aish "

Followed by deafening silence

I say, "So, Aish, what do you do?"

Shobha says, "This is Aish Rai "

I say, "That's nice, you should be a



model, you are very attractive."

Shobha frowns, drops her smile and skates past dragging this living legend with her.

My friend says, "I didn't know you knew Miss World."

"I don't," I say.

"You were just talking to her."

"I was!"

"You didn't recognise her," she says, "that's rich, listen to this, folks, he doesn't know Aishwarya, what sort of journalist doesn't know Miss World?"

"I know her," I say hotly, "I just didn't twig that was Aishwarya Rai."

A gasp of horror crepes the room.

One lady drops a sandwich, another spills tea.

"You know her and you didn't recognise her," says my friend, "how can you live with yourself?"

Back at home my wife says, "Calls are coming from all over, how could you?"

"I am sorry," I say, "I am sorry"

The girls say, 'What's the point of being sorry, do you work at it, Dad, or does it come natural "

My wife says, Zee TV wants to know how you feel after the disaster, they want to come over and do an interview with you Rajat Sharma wants to know if I can appear on *Aap Ki Adalat* and Anu Kapoor wants me to make a guest appearance on *Antaakshri Ghoomta Aina* wishes to know how to put the pieces together in the after Aish era of my life

My partner has called to say he is appalled He said, "Appall-ed that you should do this in public, people were watching, we are a media company, we are supposed to recognise Miss World, our credibility lies there like shards of broken glass, would you care to explain yourself, I worry about you "

I am a wreck I skulk in the shadows, cringing with shame We went to dinner last month and a banker said to me, "Are you the guy they are all talking about, the schmuck who didn't recognise Aishwarya Rai? Here, darling (to his wife), this is the fellow you wanted to see "

'Darling' looked at me and said, "Was your mind a complete blank or did you have at least a faint idea?"

I mumbled something. She said, "You poor dear, it must be so very hard for you."

It is, it is devastating.

Except that last week, I have been asked to address the Indian association in Dubai on 'How I live with myself,' appear on *Aap Ki Rai* and go on the *Donahue Show*. I am even getting paid for it.

Dinner invitations are pouring in and someone has even asked for my autograph.

People point at me in the

ket and

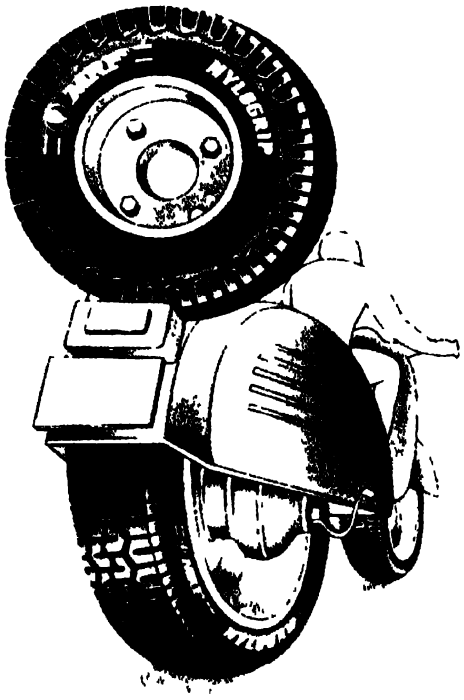
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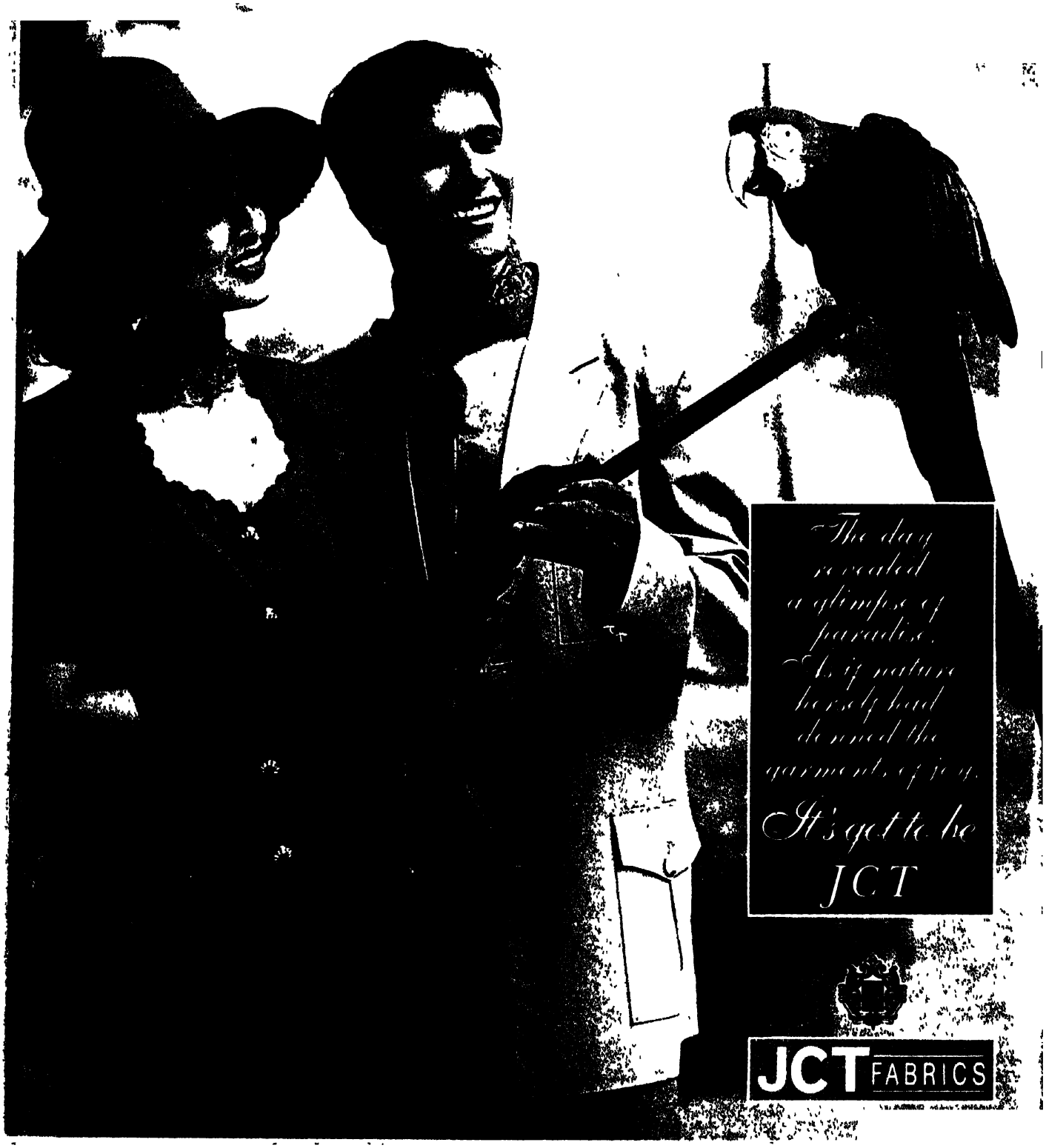
Because one way of becoming a celebrity is failing to spot one.

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The Telegraph

17 SEPTEMBER 1995

POST MORTEM

What a Life!

■ The justification that this world is not good enough to bring in a child is not wholly convincing ('It's Our Life', August 13) The proponents of this view are, I am afraid, not giving due thought to the world after them

One of the principal social functions of marriage is to bring in a new generation, arguably that will be a better one in intellect and strength Thus, making this earth a better place to live in

Bringing up a child is not easy it involves patience, tremendous love and sacrifice, and the profound joy it gives to parents cannot be compensated by the possession of wealth

Parents get a glimpse of the future through the eyes of their own children Childless couples can never experience this joy

R.K. Sriman,
Calcutta

■ "I don't like children. I don't like dogs either" — how insensitive some people have become; they are comparing babies with dogs!

A child browsing through the Magazine would wonder if his parents valued him thus, too.

Olive Phillips,
Calcutta



Illustration: Gopal Sarkar

■ It is difficult to think of a world *sans* children There have been and are parents who have reared as many as 14 children. Dr B R Ambedkar is an example he was the 14th offspring of his parents Rabindranath Tagore was the ninth child

But people who are insecure and have a grim view of this universe think it is an unsafe place for kids

Md. Tanweer,
Calcutta

■ I was intrigued by the opinions of couples who wanted to stay childless I thought a child was the greatest bliss of matrimony and that a woman's finest dream was motherhood. But here it was the reverse Women spurning motherhood!

D. Sen,
Calcutta

■ The concept of a married life without the trappings of parenthood is gaining legitimacy in society, specially among working couples

The recent court battle over the custody of Avan Sarkar – son of Aloke and Anindita Sarkar - speaks volumes in favour of childless couples

Mili Das,
Jamshedpur

■ Most of the couples want to reach the top, with the process unhampered by squealing babies. The question is, how far can they go in their profession without being responsible at home

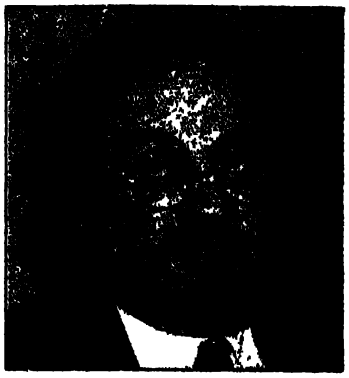
There are so many couples with children who have risen to the top professionally Of course, they have had to sacrifice some valuable moments, but that did not impede their success

Nirmalendu Chakraborty,
Cooch Behar

■ Cowardice, throttling one of man's finest instincts and most sacred urges,is at the root of the couples' decision to stay childless

Barun Biswas,
Bhadreswar (W B)

INSIDE



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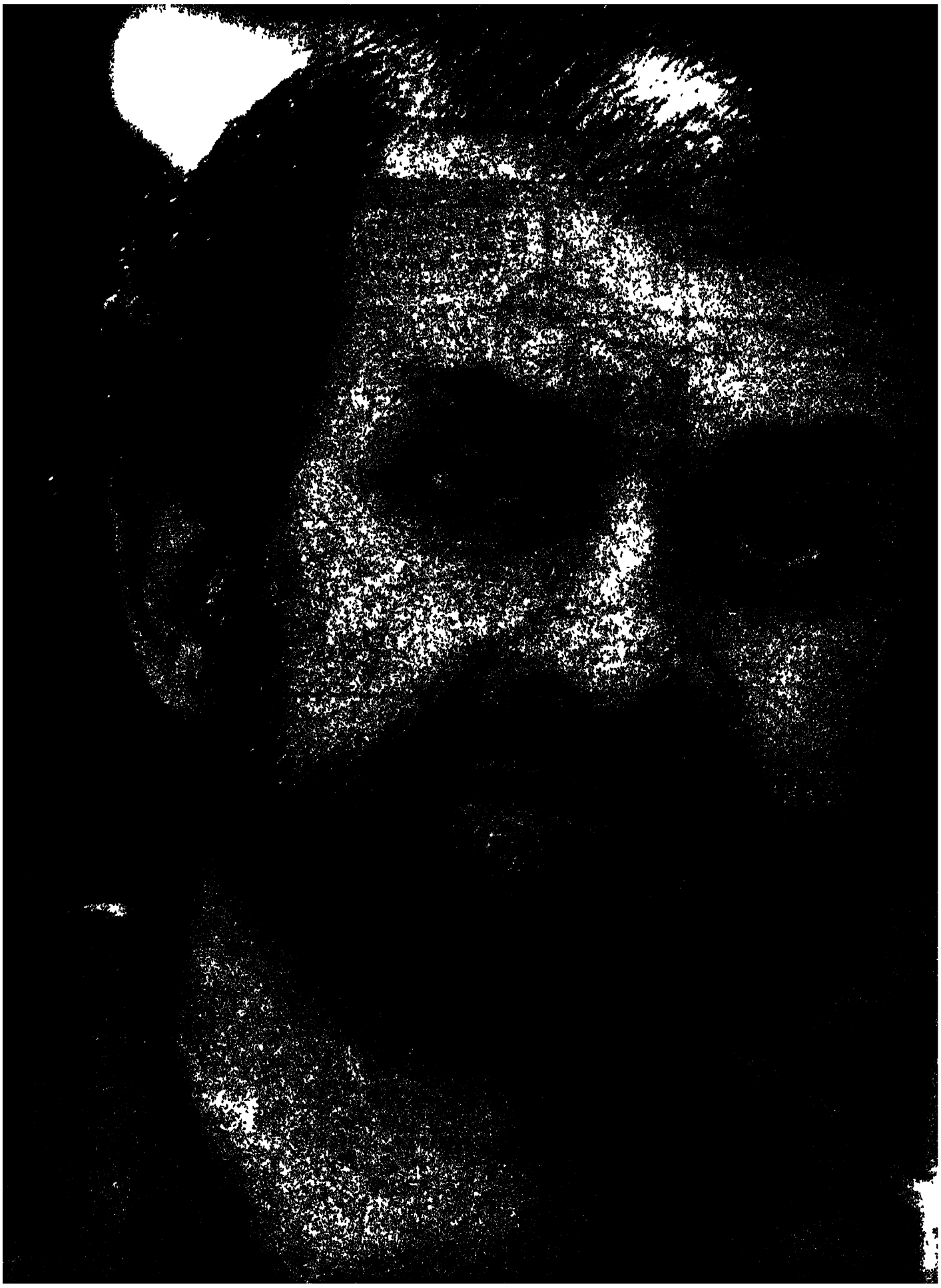
SALMAN RUSHDIE, arguably one of the finest writers in the English language today, is once again in the eye of a storm with his latest book But the man refuses to be cowed down

PAGE 26

The great new face on Channel V Laila Rouass

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30 FIRST PERSON



SATANIC VERSES ALIVE

Salman Rushdie has struck again — with his new book that, in part, [illegible] Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray. Amit Roy profiles the [illegible] in jeans and denim

BAL THACKERAY NEE[illegible]

[illegible] with *The Satanic Verses* Sigh

In Britain, the *Daily Mail* was the first pape[illegible] fundamentalists' had demanded a ban in Bombay bec[illegible] caricatured Bal Thackeray, the Shiv Sena leader.



The story of Rushdie is now larger than the struggle of a lone writer, however important he might be — and there is a consensus that his latest work will help consolidate his position as one of the most gifted in the English language

After years of assuming that only Muslims could be fundamentalists, the suggestion that Hindus, too, can be fanatics will provide welcome relief to Western newspapers

As for Rushdie, he can be expected to produce a spirited response to the proposed ban [at the time of writing, the Maharashtra government was soft pedalling] He is currently promoting his new novel and will appreciate that all publicity helps In any case, he is not shy when it comes to hitting back

But the story of Rushdie is now larger than the struggle of a lone writer, however important he might be — and there is a consensus that his latest work will help consolidate his position as one of the most gifted in the English language

He has been compared favourably with other writers of Indian origin, notably Vikram Seth, one of the other superstars in the literary firmament

According to Tom Maschler, former chairman of the publishers, Jonathan Cape, Rushdie is the superior writer "The average literary groupie would be much more excited if he saw Salman Rushdie at a party," he says

Maschler could say so, considering *The Moor's Last Sigh* is published by Cape at £15 99 Rushdie's previous publishers, Viking Penguin, are no longer in the picture After the Iranian threat to Rushdie, his publishers and almost everyone connected with *The Satanic Verses* drifted away from him Viking Penguin had to spend a fortune enhancing security at its offices

Seth, however, has not attracted any of the vitriolic press that Rushdie has inspired If Rushdie's close friend, Martin Amis, or any other White author, had been threatened, no British paper would even have dreamed of questioning the cost of providing security

Rushdie is guarded night and day by a team of armed special branch policemen whose number is believed to be six One can only imagine the stress and strain involved in such an arrangement

Recently, it was claimed, for example, that Rushdie has had a couple of brief affairs since the breakup of his second marriage to the American writer, Marianne Wiggins He is now said to have a steady relationship He cannot request privacy since it is the job of the officers to guard him

How serious is the threat? The police believed in the early days when he went into hiding that the danger he faced was real enough He has been moved around the country, often at short notice

In one period, he slept in 13 beds in 20 days He has lost count of the number of places he has lived in the past six years The number is probably more



than 30.

"At the beginning of the Gulf War," he told one journalist, "I was informed that there was a contract out on my life, paid to a group of assassins who were so confident of success that they promised to kill me within 100 days."

It is not only Rushdie who believes his life is in danger. Stella Rimington, the head of MI5, the British intelligence gathering operation, said publicly "The determined efforts to locate and kill the author Salman Rushdie seem likely to go on."

After Khomeini had issued his *fatwa*, Muslim groups sprang up all over Britain to lend the Iranian leader varying degrees of support. The novel was ceremonially burnt in Bradford,



January 14, 1989

lighting a flame which raged through the Islamic world.

It is in Britain, however, where the battle over Rushdie has raged and where the political and religious map has been altered forever by the controversy generated by *The Satanic Verses*.

The wiser among the Muslim leaders quickly realised that their demand for withdrawal of the book would never be met. When it came to a choice between freedom of expression — even when the book had clearly given offence to many Muslims — and censorship, the British establishment stood firm in defence of the former.

The Muslims, who number just under one million in Britain (despite claims to be double that number), may not have lost the war, though. Today, no publishing house in Britain comes out with a work on Islam without first having it checked.

An estimated 600 mosques flourish in the land (compared to 60 temples). Although the call for withdrawal of *The Satanic Verses* has not been formally abandoned, the agenda has now moved on to such issues as state funded, single sex schools for Muslims. In dealing with the Muslims, the British authorities take care not to give offence.

It is hard to be sure of Iranian intentions, but President Rafsanjani and his faction appear keen to reassure the West that no death squad will be sent

from Teheran in pursuit of the author. Nor is there a reward for his head These were the clear signals which were communicated earlier this summer and raised hopes that even if Khomeini's *fatwa* could not be formally lifted, some kind of a deal could be done over Rushdie

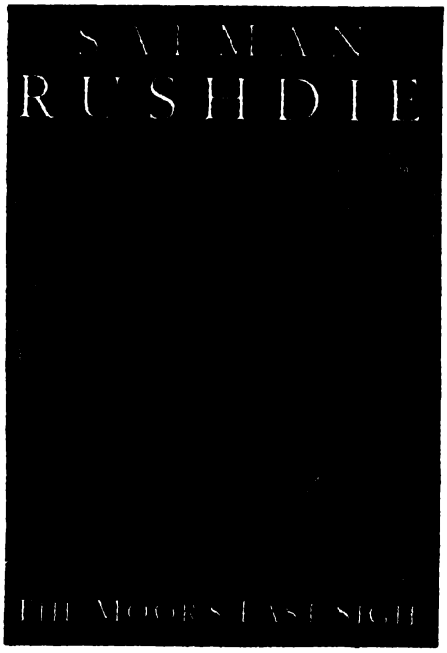
In return for a solemn pledge from Teheran that the author would not be harmed, the West would move towards normalisation of relations with Iran This has not happened because Rafsanjani's enemies have come forward to challenge the notion that the *fatwa* will not be carried out

Living in the shadow of the assassin who may or may not materialise, Rushdie ought to have many more people on his side He has put on weight, lost much of his hair, wears a beard and could easily pass for a *mullah* in the right clothes on the streets of Teheran

There is something about him that puts people off The reason could partly be racism, of course

One objection to him has been that he had been too left-wing and not shown enough gratitude to those who have protected him

Rushdie did not spare Prince Charles who was unwise enough to offend the author "Prince Charles' literary efforts are quite second-rate, and he costs the country quite a bit more I am a citizen who pays a great deal of tax and I expect something in exchange "



accord due credit to Dr Frances D'Souza, head of the human rights group, Article 19, who has led a long international campaign on the author's behalf

Thanks principally to her, no foreign ministry in Europe has been allowed to forget that Rushdie's life remains in danger As a consequence of her efforts, it seems unlikely, that the European Community members will ever fully normalise their relations with Iran so long as the *fatwa* remains in force

As for Rushdie, he has taken up the cause of other writers, including Taslima Nasreen He has urged France to offer asylum to Algerians threatened by Muslim militants

"When any Algerian is under threat of death and badly in need of asylum, France should open its gates rather than close them," he said in Strasbourg, in his capacity as president of



At a literary party, to launch a Martin Amis novel, he was pictured dancing with the journalist, Nigella Lawson, to the Bee Gees number *Stayin' Alive, Stayin' Alive*. One could go on

The author's critics have found it galling that instead of opting for a low profile existence, he has been photographed at glamorous parties with the beautiful folk of London

"They are beginning to say that if Salman has not shown his face at an event, it is not worth being there," one writer noted

The pictures published in the newspapers tell their own story Salman with the model Marie Helvin at a bash thrown by former *Sunday Times* editor, Andrew Neil, Salman with actress Helena Bonham Carter at the London Film Festival, Salman with Sir David Frost before an American TV interview, Salman with Steven Spielberg at the premiere of *Schindler's List*

At a literary party, to launch a Martin Amis novel, he was pictured dancing with the journalist, Nigella Lawson, to the Bee Gees number *Stayin' Alive, Stayin' Alive* One could go on

But Rushdie has a different perspective leading as normal a life as he can manage is, he reckons, the most fitting reply he can give to his enemies Some things can never be the same, though

One is his relationship with his 15-year-old son, Zafar, from his first marriage to Clarissa Luard "We have always been close, although not being able to see him spontaneously is one of my greatest sadnesses," he told a journalist "He was nine when all this started, but from the very beginning I told him as much as I could about what had happened The times that were the worst for him were when I couldn't get in touch, and he heard the news about me from the media "

He clearly suffers his periods of darkness, but in recent years, appears to have achieved a kind of mental equilibrium The first book written in hiding, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, was conceived with his son in mind

As he gained in strength, his collection of short stories, *East, West*, followed It has taken two years to write *The Moor's Last Sigh*

Although he is a person who has always found it easy to get involved in controversies, he does appear to be more at peace with himself Some

the International Parliament of Writers

In 1990, he embraced Islam as a conciliatory gesture to Iran But now describes the move as one of his biggest mistakes Now, far from cowering in his cave, Rushdie has come out fighting

He has not lost his sense of humour During a spell in hospital, he was treated by a doctor who turned out to be Iranian The man persuaded the author to give up smoking

Rushdie joked how other Iranians might respond if the doctor's identity became known "What?!! You made him better?"

On the literary front, he is recognised by Indians as having created a new language *Midnight's Children*, which launched him in 1981, was adjudged two years ago to have been the best of the novels which have won the Booker Prize for fiction over the previous 25 years

It must appear ironic to the winner of the 'Booker of Bookers' that he is now being denied a place of honour in his own hometown

GOLDEN SCREEN

Midnight's Children *will be televised by BBC to celebrate the 50th anniversary of India's independence*

When the BBC looked for a television drama to celebrate the 50th year of Indian independence, it picked Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*.

Kevin Loader, who is producing the six-part series, admits both he and the author initially wondered whether the novel could be dramatised at all. Fortunately for all concerned, Rushdie, who is acting as unofficial consultant, approves of what he has seen so far of the script.

The job is being done by Ken Taylor, an award-winning playwright who was responsible for the script of the immensely successful TV adaptation of Paul Scott's *Jewel in the Crown*.

"We are halfway through the script of *Midnight's Children*," says Loader, one of BBC's best known drama producers.

He added: "When Salman saw the script he was amazed and overjoyed."

Loader produced the adaptation of Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia* and a documentary of the Bombay actor, Harish Patel, in *Roads Where You Are, Mr Patel*. He is currently an executive producer in drama series and serials with special responsibility for literary adaptations.

"I love *Midnight's Children*," he says. "I have always loved the book."

Alan Yentob and Michael Jackson, controllers of BBC1 and BBC 2, respectively, also considered the choice appropriate. "It is the great masterpiece on Indian independence. Although it has a British connection it is about the Indian experience. Television has done other post colonial stories but with mainly White characters," Loader says.

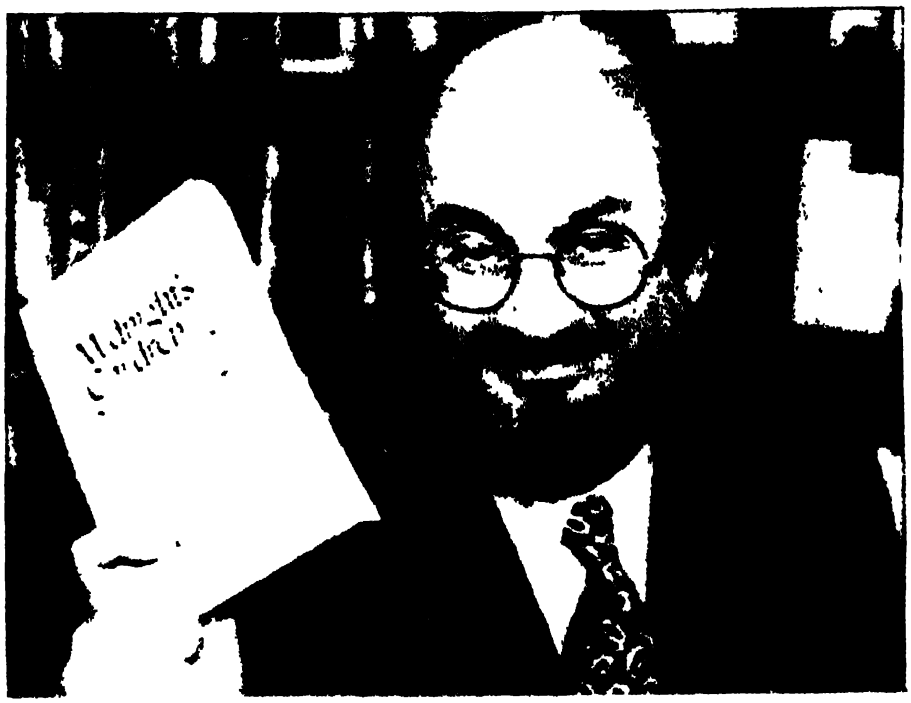
Shooting will take place in late 1996 and early 1997. It is intended to open the series with a two hour episode followed by five others each one hour long.

Loader hopes the series will be shot in location in India although he recognises that there would be political opposition to anything involving Rushdie, specially in a general election year. "It would be sad if we couldn't."

BBC turned down Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy*, which is to be dramatised by Channel 4 also for the 50th anniversary of Indian independence.

With two major dramas now in the making it is possible there will be a shortage of suitable actors.

Some of the actors we might be going for might be the same," Loader concedes.





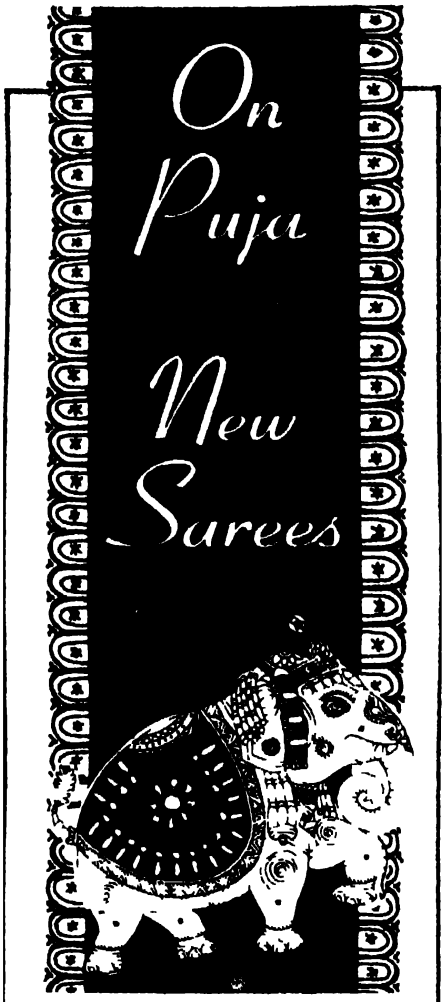
CRITICS' SIGHS

Salman Rushdie couldn't be more pleased

Despite the *fatwa*, Salman Rushdie was able to make his first pre-announced appearance in public earlier this month in London when he took part in a literary debate, 'Writers against the State' organised by *The Times* newspaper.

He foresaw a time when he might be able to come out of hiding completely. "I can't predict exactly when it will be but, nobody will be happier than I," he said. "I have always been aware of the fact that one's ability to be free is something that one has to take for oneself. It is not handed out on a plate. I have always felt since the start of this affair that it was important to take gradual steps to regain the ability to lead a normal life."

With him were his author friends, Martin Amis, Fay Weldon and Melvyn Bragg. Some Asians in the audience said later that they found his behaviour arrogant when dealing with a question from a Muslim critic. Others made the point that he does not



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appear any longer to have any Asian friends

Perhaps, Rushdie does not need them He must be buoyed up with the glowing reviews which *The Moor's Last Sigh* has had

The Sunday Telegraph *Salman Rushdie Added Spice* — by Doris Lessing "I found myself kept awake by a novel by Rushdie, the superb storyteller, for above all else, that is what he is

"This novel is as stuffed with delights as a da Gama spice sack, but while you are laughing at the inventiveness of the language and exuberance of the plot, all fuelled by a jovial anger ('anger is my inheritance') another voice is making itself heard During all this terrible time while Salman Rushdie has been under threat of death, he has always been cheerful and brave, has never shown what he felt, but all that is here, in this story, pain and fear transmuted "

The Times Literary Supplement *Salaam Bombay!* — by Orphan Pamuk "This book, in its scope, most resembles *Midnight's Children*, the best of Salman Rushdie's previous novels The fact that *The Moor's Last Sigh* is a lesser performance is nothing to do with Rushdie's creative powers as a verbal illusionist Filled with puns and verbal games, buffoonery and scenes of slapstick comedy, it proves that Rushdie is one of the most brilliant magicians of the English language writing now The problem, however, is that Salman the narrator the verbal innovator, too often rushes to offer help to save the day when Salman the fabulator, like his hero, Moraes Zogoiby loses his breath

Rushdie's love-hate relationship with Bombay is crucial For him, and for his narrator as well one feels that his 'super epic motion pictures of a city' has two sides One is 'improper Bombay', the many headed cosmopolis of diverse cultures, this is Moraes Zogoiby's 'inexhaustible city of excess' with which, he tells us, he is deeply and for ever in love The other one, the new Bombay of religious and nationalistic fanaticism, is the city of 'senseless' bombings and the egoistic cynicism of post colonial intellectuals and the new power elite The heartfelt political message of *The Moor's Last Sigh* is to defend the richness of the first Bombay against the assaults of the second, against the imposition of Hindu language, art and gods as 'authentic', Indian culture, against fundamentalist Hindu triumphalism

"More intentionally disorganised than complex, more funny than com passionate, more bitter than moving, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, lacks a central logic Somewhere in the novel, Moraes Zogoiby tells us that if he 'were forced to chose between logic and childhood memory', he'd go along with the tale Valid for every imaginative writer of Salman Rushdie's calibre, this remark produces the reader of *The Moor's Last Sigh* to reply but magic should also have its logic"

The Sunday Times *Absolutely Fabulous* by Peter Kemp "Moraes is, it's evident, something of a fictional surrogate for Rushdie, similarly surrounded by would-be assassins after the Islamic theocrats put a £2 5 million price on his head for alleged blasphemy Just as Rushdie's Japanese translator was shot by Muslim fanatics so here a Japanese art-expert who helps Moraes is gunned down by a psychotic

"In his boisterous books, battles are waged between the open-minded and the close-minded the tolerant and the dogmatic, the healthily sceptical and the sceptically doctrinaire

'In a way, the *fatwa*, which *The Satanic Verses* brought down on him constitutes a nightmarish confirmation of his world view Teheran's call for murder horribly endorsed the accuracy of Rushdie's insights

"Fundamentalist ferocity of another sort is deplored in *The Moor's Last Sigh* Surveying contemporary India Moraes recoils from the thuggish sectarian that is reducing the 'many headed beauty of the Hindu religion with its multiple gods to hooligan allegiance to the war-like cult of the Lord Ram

"*The Moor's Last Sigh* is sensationally but unstirringly stocked with evil beauties, pantomime termagants, shapely sexpots, ogreish tycoons and warped celibates The novel can be both lurid and psychologically colourless, crammed to bursting point, but depthless

'Where Rushdie's talent more masterfully manifests itself is in the extravaganza of his prose Passages of glowing description melt into bouts of word-play, flashes of wit scintillations of metaphor Images of exotic strangeness alternate with punning pyrotechnics Energy vibrates visibly from the page

It is extraordinary to reflect that this flamboyance is rooted in fortitude *The Moor's Last Sigh* is to be hailed as a triumph of imaginative indomitability With it, Rushdie unfurls his pent-up creativity and lets it gorgeously ripple out over a sombrely beleaguered life"■

LIMELIGHT

DIDI, DIDI...!

Usha Uthup joined the people of South Africa to celebrate their freedom after three centuries of White domination

"It's really a free South Africa now!" exclaimed Calcutta's pop queen, Usha Uthup, with unconcealed ecstasy She had just returned from a South Africa sojourn where she held the people spellbound with her magical music "There is no ethnic discrimination now The Whites, Blacks and coloureds mix freely"

The old image of South Africa pampering the Whites and ill treating the Blacks is now a thing of the past, thanks to the first multi-racial elections last year that terminated three centuries of exploitative colonial rule and gave power to the majority Blacks

This was Usha's second visit to South Africa During her first tour in 1992, the 40 plus singer recalls, she was a witness to the blatant discriminations that many Indians living there for generations had to encounter "They couldn't walk on the same road, there were separate shops for them It was awful! I couldn't believe my own eyes!"

South Africa was not liberated then, but was beginning to show the first signs of a new dawn She had fervently hoped she would be able to revisit the country sometime And her dream came true, the contrast this time overwhelmed the singer

Usha was bowled over by the warm reception Whites, Blacks and Indians -- everyone -- came to see her concerts wherever she performed, whether in Johannesburg or Durban or Cape Town, for here was a singer from the land of Mahatma Gandhi who had come to partake of their jubilation, now that South Africa had finally unshackled itself from the vicious grip of White rule "We need more ambassadors like her," said the Durban metro mayor Sipho Ngwenya, praising her



'Mama Africa' and Usha Uthup in Johannesburg

Usha, or simply *Didi*, resplendent in Kanjeevaram silks, an array of multi-hued bangles, her trademark *gajra* on her snaking braid and a mega-sized bindi, is a great crowd-puller, her appeal unmatched With her disarming smile and husky voice, the Seventies' sensation struck an instant chord with her audience in South Africa

She belted out songs in various Indian languages and, of course, in Zulu and Afrikaan For she believes if "you want to reach out to the people you must sing in their mother tongue' And Usha has a way of mastering languages she can sing in 14 foreign tongues and nine Indian! Incredible

Usha's moment of triumph came on August 15 when during one of her shows she opted for the popular African number, *Pata pata* Mariam Makeba, South Africa's legendary singer more popularly known as 'Mama Africa and the original singer of *Pata pata* (who had recently returned from exile after 32 long years) joined her on stage

"It was such a thrilling moment The two of us singing together Such a thing had not happened before," reminisces the *One two cha, cha cha* crooner with a dimpled smile

South African Indians Usha discovered, cherished Indian music and there were very few songs from India which were not heard there

An exclusive radio station called Radio Lotus aired 24 hours Indian music in Tamil, Telugu Bengali Oriya and the singers ranged from K L Saigal to Kumar Sanu Quite in contrast to our tendencies for regional broadcasts and telecasts

"In India the more we talk about national unity the more parochial we become I cannot think of a regional channel which gives the songs in all Indian languages But there you have it in South Africa!"

Usha is always there singing for a cause for she believes "Music is not my business communication is"

Susmita Banerjee

EXTRACT

Turn of the KEY



BY SHANTA GOKHALE

Extracted from** Rita Welinkar **by** Shanta Gokhale, **Disha Books, Rs 115

The same dream again Rita wakes up exhausted from the panic of pulling balls of hair out of her mouth Her upper lip is dotted with sweat, her limbs are limp Her chest heaves Through the slits of her half-open eyes comes a shimmering blue radiance and into her nostrils, filled with the smell of ether and the odour of flesh and blood, creeps a wisp of expensive perfume

Rita wants to smile but the muscles of her face do something else "Did I disturb you? You're frowning Or is it the usual frown that greets me?" Ina Aunty, holding the pleats of her light blue georgette sari together, sinks like a pleasurable sigh into the chair by Rita's bed

Rita shakes her head "The frown wasn't for you It was probably for the dream I was having"

"Perhaps But it wouldn't worry me even if it was for me I know you don't like me, but I must do my duty I had to come and see you"

"But I'm glad you've come," Rita says with a frank smile "It gets quite boring here There's nothing really the matter with me Sangeeta comes every day, but quite late, after work"

"And when she gets home, she locks herself in her room with Eric till all hours Not of course since Shanks stopped him from coming over But Nellie was telling me, from what she'd overheard, something's brewing at the office She and Shanks are very worried"

Rita sits up bolt upright "What's brewing?"

Ina lifts her gracefully curved shoulders, slightly "Who knows? Ask her, since she comes every day Something's certainly amiss She's losing her looks completely She's at the marrying age and look at the dark circles under her eyes Her hair bundled up into that untidy knot, and those coarse, loud coloured *cholis* and saris like *ghati*'s In our days do you think



anyone as ungroomed as that would have found a job with a reputable company?"

"I know who would have got jobs in reputable companies in your days, Ina Aunty, and for what qualifications," Rita can't stop herself from saying While she is racked by worry about what's gone wrong at Sangeeta's office, this woman goes on about looks

Ina raises her neatly plucked eyebrows and straightens the pleats of her sari The expression on her face is the same as when she's lecturing Nellie and Shanks on the mistakes they made in life, that have brought them to the present pass Smiling crookedly, she says, "Your barb has gone home, but such barbs don't hurt me Just as there are men of the world, there are women of the world These are the people who



run the world They know where the key to every human being is Turn the key and your work is done Listen to me I'm going to take advantage of your being captive here to tell you a few things Once you come out, you'll spin around like a top, with no time to listen What I want to know is, why you girls refuse to conduct your lives intelligently People like us don't have the wherewithal, the family infrastructure to live cosy, protected lives When I lost both my parents in an accident at the age of sixteen, I had only two qualifications - I had just done my Senior Cambridge and could speak English well, and I was beautiful I had no other assets and no human being whom I could call mine How was I to survive? A friend of my mother's introduced me to a gentleman she knew He could give me a job she said In our first meeting, he said to me 'My wife doesn't live with me You will have to spend time with me when I ask you to" At that age how was I to know what spending time meant? I thought it meant chatting with him or seeing a film with him He realised it and didn't rush me He was basically a very nice man That is why we are still such good friends But if I had been uppity and refused to comply, I'd been out on the streets Yes I 'spent' time with him We had great times together Wives also 'spend time' with their husbands in addition to slaving for them What do they get in return? Comparatively nothing I got a lot from him Of course, I'm not suggesting that this alone has helped me reach the position I am in today No I was intelligent and worked hard and picked up skills fast and learned on the job and rose But I am grateful to Teddy and the woman who introduced me to him for giving me such a good start I tried to do for you what that friend of my mother's did '

"Please, Ina Aunty I'd rather not talk about that "

"Suit yourself But what gives the right to act all untouched and pure, anyway? What have you got with all your moral principles? I lived clean You've lived dirty "

"What are you suggesting?" Rita asks, watching the cunning shades in Ina s eyes

"Don't pretend you don't know," Ina murmers in her warm, silky voice, letting her lashes down over her eyes "I'd had a relationship with a married man, but he acknowledged me publicly I went around with him in style — to parties, abroad, the theatre, the cinema My man was upper class He was a king A lion among men You found yourself a little middle-class mouse What sort of love did you make in dark mouseholes, hiding from the world?"

Rita wants to sink her teeth into something, someone, draw blood She clenches them hard and says, "I have no wish to listen to you I don't know what you're talking about If you have nothing else to say "

" then I may leave, mayn't I? Ina's lips are two straight, sharp lines "Don't worry I intend to go I merely wanted you to know that everybody has seen through your life Did you think we didn't know? Did you really think that?"

Rita's lips are paper white "Mummy? Daddy? "

"Of course," Ina rises triumphantly from her chair in one graceful, sinuous movement like a swan lifting its head out of water

"But they think no end of Salvi "

"Why shouldn't they? He's a fine man A proper gentleman

'Gentleman'? He's isn't what he's pretending to be He is fooling them and his family And that makes him a gentleman?"

"Fooling them? What an idiot you are Didn't I tell you they know what they need to know? How can he fool them? He knows that they know "

"Rot He's always saying they'll never get over the shock if they knew "

"You really are an idiot People who have cancer know they have cancer but we don't talk about it, do we? They'd be shocked if you talked about it! Things take their course People know That s enough "

Rita is still But inside her, a wave of laughter is building It surges up and breaks, foaming at her mouth Another comes and another, till one rises, unaccountably, to her eyes and breaks at their rims, flowing down uncontrollably while she continues to laugh Ina, frightened, calls the nurse, who gives Rita an injection That is what Rita is craving for She does not wish to think She doesn't want to go under in that thick, black water She wants to swim into a warm cave and sleep, with her knees drawn up against her chest

Ina sits still by her side watching her sink into a drugged sleep Then she gets up softly Leaning over, she places her lips on Rita's forehead, then, making sure her stiletto heels don't ring too loudly against the cold, hard floor of the ward, she glides away

"RESPLENDENT KANGRA"

An enchanting dream trip to Dharamsala & Palampur.



ST JOHN CHURCH

The first line of morning quietly appears on the distant horizon and gently unload the stars of the night into the waters of the thousands of streams that flow through Kangra's enchanting valleys The curving terraces of the fields steadily climb the slopes and watch life stretching its limbs in every picturesque hamlet The vegetation is a fascinating mix of tropical and sub-Himalayan varieties Behind, a sheer-wall covered with breathtaking murals carved in snow, rise the Dhauladhar ranges - stark white against the flawless sky and misty, romantic pink at dusk

As we take any of the half-a-dozen roads that feed Dharamsala, even the breeze carry a heady cocktail Dharmsala is the district headquarters of Kangra and rises from 1300 mts to a commanding 1770 mt

Strategically placed near the bus stand and between Lower and Upper Dharmsala, is Himachal Tourism's Yatri Niwas This economy hotel complete with a drive in and restaurant has a choice of double bed rooms at Rs 400 and Rs 300

Past this, lies the little library - a veritable treasure trove on Kangra's rich heritage And just above, is the Kangra Art Museum whose exhibits include a gallery of Kangra's famous miniature paintings and a representative collection of sculptures, pottery and drawings, as well as the work of contemporary artists and photographers

With a long glazed corridor that faces the Dhauladhar rocks, while the rooms look out to the wide spread of the plains, this spur is crowned with the Hotel Dhauladhar Here, the Kangra suites are a luxurious pair, each complete with a drawing-cum-dining room, bedroom, dresser and splendid bathroom Each costs Rs 1200 There is a choice of de luxe and regular bed-rooms where the tariff ranges between Rs 450 and Rs. 700 The hotel has a host of other facilities that include a well-stocked bar and billiards room Higher still on the hills, is Himachal Tourism's gracious art-deco mansion - Kashmir House - once the property of the princely rulers of Jammu and Kashmir Here, where old world' elegance combine with modern facilities, a de luxe suite with four beds, costs a mere Rs 750, and the other double bed-rooms have a tag of Rs 600 and Rs 500

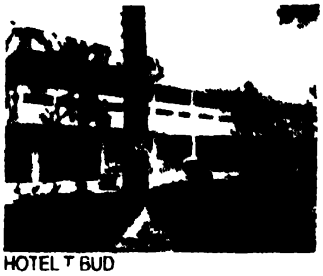
From Kashmir House, one can take the somewhat steep walk or drive to Mcleodganj Or past Forsythegani named after a commissioner of the Punjab - take the regular road that shines like a river in the afternoon sun Under the shade of cedar branches, just past Forsythegani, stands the charming little church of St John in the Wilderness.

Often called the 'Little Lhasa", McLeodganj now rests firmly on the world map as the residence of His Holiness The Dalai Lama A bare five minute walk from the Dalai Lama's residence is Himachal Tourism's Hotel Bhagsu The hotel's beautiful lawn - embellished with stones collected from the forest - is an invitation for a relaxed sit-out meal Here, there is an independent cottage for Rs 1000 and double bedrooms from Rs. 400 to Rs 1100 These hotels are also the base for a number of interesting excursions You can also venture to ancient temples - the rock cut monolith at Masrur, to Bhagsu Nag, Baglamukhi, or Chamara, to Haripur, Kangra, Nurpur, or to Trilokpur - in whose tiny confines are a Buddhist convent, Hindu temples, a mosque and a gurudwara You can imagine the sanguine stories that the stones tell at the forts of Kangra, Mangarh and Tira Sujanpur Or you can take in the serenity of Swami Chinmayananda's ashram at Tapovan

While at McLeodganj, the entire hillside embraces a cedar forest, at Palampur, 40 km from Dharamsala and at a height of 1250 mts, the landscape rises gently

The name, 'Palampur', comes from the local pu'um or 'lots of water' And water certainly abounds here. There are large rivulets small streams and tiny brooks of all sizes It is this bounty of water and the unique character of the climate - cool breezes laden with moisture from the snows and warm sunshine - that have given Palampur its tea gardens

The finest part of Palampur has been reserved for the church and Himachal Tourism's Hotel T-Bud With lush dew-kissed tea gardens across the road, the hotel rests amid a sprawling lawn on a wooded knoll Shaded by cedar and pine trees, this red brick building is a haven for those who seek solitude and privacy Its four bed suites cost Rs 600 and the double bed-rooms and prices at Rs 500 and Rs. 400



HOTEL T BUD

Take a delightful walk through tea gardens and fields to the Cafe Neugal where a sumptuous fare is yours for the taking by the banks of the Neugal stream

From the Hotel T-Bud, you can venture to the monasteries of Bir and Tashijong and at the latter meet the head lama who is yet to enter his teens At Andretta, 13 km away, is the gallery of the celebrated artist, Sobha Singh, and a pottery centre The more intrepid can take one of the passes through the Dhauladhar ranges to Chamba There are numerous temples around Palampur and the most famous is the exquisite one of Baijnath - a distance of 15 km - with an incredible range of unique carvings, it is said that here, King Ravana invoked Lord Shiva for the boon of immortality, an episode from the epic Ramayana

Just past Palampur, on the metre guage railway from Pathankot, another engine is added to the train But here, no visitor needs to be pushed and pulled The Kangra valley has its own stream and there is the smooth track of Himachal Tourism all the way ■

How to get there :

The airport at Gaggal is 14 km from Dharmsala and 37 km from Palampur

The broad guage railway reaches Pathankot which is 19 km from Dharmsala and 115 km from Palampur The metre guage railway comes to Moranda, 4 km from Palampur

For Hotel Bookings Contact :

Travel agents or Himachal Tourism Offices/Representative Offices at

- Chanderlok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi 110001 Tel (011) 3325320, 3324764, Fax (011) 3731072
- Peerless Hotels & Travels Ltd , 1, Chowringhee Square, Near Peerless Bazar, Calcutta 700069 Tel (033) 2457181, 2487197, Fax (033) 2486650, 293381

INNER EYE — Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21 - April 20



Venus, according to Western astrology, makes you ardent in love, pleasing in manners, great at persuading people and rather self-indulgent, asserts Ganesha Get set for a trip Between September 20-21, expect things to move your way Expenses mount

Taurus

April 21 - May 20



The sun-Neptune trine placing gives you a great chance to imitate the fine sprint of Michael Johnson in your chosen field of activity be it business, medicine chemicals or the arts and acting What you do now, will have its effect in January 1996 and after

Gemini

May - June



With patience and grit you can win in life The home front children research servants subordinates in fact certainly your male all come down like an avalanche on you By Thursday matters should be all back in control giving you breathing space You will need that

Cancer



Your folks won't make an embarrassing blunder You will learn the art, value and use of stick-control-lation and complete cooperation be it work or pleasure or plain family life However expenses will multiply and you will be hard put to save Trips and ties are foretold

Leo

July 21 - August



Win or lose you at least will not make uncharitable comments as did the great former athlete Carl Lewis at the recent world championships Money, love, travel and a host of good friends should make you happy and secure Pay specific heed to news views and messages

Virgo



The sun Uranus trine placing helps you to overcome Saturn's baneful influence and proceed on your way That means like Cuban Pedroso the record holder in the long jump you too will find courage and hope A leap of faith in the best sense of it Health caution is essential

Libra

Sept - Oct



The sun's sextile Pluto makes you almost as famous and naughty as Bubka who won the fifth consecutive world pole vault title The second astro-fact is Venus in your sign which gives you just that charisma for travel through journey and ceremony are fated

Scorpio



Like Christian Edward creatine a world record you too can advance aggressively in your chosen field or hobby a Mars the energy planet, is in your sign That gives you the zip and go Love and fun I could be secured The courage to face it all will be yours and that's what counts

Sagittarius

November 23 - December 20



Like hurdler Kim Batten, you will clear obstacles in style and class, because the money planet, Jupiter in your sign, according to Western astrology, is finely placed with the moon, the mind and imagination These will naturally lead you to grand success

Capricorn

December 21 - January 19



You are now ready to take an example from Troy Kemp world high jump champion because Uranus the awakener, move in your sign according to Western astrology Be it career, business, money or a touch of romance, you can make it In interviews and court cases, too

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18



A heavy load has been lifted from your shoulders now so you will be getting into top shape Journey ceremony inspirational moves improving your mind, taking the right decisions and cultivating closer ties should make you happy

Pisces

February 19 - March 20



Set your eyes on power and fame and you are sure to have it Changes on the home front and all sorts of important human relationships are destined for you Way with melancholy for this is the time to enjoy life to the full Socialise heavily for you will reach out to people and places

BIRTHDAYS

September 17: Moon square Venus, means expenses, and perhaps a certain dogmatism and rigidity which could hamper your progress

September 18: Moon-Mars trine makes you quite capable of resolving tangled issues, be they money, family, love or all of the three Journey will give great satisfaction

September 19: Moon-Pluto trine almost always takes a little time to work, but rest assured, it will give you both, the power and the wherewithal to succeed

September 20: Sun-Uranus trine could give you love money, fame and name This is one of the most powerful placings for victory and happiness

September 21: Sun-sextile Pluto leads to an upsurge in artistic activities, sympathy and understanding It will make you into a rare person and that is the final word

September 22: Mercury in a stationary placing could lead to a certain communication gap or misunderstanding which is obviously not advisable

September 23: Venus-Jupiter sextile leads to fulfilment, because Venus leads to riches and love and Jupiter to knowledge This is indeed a very lucky phase for you

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7 day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
■ AGARTALA					
[illegible] 41	0620	1 3 4 6	IC 742	0950	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 6
IC 74	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
[illegible] 21	1140	1 3 5	PF 709	1610	1 [illegible] 7
■ AHMEDABAD					
D2 806	[illegible]30	[illegible]	D2 805	1150	1 3 5 7
■ AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6	PF 706	[illegible]10	[illegible]
■ BAGDOGRA					
PF 735	0740	1	PF [illegible]5	[illegible]	[illegible]
PF 23	0730	[illegible]	PF [illegible]6	[illegible]	
IC 721	1010	[illegible]	[illegible]	1150	[illegible]
■ BANGALORE					
IC [illegible]1	0600	daily	[illegible]	[illegible]140	daily
■ BHUBANESWAR					
[illegible]141	[illegible]	[illegible]	IC 541	[illegible]	[illegible]
IC 69	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VT [illegible]8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ BOMBAY					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	AI 306	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ DELHI					
			4S 806	[illegible]	
			IC [illegible]01		
			[illegible]08	[illegible]	
			IC [illegible]1	[illegible]	
			MD [illegible]1	[illegible]	
			IC [illegible]61	[illegible]	
■ DIBRUGARH					
			D2 [illegible]61	[illegible]30	
			IC [illegible]03	[illegible]30	
			4 [illegible]5	[illegible]35	
			4 [illegible]21	[illegible]45	
			PF [illegible]33	[illegible]10	
■ DIMAPUR					
IC 257	[illegible]110	[illegible]	IC [illegible]2	[illegible]520	
■ GUWAHATI					
[illegible]1 03	[illegible]10	[illegible]	IC [illegible]04	[illegible]020	
PF [illegible]3	[illegible]	5	[illegible]06	[illegible]	
PF [illegible]05	0745	[illegible]	[illegible]4	1640	
PF [illegible]35	0740		4S 811	1635	
D2 181	[illegible]55	[illegible]	D2 [illegible]81	[illegible]45	
4S 816 811	[illegible]205	[illegible]	4S 81 [illegible]	[illegible]635	
4S 812	1205	[illegible]	PF 736	1730	
IC 229	[illegible]410	daily	PF 738	1740	

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
■ HYDERABAD					
IC [illegible]77	[illegible]615	[illegible]	IC 778	2115	[illegible]5
IC [illegible]69	[illegible]615	[illegible]	IC [illegible]70	2120	[illegible]6
[illegible] 106	1310	[illegible]	[illegible] 105	1720	[illegible]6
■ IMPHAL					
IC [illegible]5	0800	[illegible]	IC [illegible]6	1250	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]10	[illegible]	[illegible]5	1520	[illegible]
■ JAIPUR					
[illegible]906	[illegible]10	[illegible]5	[illegible]	[illegible]30	[illegible]7
■ JORHAT					
IC [illegible]3	[illegible]30	[illegible]	IC 21	[illegible]135	
IC [illegible]	[illegible]910	[illegible]	[illegible]1	[illegible]1	[illegible]
■ LILABARI					
PF [illegible]35	[illegible]51	[illegible]	[illegible]36	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ LUCKNOW					
IC [illegible]81	[illegible]30	[illegible]5	IC [illegible]11	[illegible]1	[illegible]3
■ MADRAS					
[illegible]3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]41	[illegible]30	
[illegible]41	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]2	[illegible]1	
[illegible]	[illegible]30	[illegible]	[illegible]1	[illegible]	[illegible]3 [illegible]5
[illegible]17	[illegible]	[illegible]	66	[illegible]	346
■ NAGPUR					
[illegible]	[illegible]				
■ PATNA					
■ PORT BLAIR					
[illegible]					
■ RANCHI					
IC [illegible]49	[illegible]1	[illegible]			
■ SHILLONG					
[illegible]6	[illegible]1				
■ SILCHAR					
25[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
IC [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1030	1
			23	[illegible]30	6
■ TEZPUR					
[illegible]1	[illegible]0				
[illegible]	[illegible]1				
■ TEZU					
			PF [illegible]38	1740	[illegible]
■ VISHAKHAPATNAM					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
■ ZIRO					
PF [illegible]35	[illegible]1	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

■ AMMAN					
RJ 185	1445		RJ 184	0705	4
■ AMSTERDAM					
KL 826	0315		KL 825	0135	

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
BANGKOK					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 4 5 7	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
TG 314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6
BUCHAREST					
	1950		RO 075	1055	5 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG 698	1735	5	BG 697	1655	2 5
DHAKA					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 7
BG 092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG-091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC-724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG 094	1305	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6
BG 094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KATHMANDU					
RA 214	1030	4 7	RA-213	0945	4 7
IC 747	1130	2 4 7	IC-748	1800	2 4 7
LONDON					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA 143	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARO					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● Modiluft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Romanian Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways **VF** ● VIF Airways Limited

[redacted]

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Arrival Dn
3041	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6 15	3042
3047	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 45	3048
300	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 05	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Grand Chord Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
330	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tue Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tue Thurs Fri & Sun		
2301	10 40	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tue Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun		
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat		
2307	8 30	**Jodhpur Express**		
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday		
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly		
		Guwahati Express	12 25	3046
		Dep Wednesday Arr Friday		
		Gorakhpur Express	11 45	5059
		Dep & Arr Thursday		
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	044
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	00	3010
300	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	19 15	308
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 20	3050
3019	21 00	**Katngodum Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	7 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3037	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3038
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	6 40	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	19 40	3016
1159	15 35	**Chambal Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7 55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 30	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	7 55	1182
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13 40	**Teesta Torsa Express**	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5085	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4-25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6007	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
800	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur ●	8 20	8001
2860	12 40	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2321	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8051	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	11 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
		Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
		Bangalore Express Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
800	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	14 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Nagpur	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2841	16 10	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6321	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	-
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday on	13 45	6313
14	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	-
16	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
20	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

WINDOW TO THE WORLD

I came in the spring, and took the room on the roof. It was a long, low building which housed several families, the roof was flat, except for my room and a chimney. I don't know whose room owned the chimney, but my room owned the roof. And from the window of my room I owned the world.

But only from the window.

The banyan tree, just opposite, was mine, and its inhabitants my subjects. They were two squirrels, a few mynahs, a crow, and at night, a pair of flying-foxes.

The squirrels were busy in the afternoon, the birds in the morning and evening, the foxes at night. I wasn't very busy that year, not as busy as the inhabitants of the banyan tree.

There was also a mango tree, but that came later, in the summer when I met Koki and the mangoes were ripe.

At first, I was lonely in my room. But, then, I discovered the power of my window. It looked out on the banyan tree, on the garden, on the broad path that ran beside the building, and out over the roofs of other houses, over roads and fields, as far as the horizon.

The path was not a busy one, but it held variety, an *ayah* with a baby in a pram, the postman, an event in himself, the fruit-seller, the toy-seller, calling their wares in high pitched tamil arpeggios, the rent collector, a posse of cyclists, a long chain of school girls, a lame beggar, all passed my way, the way of my window.

In the early summer, a *tonga* came rattling and jingling down the path and stopped in front of the house. A girl and an elderly lady climbed down, and a servant unloaded their baggage. They went into the house, and the *tonga* moved off, the horse snorting a little.

The next morning the girl looked up from the garden and saw me at my window.

She had long, black hair that fell to her waist, tied with a single red ribbon, her eyes were black like her hair, and just as shiny. She must have been about ten or eleven years old.

"Hello," I said with a friendly smile.

She looked suspiciously at me. "Who are you?" she asked.

"I am a ghost."

She laughed, and her laugh had a gay, mocking quality. "You look like one!"

I didn't think her remark particularly flattering, but I had asked for it. I stopped smiling anyway, most children don't like adults smiling at them all the time.

"What have you got up there?" she asked.

"Magic," I said.

She laughed again, but this time without mockery. "I don't believe you," she said.

"Why don't you come up and see for yourself?"

She hesitated a little, but came round to the steps and began climbing them, slowly, cautiously. And when she entered the room, she brought in a magic of her own.

"Where's your magic," she asked, looking me in the eye.

"Come here." I said, and I took her to the window, and showed her the world.

She said nothing, but stared out of the window uncomprehendingly at first, and then with increasing interest. And after sometime, she turned round and smiled at me, and we were friends.

I only knew that her name was Koki, and that she had come with her aunt for the summer months. I didn't need to know any more about her, and she didn't need know anything about me except that I wasn't really a ghost - not the frightening sort anyway. She came up my steps nearly everyday, and joined me at the window. There was a lot of excitement to be had in our world, specially when the rains broke.

At the first rumblings, women would rush outside to retrieve the washing on the clothes line, and, if there was a breeze, to chase a few garments across the compound. When the rain came, it came with a vengeance, making a bog of the garden and a river of the path.

A cyclist would come riding furiously down the path, an elderly gentleman would be having difficulty with an umbrella, naked children would be frisking about in the rain. Sometimes,



Koki would run out on the roof, and shout and dance in the rain. And the rain would come through the open door and window of the room, flooding the floor and making an island of the bed.

But the window was more fun than anything else. It gave us the power of detachment: we were deeply interested in the life around us, but we were not involved in it.

"It's is like a cinema," said Koki. "The window is the screen, the world is the picture."

Soon the mangoes were ripe and Koki was in the branches of the mango tree as often as she was in my room. From the window I had a good view of the tree, and we spoke to each other from the same height. We ate far too many mangoes, at least five a day.

"Let's make a garden on the roof," suggested Koki. She was full of ideas like this.

"And how do you propose to do that?" I asked.

"It's easy. We bring up mud and bricks and make the flower-beds. Then we plant the seeds. We'll grow all sorts of flowers."

"The roof will fall in," I predicted.

But it didn't. We spent two days carrying buckets of mud up the steps to the roof and laying out the flower beds. It was very hard work, but Koki did most of it. When the beds were ready, we had the opening ceremony. Apart from a few small plants collected from the garden below, we had only one species of seeds — pumpkin. We planted the pumpkin seeds in the mud, and felt proud of ourselves.

But it rained heavily that night, and in the morning I discovered that everything — except the bricks — had been washed away.

So we returned to the window.

A mynah had been in a fight — with the crow perhaps — and the feathers had been knocked off its head. A bougainvillaea that had been climbing the wall had sent a long green shoot in through the window.

Koki said, "Now we can't shut the window without spoiling the creeper."

"Then we will never close the window," I said.

And we let the creeper into the room.

The rains passed, and an autumn wind came whispering through the branches of the banyan tree. There were red leaves on the ground, and the wind picked them up and blew them about, so that they looked like butterflies.

I would watch the sun rise in the morning, the sky all red, until its first rays splashed the window-sill and crept up the walls of the room. And in the evening, Koki and I watched the sun go down in a sea of fluffy clouds, sometimes the clouds were pink, and sometimes orange: they were always coloured clouds, framed in the window.

'I'm going tomorrow,' said Koki one evening.

I was too surprised to say anything.

"You stay here forever, don't you?" she said.

I remained silent.

"When I come again next year, you will still be here, won't you?"

"I don't know," I said, "but the window will still be here."

"Oh, do be here next year," she said, 'or someone will close the window!"

In the morning, the *tonga* was at the door, and the servant, the aunt and Koki were in it. Koki waved up to me at my window. Then the driver flicked the reins, the wheels of the carriage creaked and rattled, the bell jingled.

Down the path went the *tonga*, down the path and through the gate and all the time Koki waved, and from the gate I must have looked like a ghost, standing alone at the high window, amongst the bougainvillaea.

When the *tonga* went out of sight, I took the spray of bougainvillaea in my hand and pushed it out of the room. Then I closed the window. It would be opened when the spring and Koki came again.

(Sanctuary Features)





GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

THE SIXTH EXTINCTION

I went to see some of our distant relatives at the zoo recently. The gorillas were the most dignified, despite being taunted by uneducated visitors. Some Arab tourists were even trying to feed them liquors of all sorts. The chimps were lying asleep behind the glass panes of their bedchamber, only one youngster was awake, turning somersaults over a swing.

Given humanity's undoubted command over the world, our culture, consciousness, language and human compassion, it would be comfortable to think that we are a long way from these apes. But we are not.

In genetic terms, chimps are much closer to us than they are to gorillas. Our genetic blueprints — DNA — differ only two per cent from one another. This makes us closer to the chimps than horses are to zebras — and they can be interbred. Fortunately, unequal chromosomes make impossible such an experiment between humans and chimps.

But still, the concept of ourselves as one species among many is one to contemplate in order to control our human arrogance and ego. It is a concept much promoted by the Kenyan, Richard Leakey, who is at present in the news for Safina, his new political party.

Previously, he had headed the Kenyan Wildlife Service, fighting to control elephant and rhinoceros poaching. But before he took on the poachers, or was beaten up by political thugs supported by an intolerant ruling party, he was searching for the origins of humanity - fossils were, and remain his chief love.

His parents Louis and Mary Leakey, were two of the most famous names in paleo-anthropology. His own most celebrated find was in the Great Rift Valley.

There, on an ancient sandy bed on the shores of what had once been a lake his team unearthed the best part of a skeleton one and a half million years old. This young man, called the Turkana boy, had died and decomposed on the lakeside. A strapping 5'8" tall, he was one of our African ancestors, a hunter-gatherer in the days long before *homo sapiens*.

Studying fossils is a little like studying astronomy — it fills one with a concept of the vastness of time and space, and of our own comparative insignificance. Dealing with fossils, one is also dealing with extinction. More than 99 per cent of all species which ever existed are now extinct.

One day, then, we shall probably be extinct, too, but long before that we shall have done something unique — we shall have single-handedly wiped out half of the species on earth, and that, too, possibly within the next three decades.

This is what Richard Leakey calls the Sixth Extinction, and which he discusses in detail in his book *Origins Reconsidered*.

The other five extinctions were caused by natural disasters. There were the Ordovician, 430 million years ago. The Devonian, 350 million years ago. The Permian, 225 million years ago, the Triassic, 200 million years ago, and the Cretaceous, 65 million years ago.

And here we are, only about a lakh years old as a species, and only about 10,000 years old in terms of civilisation — if you take it as the beginning when we settled down and began to produce food. We should have a bright future

The Permian was particularly bad, wiping out about 96 per cent of the living creatures and of course, you must remember the Cretaceous that was when the dinosaurs died, probably due to an asteroid colliding with the earth.

Because they're not with us any more, we tend to underestimate the dinosaurs, but they were the major terrestrial group for 120 million years and filled every conceivable evolutionary niche. Mammals in their days couldn't do better than be small, insectivorous creatures.

Only with their demise could the mammals, lucky survivors, begin rapidly to evolve and fill the gaps they left. Among these mammals was the ancestor of the primates from which 6,000 species evolved some 183 of which, including us, survive to this day.

And here we are, only about a lakh years old as a species, and only about 10,000 years old in terms of civilisation -- if you take it as the beginning when we settled down and began to produce food. We should have a bright future.

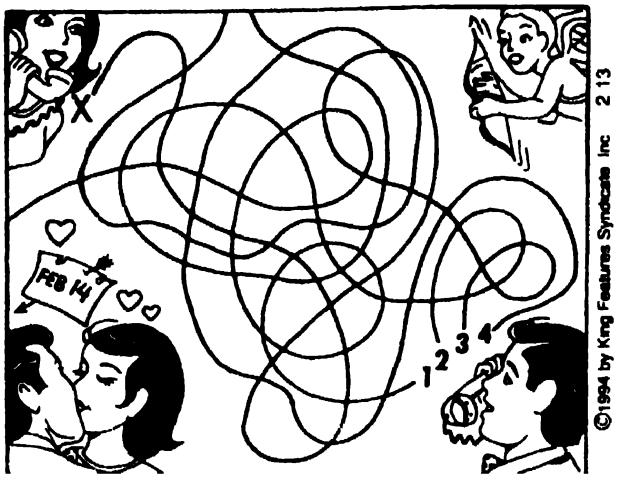
The average vertebrate species has a life of two million years and so we are young. There is no natural extinction due for millions of years.

But still, we have the Sixth Extinction. The world, before we began tampering with it, was more diverse in its life forms than ever before. Taking the atheistic view of Richard Leakey humanity has evolved with more free will, more ability to be flexible in its actions than any other species. This we are now abusing in our position as temporary tenants of this world, one species among many.

Even if we are ultimately doomed to extinction and extinct, as I read on a T-shirt recently, is for ever, that cannot excuse us from our actions now. We exist in the present and our duties and responsibilities lie here. Leakey has chosen to act through seeking political power, but his chief concern remains that we husband as carefully as possible all the world's resources to minimise the Sixth Extinction. For, by impoverishing the environment, we impoverish ourselves.

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL HAL KAUFMAN



ALL CONNECTED! Trace throug
that completes this connection hich one do you say?

NAME CALLING! Double the number of letters in your name add 18 and divide by two From this amount subtract the number of letters in your name and add 43 Result is given below

Answer is fifty two

1 — EEK	6	—	EEK
2 — EEK	7	— —	EEK
3 — EEK	8	— —	EEK
4 — EEK	9	— —	EEK
5 — EEK	10	—	EEK

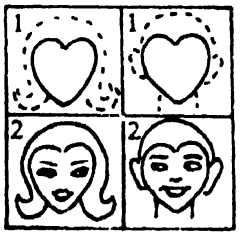
EEK THIS OUT, IF YOU CAN
EACH of the first six EEK words suggested below is missing one letter Four more EEK words that follow are missing two letters See if you can eke out these EEK words with entries above

1 Sneak look
2 Mild-mannered
3 Onion's relative
4 Smell up the place
5 1/52 of a year
6 Game word with hide
7 Nervy forwardness
8 Having trim lu
9 Homer was one
10 Troublesome spot to be up

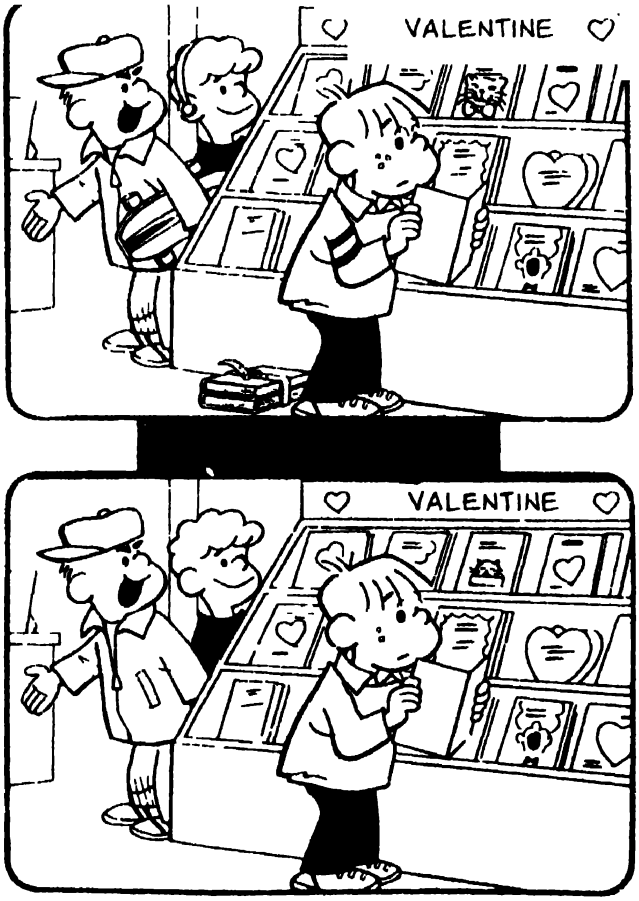
Time limit 2 minutes

HEART COPY!
Begin with a pair of hearts, simply add a few lines, and alakazam, you have created two Valentine sweethearts Draw figures in two steps First, draw hearts Then, add features — hair, ears, eyes, noses mouths, eyebrows, etc

When you feel you've mastered these figures, draw two more figures, draw two more hearts, and try creating some variations Square off chins, round foreheads, apply different hairdos, and so on



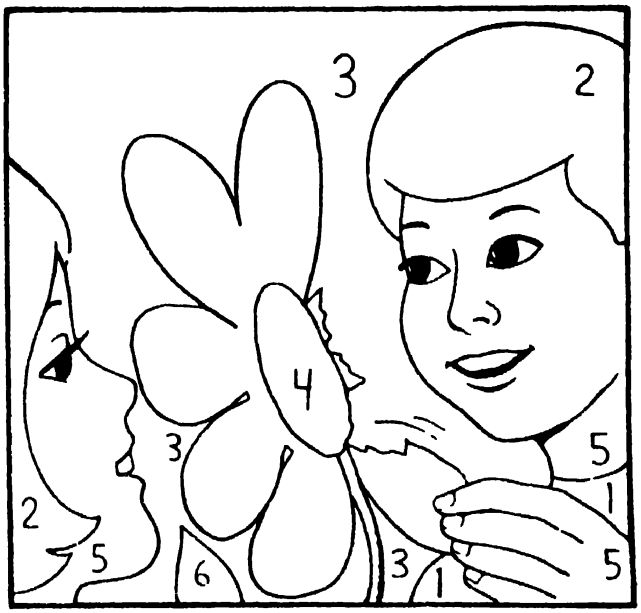
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Jacket is opened 2 Skateboard is missing 3 Headset is missing 4 Books are missing 5 Stripes are missing 6 Card is different

FUNSPOT



SHE LOVES ME Or does she not? Count the petals to find out Add the following colors by number 1—Red 2—Dk brown 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

PARTNERS

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

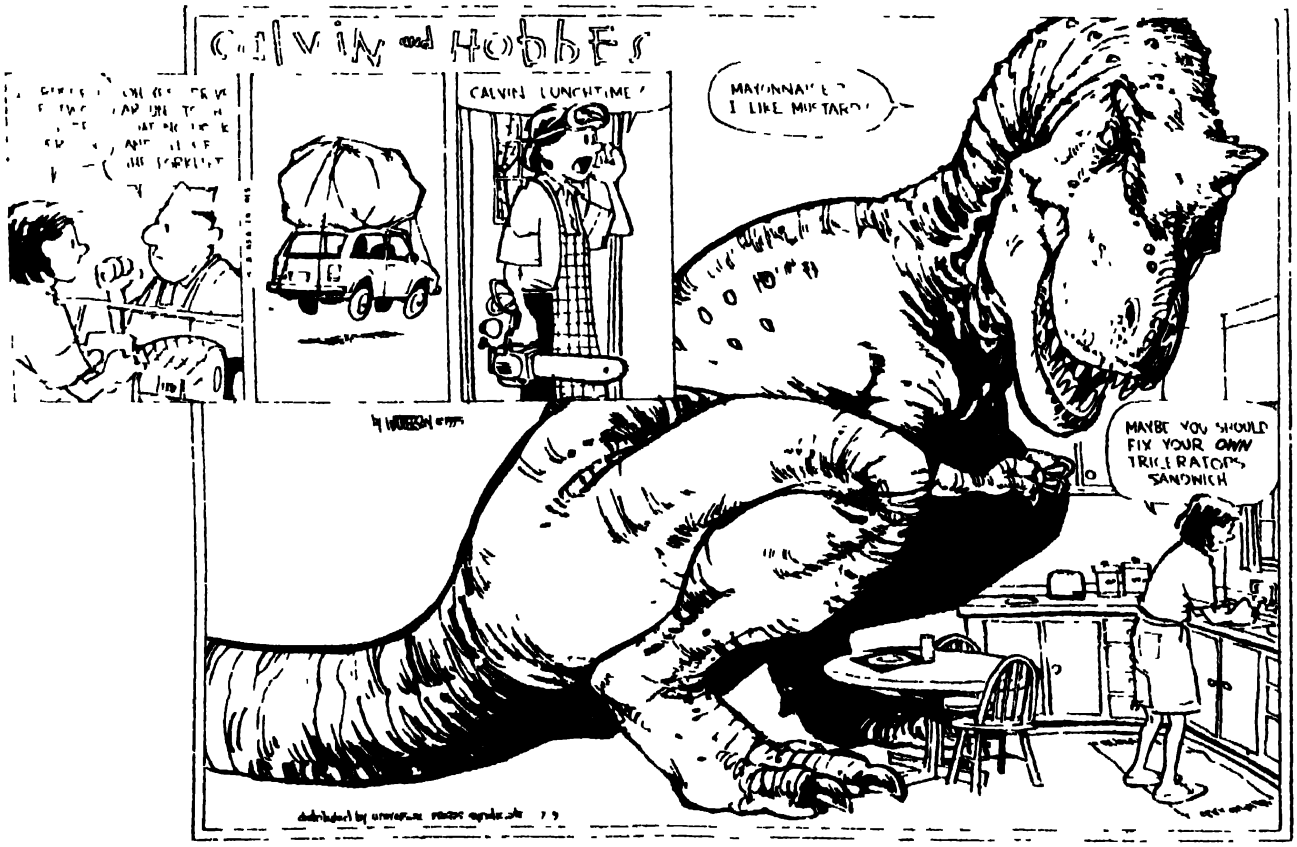
Possible twosome Spar rent

COMICS

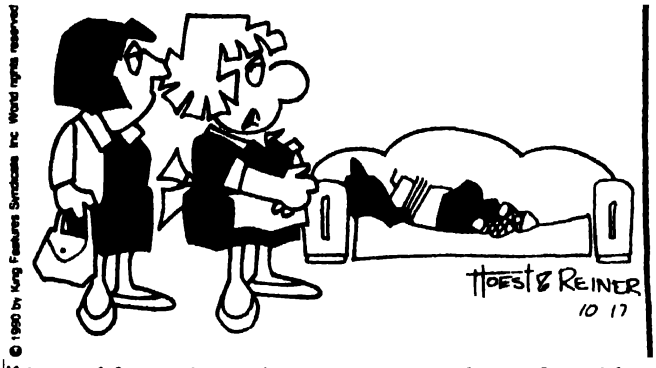
ARCHIE



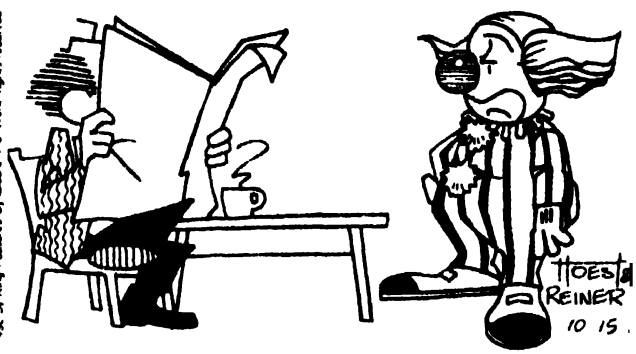
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS



"STRESS ISN'T ONE OF LEROY'S PROBLEMS."



"DON'T BE SILLY.. OF COURSE I STILL NOTICE YOU"

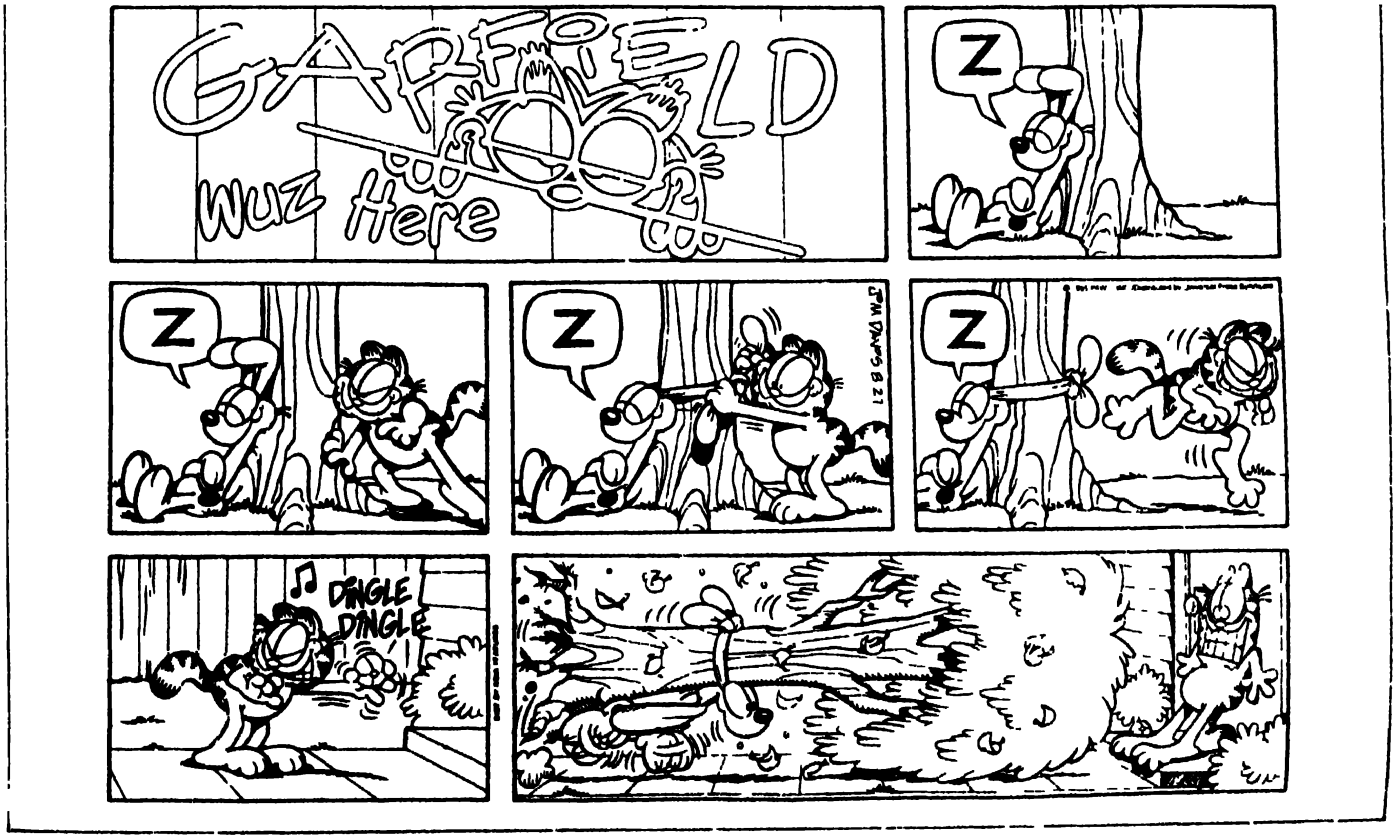


"GUESS WHAT OUR WRAPAROUND BUMPER IS WRAPPED AROUND!"

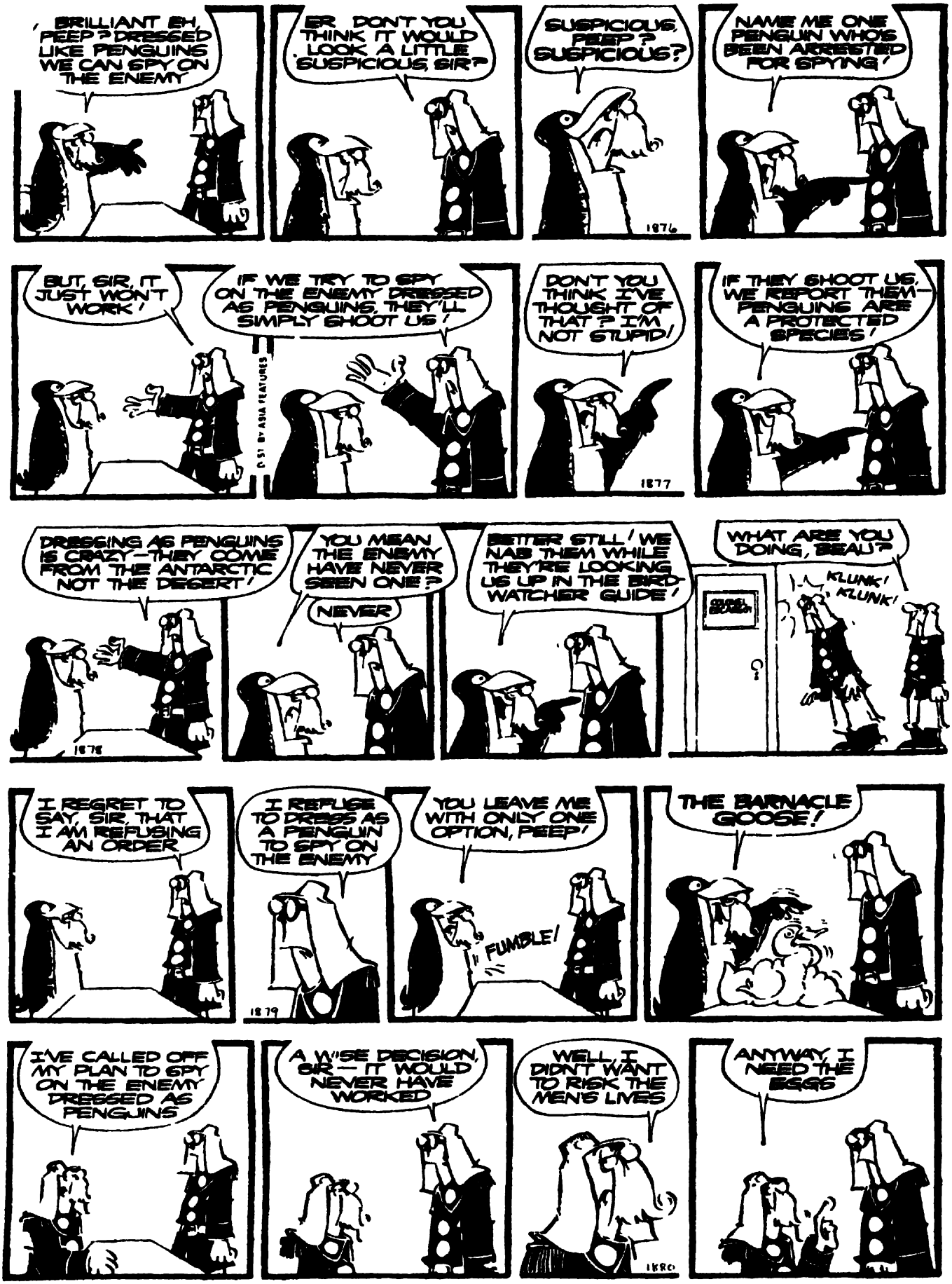


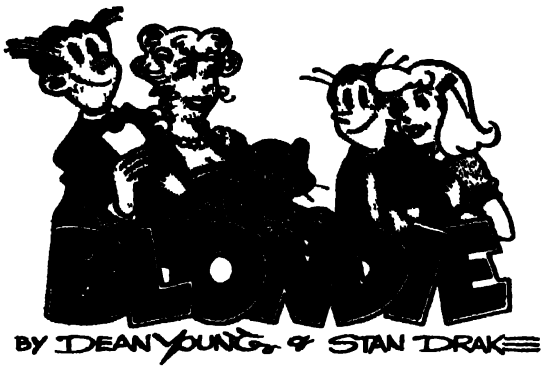
"OKAY, DAREDEVILS! DINNER IS SERVED!"

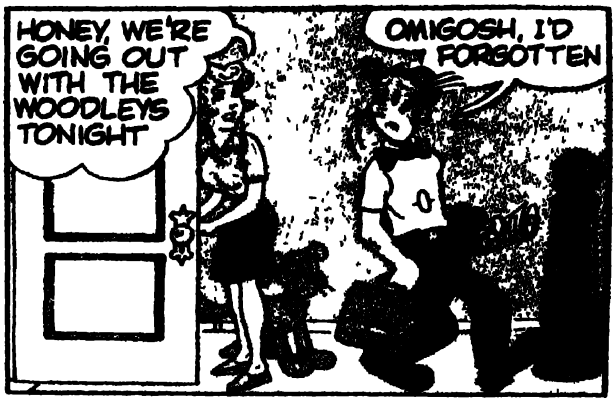
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

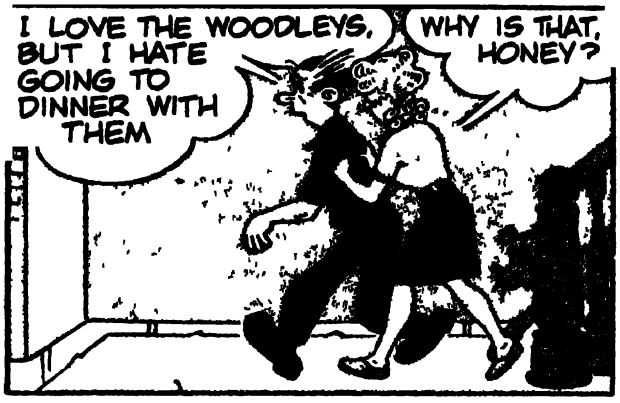


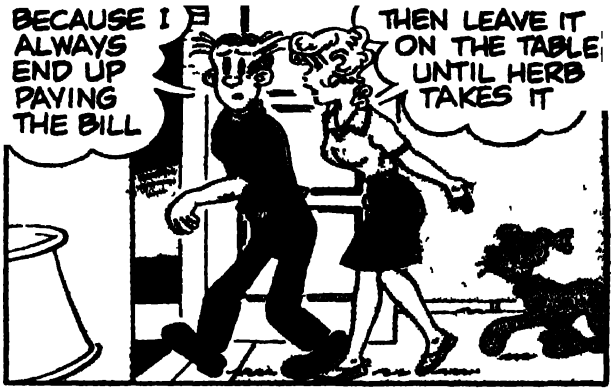
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP




BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


HONEY, WE'RE GOING OUT WITH THE WOODLEYS TONIGHT
OMIGOSH, I'D FORGOTTEN

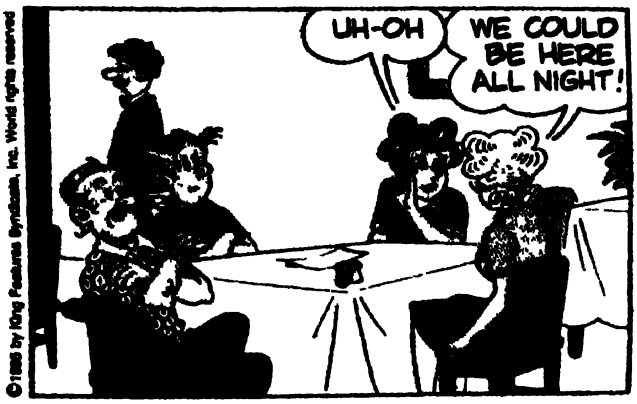

I LOVE THE WOODLEYS, BUT I HATE GOING TO DINNER WITH THEM
WHY IS THAT, HONEY?


BECAUSE I ALWAYS END UP PAYING THE BILL
THEN LEAVE IT ON THE TABLE UNTIL HERB TAKES IT


I LOVE THE BUMSTEADS, BUT I HATE GOING TO DINNER WITH THEM
WHY'S THAT, HERB?


DAGWOOD ALWAYS GRABS THE CHECK BEFORE I CAN PAY IT
IF THAT'S WHAT HE ENJOYS, THEN LET HIM PAY FOR IT


JUST LEAVE THE CHECK ON THE TABLE
7-23


UH-OH
WE COULD BE HERE ALL NIGHT!
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SHE'S GOT WHAT IT TAKES

Laila Rouass, the latest veejay for Channel V, is a woman of many parts, as ***Vaishali Honawar*** *finds out*

"I need to do at least three things at a time," says Laila Rouass, "or else my brain starts feeling dead." So among the other things she has studied are business, finance and journalism

"I have written for some magazines in the Middle East and for an Asian newspaper based in London on subjects like Asian women in marriage, AIDS and Asian supermodels. I've also written a couple of scripts," she says

She is 23 and has the world ahead of her, and quite a bit behind her already. Laila Rouass may be the newest face on Channel V, but she is no newcomer to the arclights, either. She has been modelling since 17 for such names as Vidal Sassoon, Chanel and Gianni Versace in the fashion capitals of the West

She landed in India four months ago for the first time, though it is the land of her mother — she is Goan, "my father is Moroccan and I was born in London," she laughs She came to act in a television serial, *City of Dreams*, being made by Firoze Nadiadwala "It is about Bollywood and I play a star, Sheena She's a bitch — some kind of an animal!"

She is working alongside veterans like Saeed Jaffrey and Persis Khambatta but, then, she has trained in drama since the age of 13, too Her aunt is a ballerina, another aunt is a dance teacher and a third is a filmmaker, so you could say it's in the family.

Two months after she came to India, Channel V happened — like all good things, unexpectedly "I was shooting for the *City of Dreams* in the nightclub, Cellars, when a guy from Channel V approached me and asked me if I wanted to be a veejay Now, I had been watching Channel V in my hotel room, but I was not very familiar with what was going on. Also, I was not sure if he was serious," she says



So she got the executive director of *City of Dreams* to check out the genuineness of the offer and once convinced, went in for the screen test "It's an adventure, an experience," is how she looks at the break. "One gets to taste different cultures I love this now"

She has already been appearing in *The Vibe* on Channel V with veejay Luke Kenny since mid-August — "breaking in slowly," as she puts it "When I veejay, I try to be spontaneous and just me — not another Ruby or Luke or Sophiya or Javed. I hope people will appreciate that"

The big thing — her own programme — should have happened by the time you read this "It will be called *Fashion Police* and it will be about street fashion — what Asia is wearing We'll be talking to people on the streets and we will cover all areas of fashion — beauty, hair, clothes"

Something else she is looking forward to, is the Indian Top 10 countdown which she will be hosting in the coming months Her own taste in music runs to "all types", her favourites being funk, soul and alternative music. "But basically, I just like good music, whatever it may be, even pop. Like Michael Jackson may be categorised as a pop musician, but he's also a very talented artiste Then there are some singers I just like to watch — like Madonna"

She has not heard any Indian music yet, not even the current craze, A R Rahman "I have an uncle who just loves Hindi film music, but that's the only time I've really heard Indian music' She has heard a few Indian pop stars, but has found the music too commercial, though she's quick to add that it is just a personal point of view

As a Channel V veejay she will be based in Bombay and that is not going to be difficult, for she likes the city and would rather stay here than in Hong Kong, given a choice. "I am yet to get used to the poverty, but I want to learn to deal with it and not ignore it I'd like to help in any way I can — do bigger things through charity, not just here, but anywhere in the world."

Laila loves films "passionately" and watches them all. "But not horror movies — they don't scare me at all." She likes European movies because they are quite educational. "European movies tend to be much deeper than big-budget Hollywood films."

She has watched some Hindi films, too, but "I've not really understood what's going on." She has had a few offers to act in



Hindi films which she has not taken up yet. "I don't speak any Hindi," she laughs, "but probably, they could dub my voice."

She adds: "I'd like to get into films, but I want to take one step at a time and not see too far ahead."

Meanwhile, she has taken up some of the modelling offers that have come her way, including an ad for Tips and Toes cosmetics and pictures for *Gentleman* and *Femina* magazines.

She finds the modelling scene here "very interesting because unlike abroad, modelling is a fairly new thing in India". "It's very exciting to be in something which is just being recognised as a respectable profession

"Also, people are more open to new ideas and ventures and you have the chance to express yourself—something you wouldn't be able to do in London where people are more set I think I'm here at the right time"

Abroad, she feels, Asian supermodels—particularly, Indians—have not been given their due "There are so many beautiful Indian models, but most agencies in London don't have any Asian girls in their lists because there is an attitude that Asian girls are not allowed to model

"That's not true, specially when you have had a Miss Universe and a Miss World It would be great to see an Asian doing Chanel and earning millions."

She has a very high opinion of Indian models and finds them "as professional as the ones I've met abroad, and as beautiful" "Any unprofessionalism one sees is backstage and that's the only thing I would like to change"

Indian men, she thinks, are very open and have a great sense of humour She also loves dark-skinned guys, "so it's the perfec' place for me!" ■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Ashok Dhar

The Dead End

The quadrangular wire net
Gives through it a vision
of a mossy green wall
When the sun shines on
it on a quiet monsoon
afternoon,

A small sapling, born
out of some mysterious
excreta,

Swings in sympathy
with the songs of
chirping birds,

Perhaps in anticipation
That it will give shelter
to them all—
One day.

The long lost memories
of bygone afternoons
Gather in the mossy
green
Alas!

The little saplings does
not know
Where its roots are
going to be
The soft clay has long
been converted
Into impenetrable brick
walls

The bewildered rootlets
futilely search for
A little water shelter
Amid the crevices

The defeated attempts
To fight the
indiscriminating
sunscorch
Is over
The winter wind has
taken its toll

The soft green is now
brittle brown
The tiny leaves have
been snatched away by
the harrrowing wind

Only a tuft of dead roots
remain—
Swinging with the
winter chill—
Like the bewitching
fingers of a fortune-teller
Forecasting reality

Subhadeep Sengupta

For Sale!

Yes, its me to put her on
the balance
to be weighed, to be sold
in discount or in
premium
Forgive me, my beloved
Poem,
for bringing you to the
scaffold
to be auctioned. Like
someone
waiting on her
threshold, bedecked;
Begging the mercy of
whimsical passersby,
from dusk to dawn
To be rich is a beggar's
dream
Yes, the beggar—that's
me

Jayashree Dattaray

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

Pocahontas She is the daughter of the powerful Red Indian chief, Powhatan Driven between duty and destiny, Pocahontas life is transformed forever when she befriends the handsome British soldier, Captain John Smith

Through Smith's eyes, she learns to fish for her dreams which lie "just around the river bend", and in turn, teaches the young captain all about the ways of the forest and of the native American way of life

When the fragile relationship between the Red Indians and the British suddenly cracks up, Pocahontas bravely saves Smith's life by giving up her own

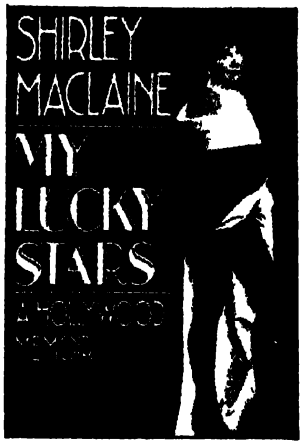
The film is an adventure story in animation fusing historical facts with the romance of folklore and legend

The vibrant voice of Captain Smith comes from who else, but Mel Gibson, and Linda Hunt, the Academy Award-winning actress, infuses magical life into Grandmother Willow, a 400-year-old mystical spirit guiding Pocahontas whose voice is, in fact, that of Irene Bedard, the native American performer

Director Mike Gabriel known for the memorable genie in *Alladin* has researched exhaustively in filming the story

The musical score is by Alan Meken of *The Little Mermaid* and *The Beauty and the Beast* fame

BOOKS



My Lucky Stars: A Hollywood Memoir: **Most stars would wait till everybody dies when they spill the beans. But not so good old Shirley.**

She exposes an affair with Danny Kaye (though dead) that left her "uncomfortable" around his wife. She had also slept around with Robert Mitchum and Yves Montand; calls all actors "artists" and confesses her husband's stealing her money was a valuable lesson in point.

(She discovered his filching trait in a channeling session and had it confirmed by a private detective.)

It is easy to be in awe of Shirley, and to top it, she is smart. Her ponderings on women in China, Cuba, Hollywood — are full of dazzling detail.

LIFESTYLE

Black & White What's common to Paris and Rio-de-Janerio? What's Black & White (forget Jackson)? United Distillers India Limited provided a spirited answer to these queries by launching Black & White and Black Dog scotch whiskies

Worldwide, Black & White projects a trendy, stylish flavour for scotch connoisseurs To provide greater tingle, the house hit upon a novel idea of having the Black & White Funliners' Night

In August-end, at the Incognito (Taj Bengal), and over the last two days at



The Anticlock, HHI, guests were served with cocktails, Funliner's cards (incomplete one-liners with prizes for snappy repartee), and celebrity bartenders, Ranjeev Mulchandani and Sheri Meher-Homji, livened up the bash

A 750 ml bottle of Black Dog is priced at Rs 1,215 and Black & White (750 ml) costs Rs 900

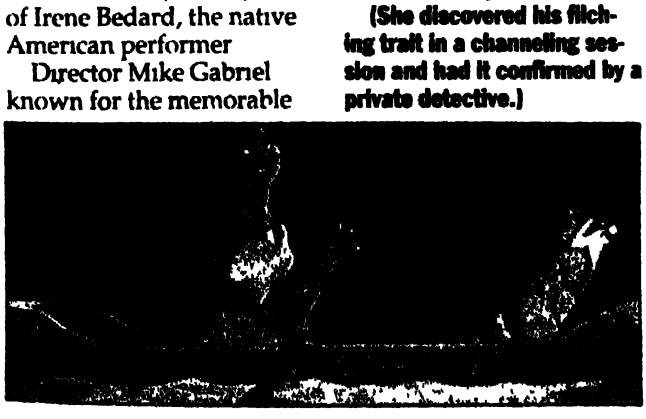
FASHION



Crystal Clear: **If you thought grey was the colour to let you down at parties, you may think again.**

Gianni Versace's Paris collection is a stunner, as the model struts around in a pale grey suit under a see-through dress reminiscent of gossamer sheets of crystal draped seductively around the waist.

The suit for its part, clings tightly, leaving the bosom amply bare. Matching kid gloves and silver stilletos add precision and style to the wearer. Freshly shampooed hair left to flow loosely at the shoulders gives that rare touch of elegance and *jiva*.



MADHURI *is not just a Bollywood's number one.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
A state of euphoria
What is your greatest fear?
Losing people I love
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?

What is your favourite dream?

To dance on the moon

My mother
What do you dislike most in others?
Falseness, when they pretend to be what they are not.
What do you dislike most in yourself?
I'm a little soft.

What is your most precious possession?
My family

What objects do you always carry?
My memories.

What makes you most depressed?
Nothing. I don't get bogged down by anything.
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
I hate it when my hair goes limp
What is your favourite word?
God!
What is your favourite journey?
To the US.
What is your favourite dream?
To dance on the moon
What is your nightmare?
Cockroaches
What or who is the greatest love of your life?



What do you dislike most on your appearance?

I hate it when my hair goes limp

My nephew and niece.
What is your source of sustenance?
The inspiration to do better.
On what occasions do you lie?
When I sleep!

What is your greatest regret?
That I couldn't complete my graduation. I left Micro after eight months

What has been your happiest moment?
Time spent with my family and the li'l' ones, my nephew and niece.

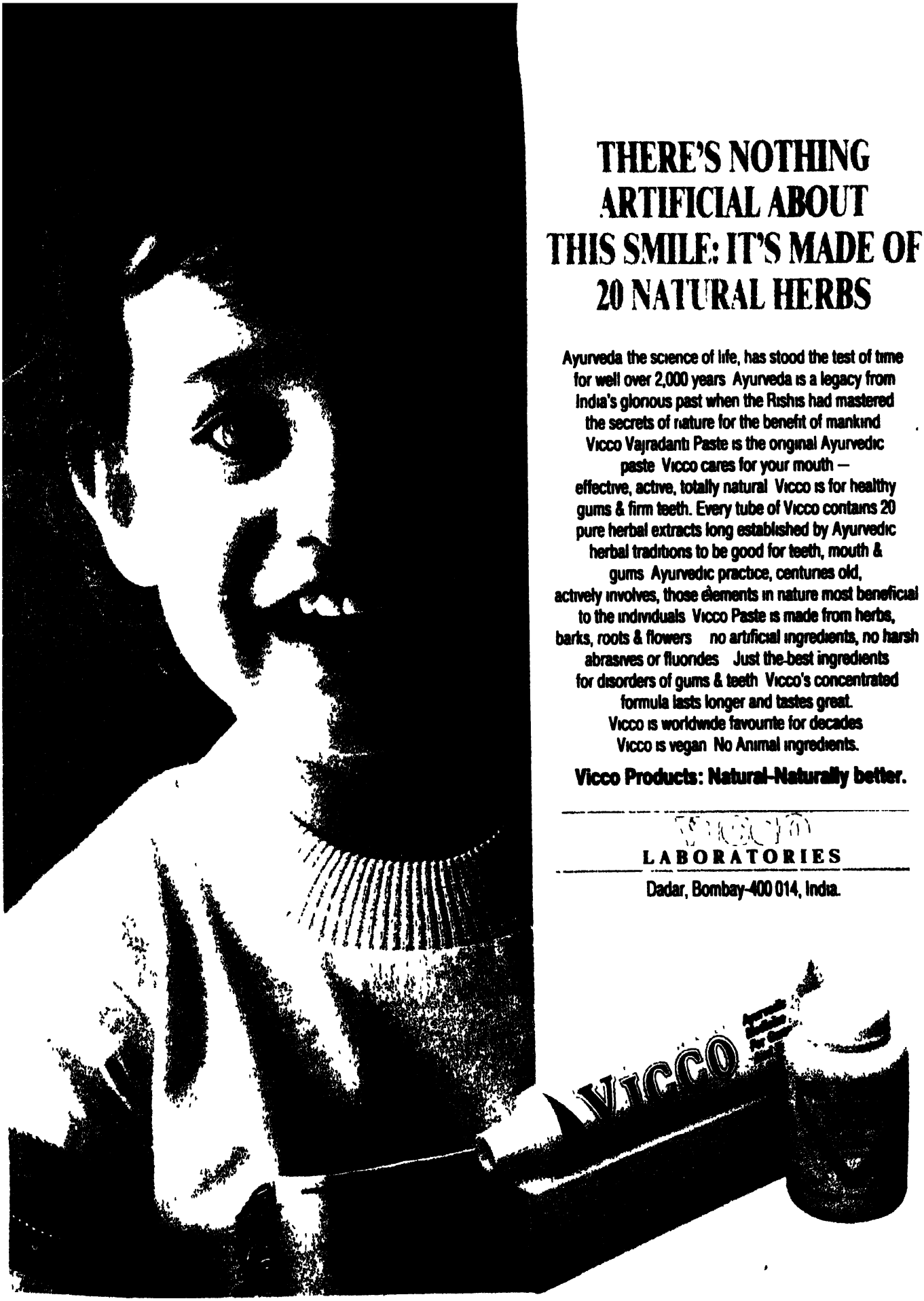
What makes you most depressed?

Nothing. I don't get bogged down by anything

What brings tears to your eyes?
When I go to the US to be with my sister, and the time comes when I have to bid my nephew and niece goodbye.
How do you relax?
Listening to music, watching the telly or reading.

What do you envy most in others?
Their ability to smile even when they are going through a major crisis.
How would you like to be remembered?
As Madhuri Dixit.

How would you like to die?
Very quickly.



THERE'S NOTHING ARTIFICIAL ABOUT THIS SMILE: IT'S MADE OF 20 NATURAL HERBS

Ayurveda the science of life, has stood the test of time for well over 2,000 years Ayurveda is a legacy from India's glorious past when the Rishis had mastered the secrets of nature for the benefit of mankind Vicco Vajradanti Paste is the original Ayurvedic paste Vicco cares for your mouth — effective, active, totally natural Vicco is for healthy gums & firm teeth. Every tube of Vicco contains 20 pure herbal extracts long established by Ayurvedic herbal traditions to be good for teeth, mouth & gums Ayurvedic practice, centuries old, actively involves, those elements in nature most beneficial to the individuals Vicco Paste is made from herbs, barks, roots & flowers no artificial ingredients, no harsh abrasives or fluorides Just the best ingredients for disorders of gums & teeth Vicco's concentrated formula lasts longer and tastes great. Vicco is worldwide favourite for decades Vicco is vegan No Animal ingredients.

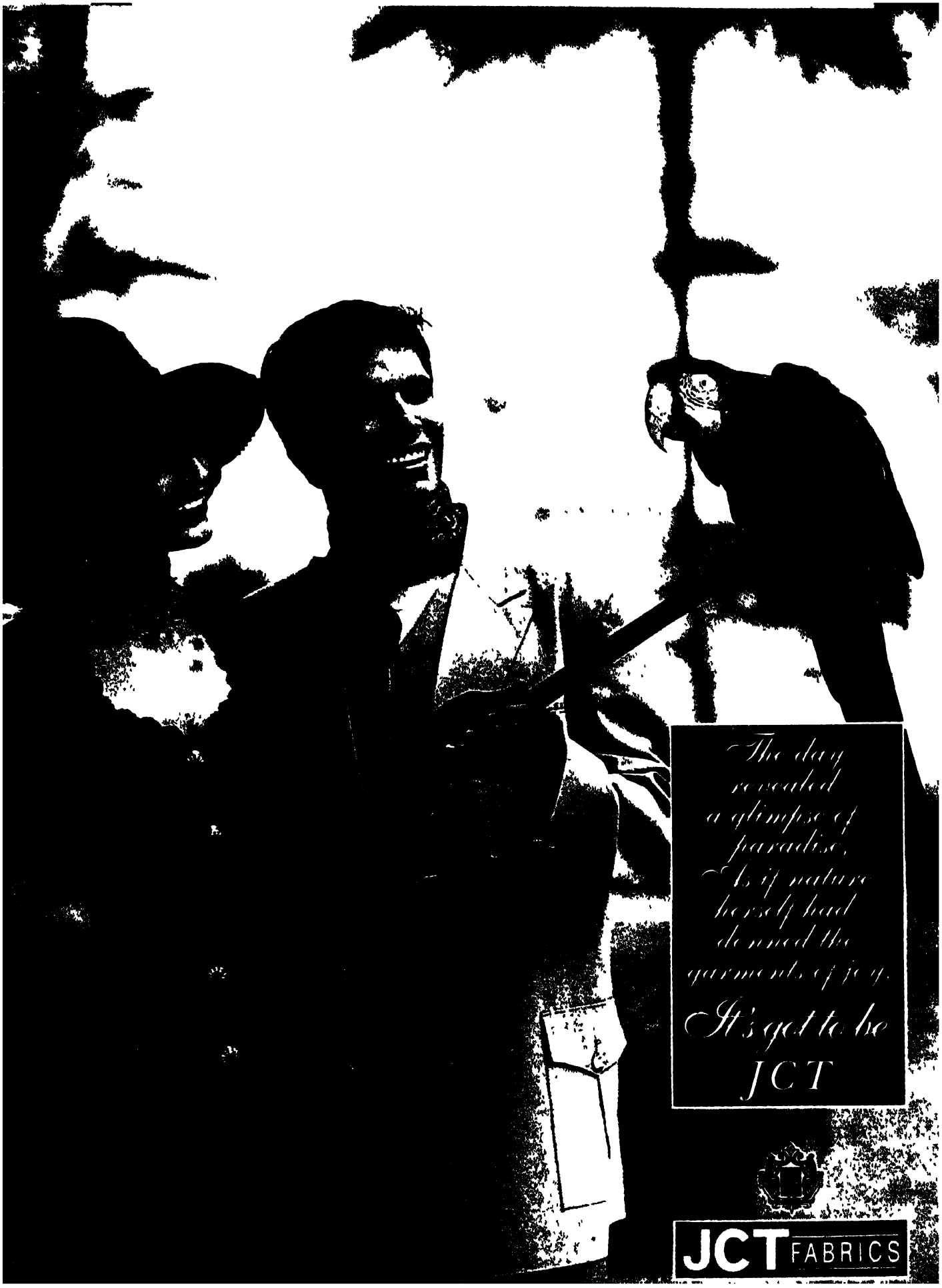
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Model


The day revealed a glimpse of paradise. As if nature herself had donned the garments of joy.
It's got to be JCT
JCT FABRICS

24 SEPTEMBER 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Hum Do, Hamare Nil

■ In spite of the fact that the world has come a long way since the days of Manu and his chauvinistic strictures, the idea of a complete woman is yet to be severed from motherhood ('It's Our Life', August 13).

In Indian society woman's lib means, at the most, a swanky washing machine in the kitchen and the reminder she is in no way inferior to man

But in reality she is constantly made to understand her only function is to beget children Rarely does she get an opportunity to test her maternal instincts Whether they are natural or forced down her throat by a male-dominated society.

What could be more sane if couples found complete fulfilment in each other? Shouldn't their love be an end in itself?

It is not essential that couples have children They could adopt a needy child if parental instincts were that strong
Gargi Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ A tail is not the only differentiating feature between a child and a dog. If



Illustration: Sutra

Pinkie Virani cannot tell one from the other, surely the most dreadful misfortune has befallen her!
Shobhit Sinha,
Hindmotor (W B)

■ If all married people begin to think like those interviewed, soon the world will be left with very little population
Sanghamitra Bhattacharya,
Asansol (W B)

■ If couples choose to stay childless, at least the nation is benefited
Vinay Asawa,
Calcutta

■ Barring the three elderly couples, the others sounded superfluous, vague and self-centred; some of them caught on the flip of feminism or whatever name they choose to give it.

They are all products of an elite class culture imported into our society which promotes the 'self' before any other concern
Mausumi Ghosh Chattopadhyay,
Barrackpore (W B)

■ Were not the couples children of some parents?
Bandita Chowdhury,
Calcutta

■ It is a new challenge confronting Indian society The women are so career-oriented that they have time for the board room, but not the labour room
Somnath Paul,
Bankura (W B.)

■ I feel sorry for the couples. They are basically escapists running away from responsibility. We are grateful they are not indifferent to marriage, too.
M. Dutta,
Calcutta

■ Remaining childless by choice is as bold a decision as renouncing the world for a greater cause It cannot be criminal if parents refuse to procreate Leaving babes in the hands of domestic helps and rushing to attend a 9 am to 5 pm job, it is better to defy the rules of tradition-bound society.

Novel ideas, justifiable and reasonable, are better than unreasonable but traditional mores
Subhashis Ray,
Rourkela (Orissa)

INSIDE



PAGE 4

WITH THE passing away of Salil Chowdhury on Teachers' Day, an era has come to an end — even if it sounds a cliche But not without a lesson.

PAGE 14

RITU KUMAR has done India proud once again, this time she dressed up the Miss UK contestants
The Miss UK '95 pageant

SECTIONS

13 POETRY
21 RUSKIN BOND
22 TIME TABLE
24 GILLIAN WRIGHT
25 JUNIOR WHIRL
26 COMICS
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Anup Ray



Aloke Mitra

Symphony NO MORE

BY CHANDAN MITRA

Aami aabar kandbo-hashbo,
Ei jeebon jowarey bhashbo,
Ami bajrer kachhe, mrityur majhe
Rekhey jaabo nishana

(I shall laugh and cry again,
I shall be swept along the tide of life,
I shall leave my mark in the face of thunder,
In the midst of death)

Salil Chowdhury has been true to the words he penned for this inspiring number that he himself composed and got Hemant Mukherjee to render (*Aami jhorer kachhey rekhey gelam aamar thikana* — 1961) This defiant streak with which the composer began his career in the Forties did not desert him almost till the very end

Composer, poet, lyricist, writer, film director, music conductor, Salil Chowdhury was virtually a one-man entertainment industry Sensitive, humanistic, romantic, revolutionary and passionately fond of intellectual arguments, he embodied the best of Bengal's post-Rabindric cultural ethos

Unlike many of the contemporaries, however, he did not believe that the only culture the rest of India was capable of generating was agriculture

Probably, it was his early initiation into Marxism which bestowed this wider vision His mission was to take his cultural moorings to a wider audience, interact with different milieux and create a fusion of ideas

In the arena of music, Salil was among the first Indians to recognise and assimilate the awesome diversity of traditions into a common idiom Further, he did not confine the scope of his search to within the geographical boundaries of this country, although he was sensitive enough never to directly plagiarise, he always blended

The move to Bombay in the early Fifties and the enviable critical acclaim combined with commercial success that followed, did not make the man lose his commitment to art Too creative to be bound by the shackles of monetary consideration alone, Salil composed and indulged his other creative talents essentially because he wanted to — not because he dreamt of a bungalow in the Juhu-Vile Parle Scheme, or a *bagaanbari* at Barasat

Barring Bappi Lahiri — whose ravenous appetite for money and cacophony is legendary — it must, indeed, be said for the Bengali composers of Bollywood. They never became full-time devotees of Mammon Be it Ram Ganguli or Kanu Roy, Sachin Dev or son Rahul (who died with Rs 5 in his bank locker), Hemant Mukherjee or Salil Chowdhury, none could dream of asking for the kind of fee comparable to what even a Nadeem-Shravan (leave alone A.R. Rahman) command today

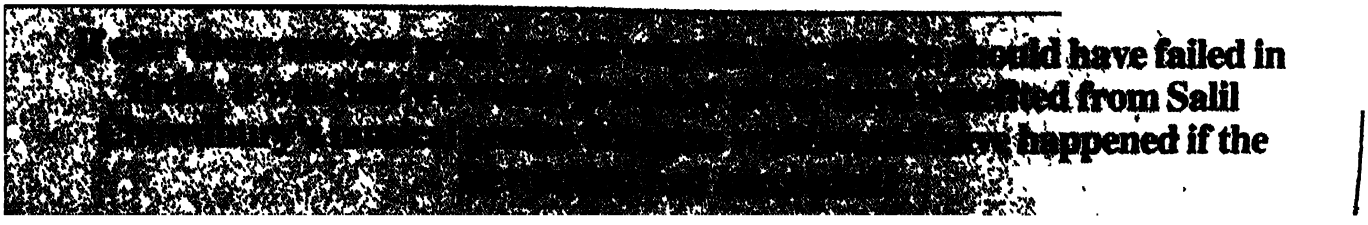
But even by the standards of the Fifties and Sixties, Salil Chowdhury was a very modest man while many of his contemporaries who were immodest had much to be modest about He also was an inseparable part of Calcutta's *bhadralok* culture, a trait he could never exorcise from his personality, despite decades of association with Bombay

The revolution, which Salil Chowdhury wanted to struggle towards, eluded him, as it eluded the entire Communist movement If ever there was one good reason why the Revolution should have failed in India, it was that we would probably never have benefited from his musical genius Imagine what would have happened if the Revolution had succeeded!

Salil's creativity would have been straitjacketed into composing sterile military bands or setting to tune the mediocre penmanship of some Communist leader

Instead, even when he adapted revolutionary martial music, he imparted it with a soul, for example, the classic *Dharti kahe pukaar ke* from Bimal Roy's *Do Bigha Zamin* which was based on a Soviet military tune whose machismo he tempered through the introduction of an Indian classical element

But the revolution obsessed Salil Chowdhury, specially, in his early years That probably explains his intense fascination with Sukanta Bhat-



Khandani
Rivaz



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Ph [illegible]

Phoen

tacharjee, the best specimen of the *Ye aazadi jhoothi hai* generation fostered by the CPI's Ranadive line of the late Forties The effort Salil put in to create music for the rebel poet's works of social protest could only have emanated from a revolutionary commitment

Runner chhutechhe tai jhum-jhum ghanta bajchhe ratey does not lend itself automatically to a hummable tune structure Salil composed in a way that the rebellious message to the working class, couched in the person of the *dak* runner, would not be drowned in melody When the stanza conveying the message came, Salil gave melody a break, getting Hemant to tunefully elocute

Runner, runner ki hobey e bojha boye,
ki hobey khudhar klantite khoye khoye,
Runner, runner, bhor to hoyechhe, aakash hoyechhe lal,
Aalor sporshe kete jabey kobey ei dukkher kal,
Runner graamer Runner, shomoy hoyechhe notun khabor anar
(Runner O Runner, what is the point of carrying this burden, what is the point of being fatigued by endless hunger?
Runner O Runner, it is getting to be dawn and the sky has a reddish glow, when will darkness of the night fade away at the touch of light?
Runner, the village runner, the time has come for you to bring news of change)

His attachment to Sukanta was also evident from the difficult compositions he attempted for the poet's *Abaak prithibi abaak korley tumi,*
Jonmei dekhi khubdho swadeshbhumi and the more directly rebellious *Bidroho charidikey bidroho aaj*

As a participant in the CPI-sponsored *tebhaga* movement in Bengal, Salil stayed underground for some years But even in the midst of the peasant struggle and the acute material discomfort of being, his musical creativity refused to take a revolutionary vacation

He assimilated the virility of folk music to compose simple yet powerful melodies like *Dhaan katar gaan, Nouka baoar gaan, Joarer gaan* and *Palkir gaan*

His empathy for the *kisan* woman and subsequent commitment to women's issues (despite a controversial private life) was most eloquently expressed in a song he penned and composed himself — *Shono ek gaayer bodhur katha tomai shonai shono* This 1949 number was also his first major commercial hit, despite his having been underground at that time, necessitating friend and fellow IPTA activist Hemant Mukherjee to arrange the music for its recording

My personal favourite among Salil's early Bengali numbers, however, is *Dhitang dhitang boley* (1954) The sheer vibrancy of its rhythm, accentuated by the spectacular use of the drum, places the composition way above many others of its *genre* both on account of its vitality and simplicity of message

E desh tomar amar, ei amra bhori khamar
Aar amra godi shopno diye shonar kamonay
Aay re aay, lagan boye jaye,
Megh gur-gur korey chaander shimanay
Parul bon daake Champa chhutey aaye,
Borggera shob haanke komor bendhe aay
(This country belongs to you and I,
It is we who fill up the silos with grain,
And it is we who build our dreams in the longing colours of gold
Come on, come on, time goes by, the clouds rumble around the periphery of the moon
Sister Parul calls, O Champa? come running, the burghees threaten, come prepared)

The moon entwined by clouds was a recurrent theme in Salil's repertoire of imagery Much later, in the early Seventies, he wrote and composed a fascinatingly orchestrated Bengali number, sung racily by Hemant despite advancing age But again, personally, I find this to be one of Salil's engagingly catchy numbers

Shono, kono ek din
Akash-bataash jurey rimjhim, baroshay
Dekhi tomar chuler mato megh shab
Chander mukher paashe chhorano,
Mon haralo haralo mon haralo,
Mon haralo haralo mon haralo
Shei din (Listen, one such day,
While it was raining across the skies and the wind in the monsoon,
I saw clouds like your tresses
Sprawled across the face of the moon
It was that day,
I lost myself to you)

One wishes Salil Chowdhury could express himself in Hindi, too While his musical message reached almost all parts of the country as the multi-faceted composer set even Telugu numbers to music, the rest of India was denied access to his poetic abilities If only he also had the power of Sahir Ludhianvi's pen

And, indeed, it is a pity that Bombay's revolutionary poet and Bengal's revolutionary composer never came together Perhaps, their idioms were too far removed But it is an abiding pity, nevertheless Maybe, B R Chopra who never strayed from

India will remember Salil for *Madhumati*, if nothing else. The effortlessness of his compositions was simply breathtaking and revealed the range of his creativity. Seen today, the erstwhile classic may appear a little contrived, but its melodies will haunt forever

Sahir could have brought them together, but that was not to be The only BR Films production for which Salil was engaged was the Rajesh Khanna-Nanda starrer, *Ittefaq*, but it was a songless venture (he did the background score)

India will remember Salil for *Madhumati*, if nothing else The effortlessness of his compositions was simply breathtaking and revealed the range of his creativity The sweeping nine Filmfare awards (still a record) which *Madhumati* fetched, stopped short of doing full justice to the film Seen today, the erstwhile classic may appear a little contrived — what with rebirth being its theme — but its melodies will haunt forever

Probably, no composer has worked harder to produce a musical score Salil Chowdhury, it is said toured Kumaon for six months, mingling with the hill people, to come up with authentic melodies that would blend with the setting Thus emerged *Daiya re daiya re chadh gayo paapi bichhua Julmi sang aankh ladi, Ghadi ghadi mora dil dhadke, Toote hue khwabon ne, Suhana safar aur yeh mausam haseen* and other memorable numbers that still form the staple of nostalgia music on radio and TV

In a television interview, Salil recently demonstrated the effortless ease with which he composed He revealed how he just related the *mukhda* tune to Shailendra once he had finalised *Daiya re daiya* — just four strains and the perceptive poet instantly came up with the perfect lyrical fit

Salil was a composer's composer, because unlike his market-driven counterparts, he never set prose to music The tune was sacrosanct and had to precede the words The situation could then be adapted

Madhumati powerfully drove home Salil's forte — unorthodox experimentation, that flew in the face of conventional commercial wisdom Besides fusing apparently contradictory musical heritages, he also experimented frequently with voices, specially male

Few modern music directors apart from Khayyam have done justice to less domineering male voices as that of Talat Mehmood Shankar-Jaikishen rarely used him (barring the notable exception of *Ae mere dil kahin aur chal*), even S D Burman only experimented with him hesitantly (*Jalte hain jiske liye*)

Later composers like Laxmikant-Pyarelal obviously found Talat completely out of sync with current tastes, although Bombay's most durable duo did get Talat to render a lilting duet once with Lata (*Mohabbat ki kahaniyan sunane lagi hain jawaniyan* in a long forgotten film, *Woh Din Yaad Karo*)

Laxmikant-Pyarelal told Raju Bharatan at that time that they would project Talat in an altogether new light as they had done with Mukesh after *Milan* But alas, that was never to be

Salil Chowdhury, on the other hand, used Talat superbly, both solo and in Lata's company *Itna na mujhse tu pyar badha* hardly needs recalling, nor for that matter does *Aansoo samajh ke kyon mujhe* (both, *Chhaya*) But *Raat ne kya kya khwab dikhaye* and *Jhoome re nacla ambar jhoome* from *Ek Gaon Ki Kahani* and *Aha rim jhim ke ye pyare pyare geet liye (Usne Kaha Tha)* certainly merit mention as some of Talat's most uncharacteristic, yet successful numbers

Salil took Talat away from his all too predictable vocal quivering which had convinced Bombay composers that he was fit only for slow, mournful ghazals and little else

The one male singer Salil did not seem too comfortable with was Kishore Kumar He was rarely used and whenever the song demanded a deep voice, the composer seemed to prefer the nasal intonation of Mukesh to Kishore's forthright soulfulness Still, the rare Kishore-Salil tie-ups made history — be it *Chhota sa ghar hoga* in *Naukri* or the much later *Koyi hota jisko apna* from *Mere Apne* and *Guzar jayen din* or *Champavati tu aaja* (with Lata) in *Annadata*

Perhaps, the one thing that distinguished Salil Chowdhury from his contemporaries (including the highly revered Dada Burman) was his utter disregard for the star system when it came to engaging singers Who else would have exprimented with the Hemant clone Dwijen Mukhopadhyay, in *Ae dil kahan teri manzil* in *Maya* or *Dil se dil ki dor baandhi* in *Chhaya* which was a transcreation of the Hemant number in Bengali, *Duran ta ghurun, oi legechhe paak?*

These were probably experimentations which made an irate Shankar-Jaikishen, who smarted for years for having been dropped by Raj Kapoor

With wife Sabita and two daughters



Salil Chowdhury was a composer's composer, because unlike his market-driven counterparts, he never set prose to music: The tune was sacrosanct-and had to precede the words. The situation could then be adapted

for *Jagte Raho* in Salil's favour, go one step further to briefly flirt with another Hemant clone, Subir Sen, for *Badi Bahen* (*Mann rangeela pyar ka raahi*) and *Aas Ka Panchhi* (*Dil mera ek aas ka panchhi*)

In later life, Salil Chowdhury boldly introduced Yesudas to render the fast paced superbly catchy *Jaaneman, jaaneman tere do nayan* in *Chhoti Si Baat* although Ravindra Jain got the better part of the credit for getting the Malayali singer to playback for the same hero, Amol Palekar, in *Chitchor* (*Jab deep jale aana*) Similarly, Salil occasionally experimented with his second wife, Sabita, too, but without appreciable success

Somewhat surprisingly, given the nature of Salil's generally rhythmic, vibrant compositions, Mukesh was a great favourite It *Zindagi khwab hai* for *Jagte Raho* was understandable, given that it was an RK film, the use of Mukesh for *Suhana safar* and *Dil dhalak dhadal* for *Madhumati* was not a logical corollary since Dilip Kumar was never hung up on the singer, as such

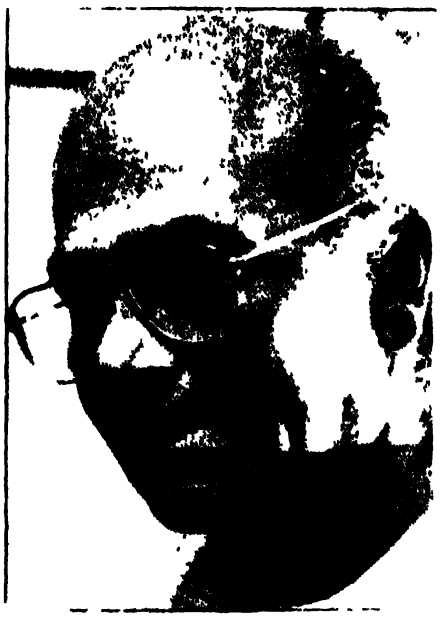
Yet Mukesh's only National Award came for the unforgettable rendering of *Kaise baan unhi dekha hai,/ Ye jo man ki seema rekha hai / Man todne lagta hai* picturised as a background number on Dinesh Thakur in *Rajnigandha*

In the late Sixties and early Seventies, in the post Shankar-Jaikishen years, Salil seemed to have suddenly re discovered Mukesh with *Anand* Purveyors of both Bengali and Hindi music remain confused as to who was better singing *Kahin door jab din dhal jaaye* (*Amay proshno korey neel dhrubotara*) Mukesh in Hindi or Hemant in Bengali?

Yet another Salil favourite was the evergreen Manna Dey Except Shankar Jaikishen, almost no other commercial Hindi composer has done justice to Manna's mellifluous voice, but Salil was different He used Manna to playback for the hero, as opposed to the villain/comedian/father/godman/boatman, etc , which was the normal tendency of other composers Of course, the tenor of Balraj Sahni fitted Manna perfectly which explains Salil's use of the singer for *Do Bigha Zamin* and the magnificently patriotic *Ae mere pyare watan (Kabuliwala)*

It was, however, in the fitness of things that Salil used Manna to render *Zindagi kaisi hai paheli* in Hrishikesh Mukherjee's *Anand* This had to become the signature tune for tributes to the composer, currently in vogue on the radio and television

Although fully groomed in the basics of Indian classical, Salil drew much more inspiration from folk and tribal traditions, besides the great Western masters Accused of rampant plagiarisation in the wake of *Itna na mujhse* (Mozart's Ninth Symphony)



and the *pahadi* melodies of *Madhumati*, Salil sought to silence critics with *Ja tose nahin boloon Kanhaiya* in *Parivar*, one of the few numbers ever composed in the highly complicated Raag, Hamsadhwani This classical number was rendered by Asha Bhosle, whose cause Salil never seemed to particularly espouse

Sister Lata was his firm female favourite and much of the credit for making the elder Mangeshkar a household name even in Bengal goes largely to Salil who introduced her in 1959 with *Na jeyo na, rajani ekhono baki* and followed it up with the all-time superhit, *Saat bhai champa* in 1962 That cemented an association which led to some of Lata's Hindi superhits like *O sajna* and *Ja re, ja re ud jaare panchhi* being first tested in the Bengali Puja market and subsequently translated S D and R D later did the same, both with Lata and Kishore with equally resounding success

With Salil Chowdhury ends an era not just of creative, original compositions that have enriched modern Indian popular culture, but also the close bond between Bengal and Bombay

Salil was a rebel, but he never allowed his rebelliousness to overpower his conviction that in the communication business the first commitment had to be to the audience Throughout his life, he adapted, simplified and got his melody across to Jhumritalayya as effectively as he had earlier done to Shyambazar in Calcutta

With S D and R D , Kishore, Hemant and now Salil gone, the last tenuous bridge of popular culture is guarded alone by Manna Dey, and lately by Kumar Sanu, for Bappi Lahiri does not count and the likes of Swapna Mukherjee (an expatriate, anyway) are not steeped in the erstwhile creativity of Calcutta

In that sense, Salil Chowdhury's demise drives yet another nail into the bulging cultural coffin of what was once second city of the Empire

Revolutionary, romantic, populist, creative, carefree —Salil Chowdhury was all this rolled into one Had he marketed himself aggressively, he would have been written about much more, probably won many awards and called in as expert to address symposia But he chose to be just himself a modest man whose awesome talent could have well justified immodesty

At the risk of emulating a cliched signing-off number, one cannot resist Yogesh's prosaic, yet profound, observations which fit this great *adda* enthusiast

Kabhi dekho man mein ye jaage
Pichhe pichhe sapnon ke dhaage
Ek din sapnon ka raahi
Chalu jaaye sapnon se aage kahan
Jinhon ne sajaye yahan meley
Sukh-dukh sang-sang jheleyen
Wohi chun kar khamoshi
Yun chale jaaye akele kahan,
Zindagi, kaisi hai paheli haaye
Kabhi to hansaaye, kabhi ye rulaaye

***Chandan Mitra is a manic lover of Hindi film music. He is also the executive editor of the* Hindustan Times**

'One of the seven notes of music has been lost'

BY NAUSHAD

In age I was older to Salil Chowdhury, but as an artiste he was greater than I

I do not remember the exact year when I first met him, but I think it was during the time he was composing music for one of Bimal Roy's films Later, at one of the meetings of the Cine Music Directors' Association (CMDA), attended by all big music directors and artistes of the time such as S D Burman, Salil Chowdhury, Hemant Kumar, Roshan, C Ramchandra, Shankar-Jaikishen, Mohammad Shafi and also a small artiste such as I, I was struck by his personality

I remember he spoke beautifully of his experiences in the world of music, enthralling me We would meet often after that, usually at my house He treated me with love and respect and would call me 'Naushad*bhai*' I, in turn, would call him Salil*babu*

As a person I found him very loving and I never heard anyone speak a bad word about him We would not meet very often except, perhaps, at CMDA meetings and at recordings, but when we did, we would talk only of music

On the days that we did not meet, I was in touch with him through his music I knew him only through his music and it was through music that I understood him

Salil*babu* was a member of the communist party and he stuck to its principles He propagated the folk art of Bengal and Rabindrasangeet and even sang some folk music, some of which I might still have with me, somewhere One of his songs, *Doli chali*, was drawn from folk music or Rabindrasangeet

Besides being a great music director, Salil*babu* was also a great poet, a great writer, and possessed the art of *afsanangari* — writing beautiful stories and songs It was easy to see that he possessed a vast knowledge of every aspect of music It was not as if he could only sing and compose, but he also had a good knowledge of orchestration

Today, music composers create a tune and then employ an arranger to orchestrate it, but Salil*babu* would arrange his own music He could also play the mandolin and the guitar beautifully

Salil*babu* had an exact understanding of harmony and an impressive and deep knowledge of Western music If one listens closely to his orchestration, one realises that he would use the oboe quite a lot and in some of his compositions he even used the alto saxophone beautifully

I think he did superlative work for all the Hindi films he worked on But, perhaps, *Madhumati* and *Do Bigha Zameen* are two of his most remembered works The folk song he used in *Madhumati* — *Chhadh gayo paapi bichchua* — was beautifully composed Other songs in that film such as *Suhana safar aur yeh mausam haseen* and *Aaja re pardesi* are remembered by people even today

But no matter which film Salil*babu* composed for, his music always had individuality In fact, this was the most special quality of Salil*babu*'s music — it had its own distinct brand, a seal of his quality, so to say The moment one heard one his tunes, even for the first time ie would instantly recognise it being composed by Salil Chowdhury

It is a very difficult art and a quality very few people possess Which is why I first said that while he was younger than I in age, he was greater than I as an artiste

Among Salil*babu*'s last works was the music which he composed for a television serial, *Daraar*. One of his compositions for this serial is a *nazm* in Urdu, penned by Naqsh Lyallpuri which I have not heard But all those who have listened to it have been raving about its beauty and sensitivity

Salil*babu* was himself planning a serial which unfortunately will never see the light of day

The best tribute to Salil*babu* would be, I think, if the musicians today listen to his music to take a lesson from it and absorb its beauty His music had originality and whatever he composed had a distinctness, a uniqueness a quality that we miss more and more in today's film music The more they listen to Salil*babu*'s music the more they will learn from it and it will guide them

During his life, it was not just his music, but also the functions of the CMDA which kept Salil*babu* busy We elected him as its president to succeed Anil Biswas *sahib* and he spread the CMDA's ideas far and wide

Unfortunately, in the years that followed, there was a dispute between the members of the CMDA Salil*babu* formed a separate association comprising S D Burman, R D Burman, Shankar-Jaikishen and some others while others including Madan Mohan, C Ramchandra and myself stayed back with the old body

A few days after that Salil*babu* visited me at my house and I told him that I did not feel good about the fact that we

Among Salil*babu*'s last works was the music which he composed for a television serial, *Daraar*. One of his compositions for this serial is a *nazm* in Urdu, penned by Naqsh Lyallpuri, which I have not heard. But all those who have listened to it have been raving about its beauty and sensitivity

should be functioning as two separate organisations when we had a similar cause He agreed with me, worked for and brought about a reunification He continued to work for the CMDA until the very end

Some time back, he visited me to discuss the functioning of the CMDA Both Salil*babu* and I were also part of another society called the Indian Performing Rights Society (IPRS) and through this society we help artistes — writers, music composers — to get their royalty

Earlier, music composers and writers would not get any royalty after having composed a song for a film as the copyright for the song would automatically rest with the producer But the world over, there is a rule that if a song is used for commercial purposes — on the radio, in hotels, and so on — then its performing rights rest with the music composer and writer

This issue kept Salil*babu* occupied and through the IPRS he worked for the introduction of an amendment to the law allowing similar performing rights to Indian music composers and writers, which came into force on May 10, this year He was planning to set up a branch of the IPRS in Bengal as well

But so far as he himself was concerned, Salil*babu* could not care less about getting his royalty In fact, the last time we met, he was telling me how he had not prepared the statement for his royalty for years now

Next month, at the CMDA meeting, we plan to pass a condolence motion for Salil*babu* and also make the statement of his royalty which will be paid to his family Finally, I would like to say that an artiste lives forever through his art, and while Salil*babu* may have passed away from this world, the music which was his identity to all of us is immortal

I will always pray that his soul finds a place in heaven and that his family and friends find peace, too With his death, one of the seven notes of music has been lost to us

Naushad is the seniormost music director today, a man of* wazan, *and he interacted closely with Salil Chowdhury

'The score for *Madhumati* is one of the best ever in Indian films'

BY SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

With Satabdi Roy



Despite being a classical musician first, I have always been very fond of film music

Before I settled down in Bombay, I used to live in Jammu, but I would often come down to this city for concerts At that time, one of the film music composers who caught my attention was Salil Chowdhury, particularly the number he had composed for the film, *Parakh* which went *O sajana barkha bahaar aayee*

I later met him for the first time in Bombay What struck me about him was that he had his own ideas and his own style of working He was a very versatile artiste, too, being a poet, writer and composer

Salil*da*'s score for the film *Madhumati*, I think, is one of the best ever in Indian films Sometimes one finds that a particular song from a film becomes a hit, but in the case of *Madhumati* each and every song was a rage

What impressed me most about Salil*da*'s work was the distinctiveness of his music Of course, in those days each musician had his own distinct style Salil*da* created his own style which was influenced by folk music, Rabindrasangeet and Western classical music There is this Hindi film



With daughter Antara

song, *Itna na mujhse tu pyaar badha*, which he had adapted from some Western symphony It was not just the sort of blind plagiarisation you find in the music industry today, but an intelligent adaptation

Today there is a lot of westernisation and lifting of tunes with no one bothering to contribute his own mite

Salilda's own special contribution to music was his use of the oboe in his compositions In fact, it was one of his favourite instruments

His use of obbligatos was marvellous, too, and he would often use counter-melodies — where different instruments play different tunes at the same time — beautifully

For example, he would have three or four flutes playing different tunes and harmonise them beautifully He had an exact idea of how to give music his own interpretation

He also had a very good knowledge of orchestration and Western notation which was a great advantage He was always very clear about what he wanted his musicians to play

While playing for him I, perhaps, did not have as much of an opportunity to play my own tunes as I have had with other music directors, but I found it extremely satisfying nevertheless to play for a music composer who knew exactly what he wanted

Unfortunately, I did not have too many opportunities to work for Salilda, I played just a few songs for him and didn't have too long an association with him either

I remember that once the Cine Music Directors' Association (CMDA) struck work for three months over a dispute between producers and music directors I was called in by the CMDA to handle the situation and it was during this time that I got a chance to see a very different aspect of Salilda's personality

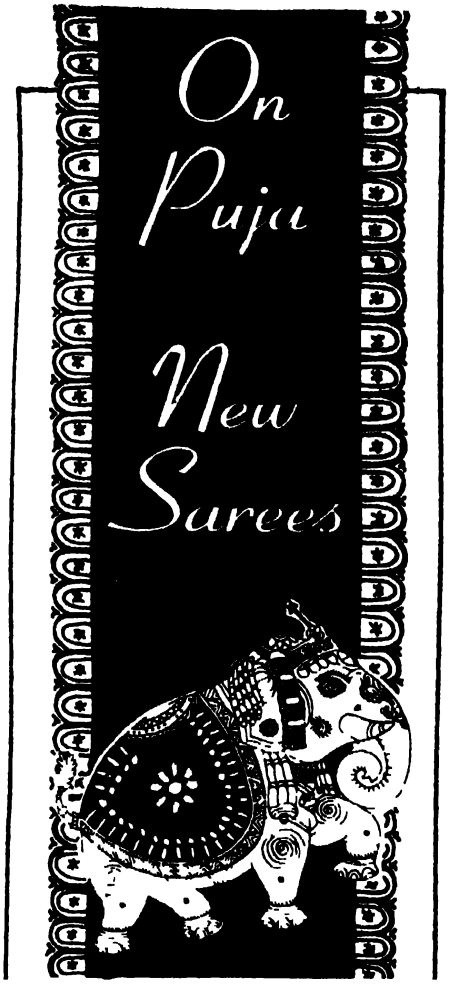
He had a revolutionary background and had his own committments, his own philosophy Most of the other music directors joined hands with the producers to desert the CMDA cause, but not Salilda He continued to fight for the rights of the musicians and was a guiding force in their struggle He felt strongly that music directors should get their due

Other than this the only time I used to meet him was at recordings and I found him to be a very soft, friendly person, a bit reserved but very humane He was not an extrovert or a talker or a happy-go-lucky sort, but a very serious, committed, sensitive person

He was also very strong and committed to certain values And he certainly was one of the greatest music directors we have ever had

Shiv Kumar Sharma is India's leading santoor player. He played briefly in Salil Chowdhury's orchestra





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'Even the layman could tell his tunes apart'

BY HARIPRASAD CHAURASIA

When I entered the film industry, there was one music director, Mr Salil Chaudhury, who impressed me as a genius

Immediately after coming to Bombay, I was working with All India Radio. Salil*da* used to be very fond of the flute and used to play it at one time. He heard my music and when he came to know that I had just come to Bombay and that I was a different kind of a musician with a different kind of style, he invited me to meet him.

I did so, and, after talking for a while he asked me whether I would like to play in his film compositions. I was down and out as the money I was getting from AIR was certainly not princely, and jumped at the offer.

After that I worked with him on almost each and every one of his compositions, since 1963. I don't remember the names of the films I worked on with him, but I can say that I worked on nearly all the Hindi films he made.

Each and every song I played for him remains in my mind as a beautiful memory.

As a classical musician and also a composer, I found it satisfying to play for Salil*da* as he would give me a certain amount of creative freedom, particularly while playing background music. Sometimes he would ask me to create a certain mood with my music according to what the film needed. I could also see that he would really enjoy my music when I was playing.

Salil*da* loved classical music though his own music was of a very different style. But he had a deep knowledge of classical music and sometimes even used it as a base in his compositions.

There were many music directors at the time like C. Ramchandra, Naushad, S. D. Burman, Vasant Desai, Shankar-Jaikishen. They all belonged to a certain school of music, but each had his own distinct style.

Salil*da*, too, had a different quality, a certain identity. If one were listening to a song of Salil*da*'s on the radio, one would immediately identify with it. The musical intricacies of each of his compositions really set them apart. Not only musicians, but even the layman could tell his tunes apart from others.

Each of Salil*da*'s films, I would say, was remarkable musically. He was also tremendously versatile and would, besides composing, write lyrics and suggest song picturisations to producers. He had very different and revolutionary ideas in the field of music as well as other related fields.

As a person he was a very nice man. We would meet only at the time of recordings so I didn't really get to know him as anything else, but a composer. But he liked me and liked my music and I had tremendous respect for him.

I continued to play for him until the time he left for Calcutta, perhaps for his health or maybe because he did not have too much work on hand. I, too, got involved in playing classical concerts and stopped playing for films.

I myself compose music for films these days, but that is just one or two movies at a time. Two years back, I remember, I was playing at a concert in Calcutta and as he happened to be present he came to listen to me. After the concert he came backstage to meet me and told me that this was the first time he was hearing me play classical music at a concert. "I have learnt a lot from your music today," he told me.

That, in fact, was the last time I met him. It was a shock to me to hear that he had died. He was so young — he used to look really young.

Hariprasad Chaurasia is India's foremost flautist and has in recent years scored for Hindi films as part of the Shiv-Hari team with Shiv Kumar Sharma. He played in Salil Chowdhury's orchestra

Naushad, Hariprasad Chaurasia and Shiv Kumar Sharma spoke to Vaishali Honawar

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Poem

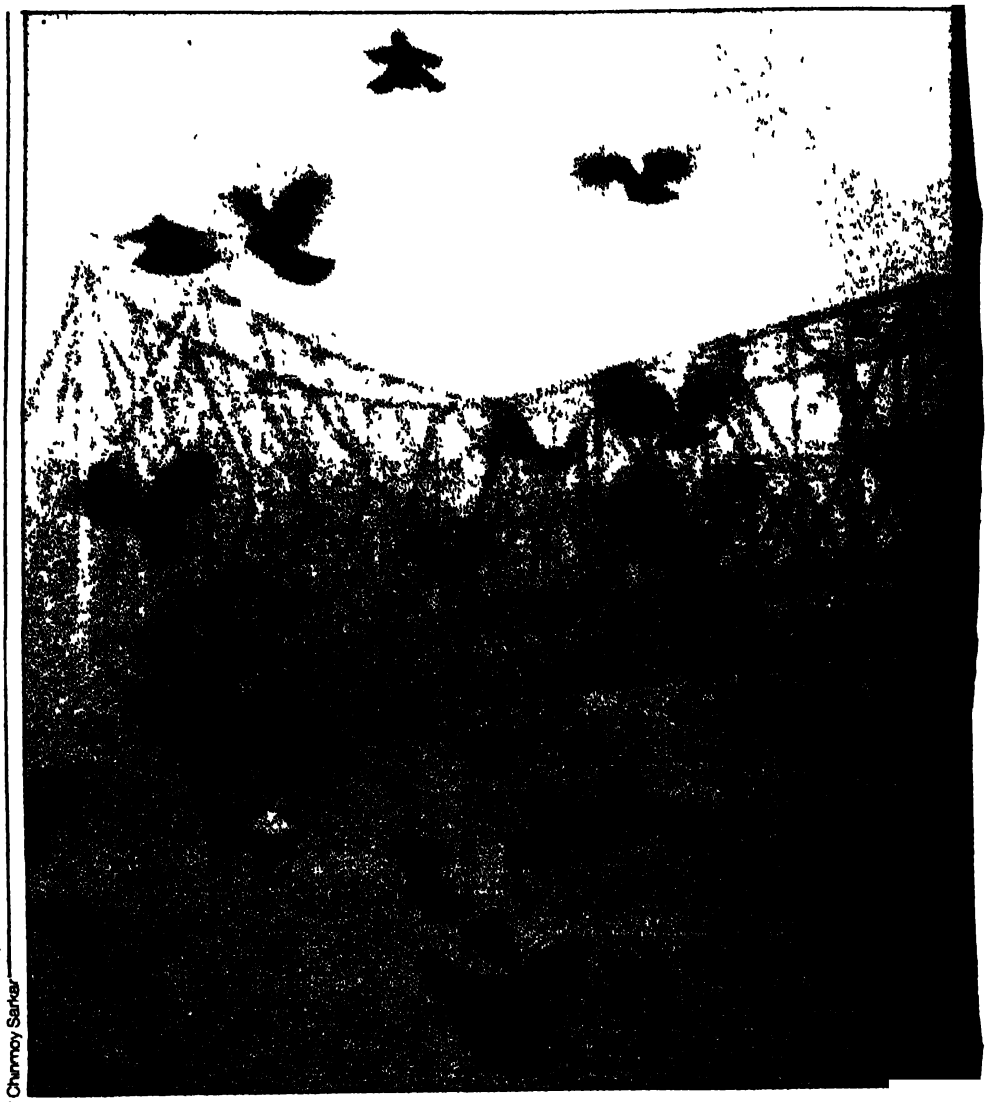
Take a walk with me to the lake,
It's dark and nobody's around;
You feel your heart is going to break,
And your tears fall on the dewy ground
I'll show you a girl alone on the bench,
Gazing into the starry skies,
Like a moon draped in silken-white
She sits surrounded by fire-flies
If you wish to go and speak to her,
She won't look into your eyes,
For eyes they cheat, they hurt and lie
Unlike her starry skies

A little way down, a stone's throw from the lake
There's a man selling
Teardrops on the street,
While his lady waits for him
At their ramshackled retreat
The skin clings to the bones
Of her body already half-dead,
And she feeds imaginary gold-fish
With soggy salt and bread.
Waiting anxiously at the window,
She sees her man hurrying home in the rain,
Once more they unite in their happiness—

The King and Queen of Pain.

A minute's walk from there
In a building on the 2nd floor,
There's a room which you can enter,
For its owner never shuts the door
He lies all day on his dirty divan,
Dreaming of summer and springs,
But it's a broken bed on which he's lulled to sleep
By the music of the mosquito 's wings.

Suhrid Sankar Chattopadhyay



– Chinmoy Sarkar

In Calcutta

The city sprawls unending like its hovels
Humanity amorphous swoons
We crawl with it, begging for alms
Calcutta explores moods of behaviour,
human negligence, the onslaught is
against time: the hidden myth

Everytime you are in Calcutta,
You say: "... just two, three days"
City of disbelief, these few days
I relive tempestuous moments
desiring to love and be loved
What ails the heart? It must suffer
Your heart may be golden
Calcut ta, but
impurities surround you like your brazen speech, your ribald utterness
like your teeming thousands· poor, uncared for, unsheltered
Let us worship the derelict
Let flowers bloom for you,
restoring heavens,
This touch will extinguish leprous hands

We gather a prayer, when alone with you .

Ananya Sankar Guha

EASTERN BYPASS!

Ritu Kumar was the one who dressed up the Miss UK aspirants in London recently, scoring yet again on behalf of Indian designers.
***Samita Bhatia** takes a look*

Twenty willowy (and very English) women walked the ramp in exotic Eastern silhouettes in leather and silk; an Oriental fantasy in exquisite prints expressing the Indian statement

At the Miss UK pageant, were the aspiring queens, entrants for the Mr UK title and 20 child-ushers

And the person draping them? Our very own Ritu Kumar, of course After the Tarun Tahiliani and Jemima coup (so what if there was a snag in the weave eventually), Ritu Kumar has done India proud

She had no inkling as to what lay in store for her when she designed the wardrobe for the two prettiest young things on this globe, namely, Aishwarya Rai and Sushmita Sen "Through them," says Ritu, "I was able to display the riches of India's regenerated and evolved textile crafts to the world " They went on to win the crowns and she basked in reflected glory, to become an international name in fashion circles

Is this Ritu Kumar's Big Break? "I'd say that it's a big break for India " This was proved beyond doubt in London recently



Ritu Kumar

Because, for the first time, an Indian designer was sought out to dress the participants for the grand finale of the Miss UK pageant

Though it came as a surprise to Ritu herself, the organisers called upon her to design garments for a complete section of the Miss UK pageant featuring traditional heritage and contemporary Indian fashion

It was a complete reversal of looks, as Western wear was forsaken for a traditional 'Indian, Indian' silhouette The East certainly met the West, and with amazing results! The charity gala was to conclude with the crowning of the new Miss UK and a special tribute to Miss World



"Designing for girls as tall as between 5'10" and 6'3" is a different ball game altogether," said Ritu, a trifle tired just before her departure to London "And I designed the 80 outfits 'blind'. Though measurements were faxed to me, I still had to manage without really knowing who would be wearing the garments or what their body structures were"

Is this any indicator of the world noticing Indian fashions and fabrics? "There is much interest in our fashions from the Western point of view as the Indian silhouette is very much in the forefront now," she feels

The show was a rich tapestry of Indian history There were the vibrant colours of tie and dye from the barren sandscapes of Rajasthan Fretwork designs from the sandstone palaces of the Fort city of Jaisalmer on silk with headgear harking to the nomadic camel herders—a rhapsody in black and white There was also a resonance of Royalty and the Mughal court—gold on white

A kaleidoscope of leather, crinkled chiffon and silk Contemporary and exotic travelled cheek by jowl

Aishwarya Rai did not just give away the Miss UK crown, she also added sparkle to the show by opening Ritu's show and donning the showstopper—a bridal dress—at the very end

As she pirouetted prettily in the yards and yards of Rajasthani influences, Ritu had an elaborate plan up her sleeve for the groom—Mr UK A traditional achkan in gold brocade and churidaar ('traditional rouched trousers' to the Brits) with a turban in gold tissue.

The 20 kid ushers were cutely dressed in silk khadi kurtas, coordinated waistcoats and handprinted chunnis for the girls and churidaar-kurtas with waistcoats in hand printed leather for the boys

The ensemble Ritu presented in London included designs from her highly

Continued on page 18







Merchandise shown here selected from the Autumn Winter '95 collection
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TO LONDON, TO LONDON...

Come October and Diwali and North Audley Street in London, will be the locale for Ritu Kumar's first boutique outside the country.

Ritu hopes that the boutique will infuse the modern consciousness of the West with traditional wisdom and skills of the East.

The boutique will present a range of India's craft silks brought to the point of perfection: garments, accessories, leather, furnishings, paper, reeds and a slice of the total Indian identity. "There'll be one of a kind tribal jewellery, old temple saris, antiques collected from remote interiors of India and a complete India experience," says Ritu.

A multifaceted showcase combining the best of Indian designs and Western culture with a special collection of merchandise, accessories and gifts, appropriately titled 'East Meets West'. An art gallery situated on the lower ground floor which will exhibit contemporary Indian and Asian artists.

Prices, Ritu promises, will not be sky-high, even by English standards.





Continued from page 15

acclaimed Tree of Life line and her Karabagh collection

Last year Ritu presented the latter, a collection of traditional and modern handbags and coats in leather, and a soft furnishings collection of cushions and quilts in silk. It was an experiment fusing traditional and modern techniques with materials accessible to the contemporary designer.

Ritu had diverse materials at her disposal, playing on a uniform design theme synthesised out of images from the Cholamandal coast, Kashmir, Sanganer and Farroukhabad.

Earlier in 1990, Calcutta, the Tree of Life celebrated 21 years of Ritu. An audio-visual tableau contextualised the major textile crafts and fashion forms of both traditional and modern garments. The 'Tree of Life' show has also travelled to China and the UK, where it got extensive coverage through BBC Network East.



Miss UK 1995 pageant had a few other firsts. An Indian designer had never before been invited to dress the contestants. And the Mr UK selected at the show will tread a similar path in February 1996, when the first ever Mr





World contest will be held in England

As Ritu stole the show that evening, a certain Shauna Gunn, the new Miss UK, walked away with a £25,000 cash prize, entry into Miss World 1995 with a chance to receive a guaranteed income of £50,000 Mr UK won £10,000; entry into Mr World 1995 and the chance to receive a guaranteed £25,000

And it's 'Beauty with a Purpose' all the way Miss World and Miss UK pageants have raised as much as $100 million for charity, mostly for disabled children In the past, the Miss UK pageant has been donating their annual fund raising to Variety International Lifeline Appeal which provides life saving surgery for children in countries having inadequate medical facilities

This year, too, the proceeds for Miss UK too have gone to Variety Club offering £750 (Rs 37,500) per table, to be spent on needy children

Besides a collection of 80 outfits put together in record time, Ritu made another contribution to the show — gifts that were part of the raffle at each table Silk scarves for the ladies and hand crafted gift sets of leather wallets, key fobs and glasscases for themen — valued at £120 (Rs 6,000) These being part of Ritu's Karabagh hand pain ted range

For the exclusive sit-down dinner where 600 of England's *creme de la creme* rubbed shoulders, Ritu's creation was introduced at the fund-raiser as being 'synonymous with style, sophistication and glamour"

Ritu has come a long way since she began it all — with a few printing blocks and a small workshop at Serampore ■

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says, the new moon makes of you a lover of high fashion, cuisine, fine cooking, high society and so on Finesse and tact will have the world at your feet Marriage, collaborations, trips and ties are fated This is also the time to concentrate on a major project

Taurus

April 21—May 20



The right time to angle for a loan, fish for a job, bring a pet, hire/ fire subordiantes and employees Obviously, you have your work cut out You will also lean towards social work and that will be appreciated Those in sales, modelling and beauty salons do well

Gemini

May 21—June 20



The law of averages will work in your favour, so calculated risks, may be taken September 25-30 are best for it More importantly, your creativity will win you plaudits and money Actors, writers, teachers, researchers and lovers chirp with joy Take care of the elders

Cancer

June 21—July 20



It all hinges on partnerships and relationships This is an excellent time to make changes in the home and the domestic frontier A lot of attention will be needed to soothe ruffled feathers Buying/selling will prove lucky A home away from home is also possible

Leo

July 21—August 21



Flush with money, happy with yourself, loved by the world you will be, as Mercury conjuncts Venus, symbol of love, this week itself Originality and endeavour should be your buzzwords At parties, or in your work, you will really dazzle one and all A week to be on display

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Your chances to make the world go around, because you will have money and charm, practicality and good friends to help you Why not burnish your personal image and that of the company you do represent? It would be an excellent idea to have a bash

Libra

September 23—October 22



The new moon in your sign, according to Western astrology, makes it just right to initiate surprises, start ventures, spearhead movements, hold debates and conferences Be expressive if you wish to win the game of life and love Also, an important week for negotiations

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Be a real Scorpio and go in for the cloak and dagger activity Mars in your sign favours it In any case, expect a lot of behind-the-scene activity You and your dear ones could be travelling Expenses will mount, but they will be for a worthy cause You will be charitably inclined

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



"My house is your house," is what you will say in emulation of the Germans Yes, time to be hospitable, generous, kind, philanthropic, and open your arms to the world It is certain that you will be loved and made much of The name of the game is love

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



Ganesha says, you will do the impossible, well almost Those in business and profession, gain the most, but even employed Capricornians prove their mettle Your home will also come under your keen survey This will have a ripple effect in November, so get to it

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Be the brave Red Indian and attack with war cries and whoopies because the new moon and Mars, both work like Trojans for you Be adventurous Love blooms, friends pitch in and people back you up The right time to start the wheels rolling for any major activity in life

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Joint finances, loans, mortgage, funds, investments and hot passion is what the week is all about The moon-Pluto conjunction means plenty of movement, say immigration, import, export, and a shift or at least a change of scenery Tensions will definitely ease

BIRTHDAYS

September 24: The new moon, says Ganesha makes you think big, act straight, be purposeful with the result that victory will be yours.

September 25: Moon-Venus conjunction gives you good money and excellent tastes. Love be requited in full. It could well be journey time.

September 26: Moon, the mind, conjuncts Mercury, news and messages, and thus it depends all upon communication and contacts. Expect hidden help.

September 27: Moon-Mars conjunction gives you energy, but also rashness and impetuosity which could lead to accidents and mishaps. This year a little tact is required.

September 28: Financially, a topping year. Your ardh and behaviour will make others welcome you and love you. And that is what you deserve.

September 29: Mercury, communication, conjuncts Venus, art and beauty, and that is one of their finest combinations you could ever have for glory and genuine happiness.

September 30: Moon sextile Mercury-Venus means sweetness and light can conquer the world for you is the message of the stars. Be flexible.

Owing to pressure on space, 'Junior Whirl', Gillian Wright and Ruskin Bond's columns could not be carried this week— Editor

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC-741	0620	1 3 4 7	IC-742	0850	1 3
			IC-742	1050	4 7
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
D2 806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2-805	1250	1 3 5 7
AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6, 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1, 3 5, 7	IC 722	1250	1 3 5 7
BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1000	4 6	VF-105	0950	4 6
VF 106	1745	1	VF 105	1710	1
BOMBAY					
IC-676	0730	dail	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0920	daily	D2-101	0850	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-306	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI-309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
AI-681	2330	1			
DELHI					
IC-263	0700	daily	S2-025	0810	1 2 3 4 5
S2-026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI-682	0925	1
IC-812	1700	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2-005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC-811	2055	1 3 5
S2-006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9-301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
GUWAHATI					
PF-737	0730	3, 5	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2-181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S-816	1205	2 4 6	4S-815	1635	1 2 3
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC-701	1240	1 4, 6, 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
IMPHAL					
IC-257	1140	2, 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1, 3 4, 5 7	IC-704	0820	1, 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4, 6 7	IC 230	1620	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S-811	1635	2 4, 6
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	D2-181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S-812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF-736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1000	4 6	VF 105	0950	4 6
VF 106	1745	1	VF 105	1710	1
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JAIPUR					
D2 806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
JORHAT					
IC-213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1125	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1720	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1835	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2, 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC-213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF-738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	S2-015	1015	1 3, 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC-542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

KUWAIT					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0345	7	KL-875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
KB 105	0850	2, 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 4 5, 7	TG-313	1240	1 3 6
TG-314	1355	1 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
[illegible]					
IC 225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
DHAKA					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3, 6 7	BG-091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 2, 3 5 6	IC-724	1520	1 2 3 5, 6
BG 094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG-095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KATHMANDU					
RA-214	1030	4 7	RA-213	0945	4 7
IC-747	0920	2 4 6	IC-748	1610	2 4 6
LONDON					
BA-142	2040	3 7	BA 143	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARIS					
KB-106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB-106	1325	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6 45	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 35	3006
3003	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16-15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon, Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21-10	2020
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri-Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	22 00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12-25	3046
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun, Mon Wed & Fri	4-30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9-30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21-00	**Kathgodam Express**	11-55	3020
3021	16-05	**Mithila (Rajauli) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	6 30	3032
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri, Sat & Sun, Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7-55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon, Tues & Wed, Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7-55	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 30	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	7-55	1182
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchenjunga (Lumding) Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5-15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-30	3134
3103	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5085	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues, Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20-30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8-20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-25	2859
2021	6-50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21-00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12-10	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
3311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6-00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21-25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8-30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10-25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	–
–	11-05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10-45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
	14-05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
	14-05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	–
6316	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22-35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	-
--	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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NOSTALGIA

MELODY MAKER

A couple of Bengali non-film songs written some decades ago

Gaanyer bodhu

(Music and lyric: Salil Chowdhury; singer: Hemanta Mukhopadhyay)

Let me tell you the tale of a village bride, listen,
It is not a fairytale, no, it isn't,
The tale is a garland,
Dew-drenched buds of which
Had blossomed in the spring of life

Surrounded by green, she had
Only a little hut,
But endless dreams swayed
When she sighted the paddy

At dusk when the peasant returned
And rested on the wooden seat,
She would open her heart out to her man,
Let me tell you that tale

The village, shaded, all of cooing doves
At the passerby would give tender looks,
Beckon him, welcome him to its fold,
And swishing a blue water lily,
Drifting down on a coloured balloon,
The fairy would lull to sleep the village

Bees would hum on the blooming flowers,
The sky and breeze carry the scent of ripened paddy,
An invitation to the festivity all the year
In Shravana, Baisakh and in Ashar

The village bride would blow the conch shell, and
Lakshmi would fill the granaries of all

Alas, Yama then came in the form of famine,
Came the witch, the demon, the ghost,
And came the hundreds of snakes
Who danced, the vitiated dance enveloping the village

Oh, tens of hundreds of lives were lost
At the chants of the crooked
And the doings of the exploiters,
All essence of life was sucked away by the evil

Oh, where has that misty evening gone,
That aromatic air, that rhythmic life
Of yours, O beautiful village bride!

Where is that golden horizon,
Those hearts full of golden dreams!
I carry the deep, deep sorrow
Of the peasant and his bride

Even today, if you see a village
With rows of crumbled huts,
Be sure it is the grave of all
Hopes and dreams of that village bride

Path harabo boleyi ebaar...

(Music and lyric: Salil Chowdhury; singer: Hemanta Mukhopadhyay)

I have descended on the path only to lose my way,
Been long puzzled by the riddle of the straight path
Was subdued and restrained by a thousand don'ts,

Don't know when she returned
After calling me again and again
I wept and wept to sight her,
And closed my eyelids to get her
Been long puzzled by the riddle of the straight path,
I have descended on the path only to lose my way



Among the known and familiar
Have failed to know anything,
In the midst of the unknown now,

I continue my search
Haven't heard that song
She sang the other day,
Which had turned my heart to gold
When the song's radiance touched me

Have searched for her in vain
In the world of ragas,
I have tuned the sitar
Only to get dissonant
Been long puzzled by the riddle of the straight path,
I have descended on the path only to lose my way

Translated by
Bablu Bhattacharya

. .And two of his Hindi all-time film hits

Toote hue khwabon ne.

(Film: *Madhumati;* music: Salil Chowdhury; lyric: Shailendra; singer: Mohammad Rafi)

Splintered dreams of mine,
You have taught me this
The heart, the heart did gain
What the eyes were to lose,
Splintered dreams of mine

I keep the fevered search on
But can't gain even upon gaining,
Why she sulks I know not,
She is the throb of my heart
What my desires were,
And what has come forth,
The heart, the heart did gain
What the eyes were to lose

On the rebound came my lament
After striking the stars
Of a ravaged world and
Off the silent shores
But now this restiveness
Is of no use to me,
The heart, the heart did gain
What the eyes were to lose

Koi hota jisko apna...

(Film: *Mere Apne,* music: Salil Chowdhury; lyric: Gulzar; singer: Kishore Kumar)

Wish there was someone o' mine,
Whom I could call my own, O friends,
Not close, maybe, far be it,
But someone I could call my own

Wish there was no sleep in my eyes,
And only tears were afloat in them,
And I stayed awake even in my dreams
Wish there was one who would adopt my sorrows,
Wish there was someone, some mate

Some forgotten promise,
Some past memories,
My lonesomeness recalls all night
Wish there was some comfort,
Wish there was someone my own

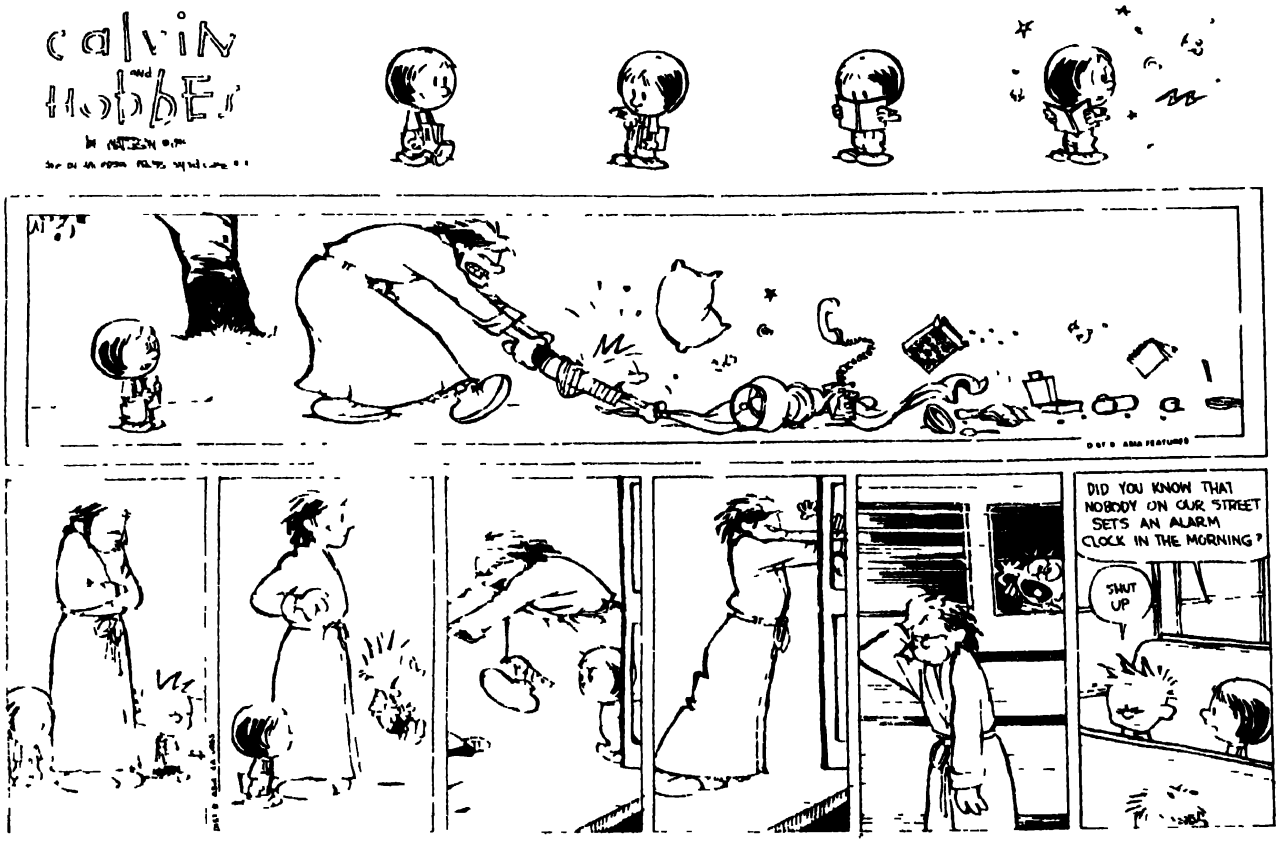
Translated by Anil Grover


Aloke Mitra

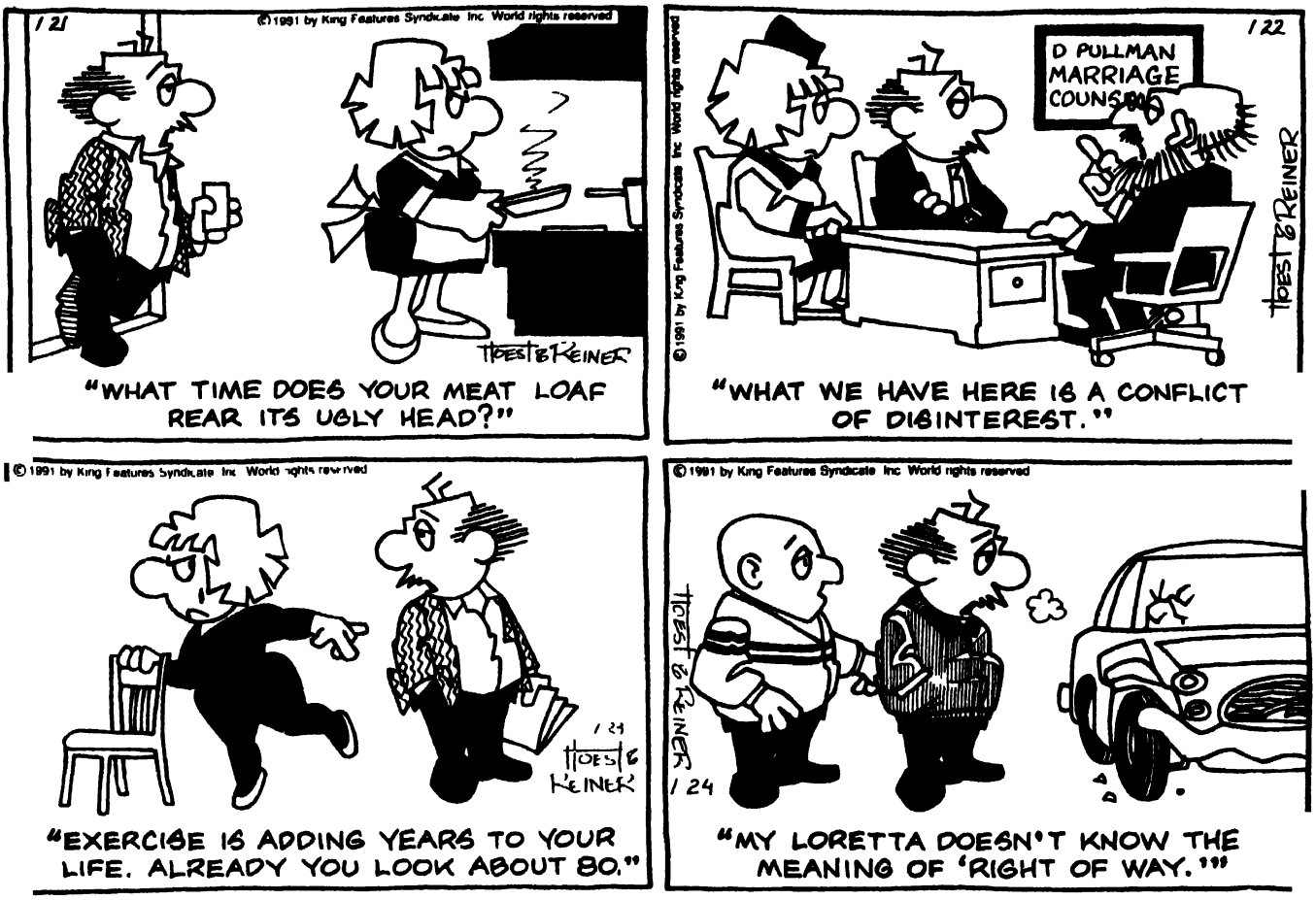
ARCHIE



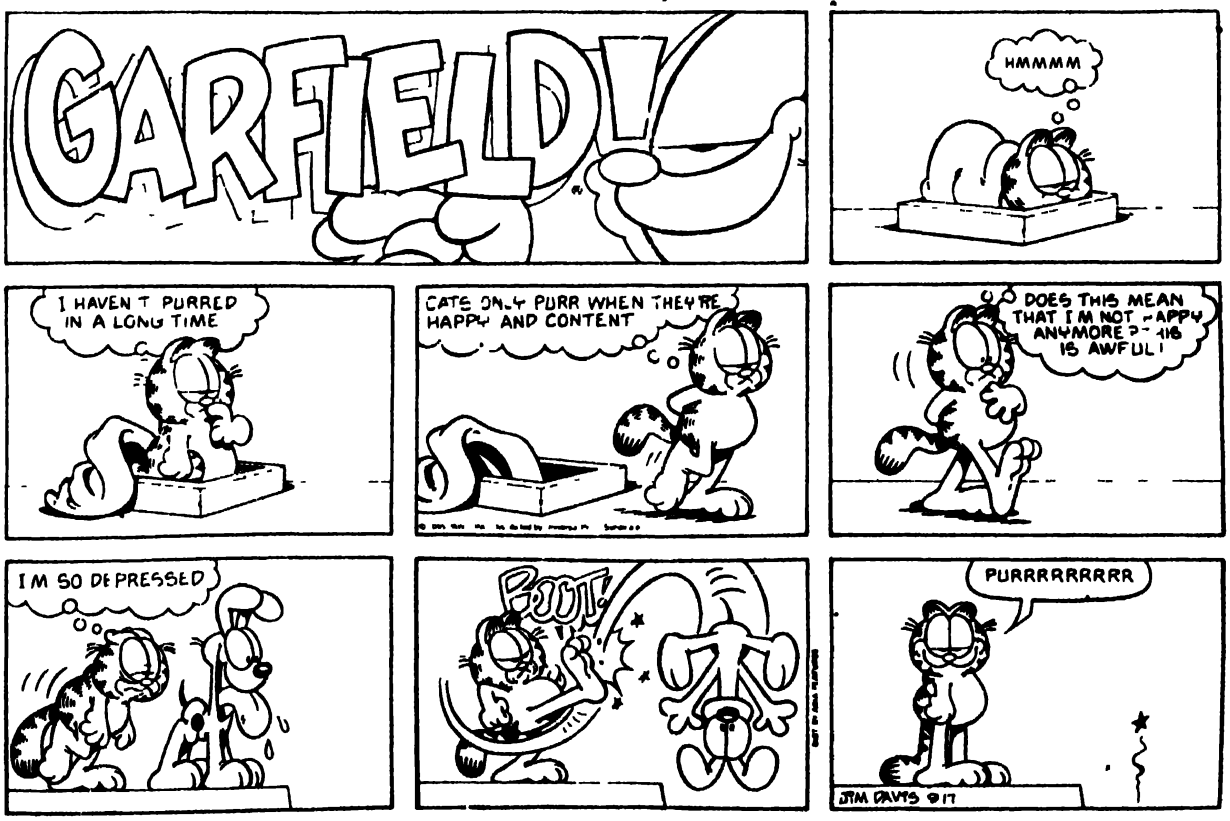
CALVIN AND HOBBES WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS

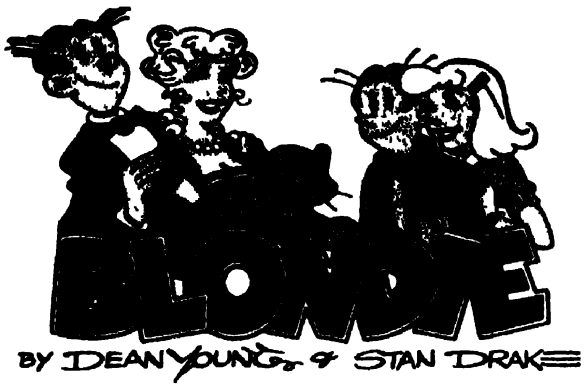


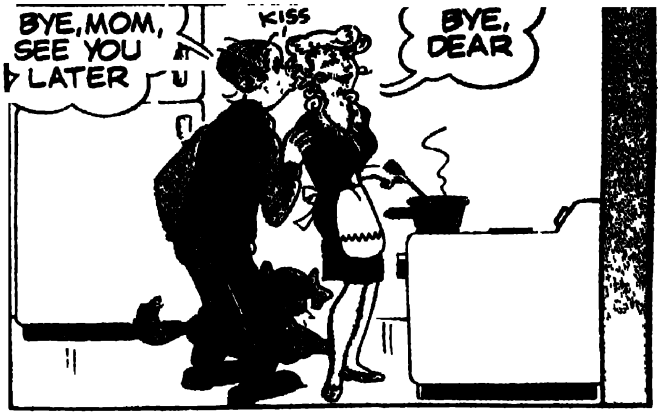
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

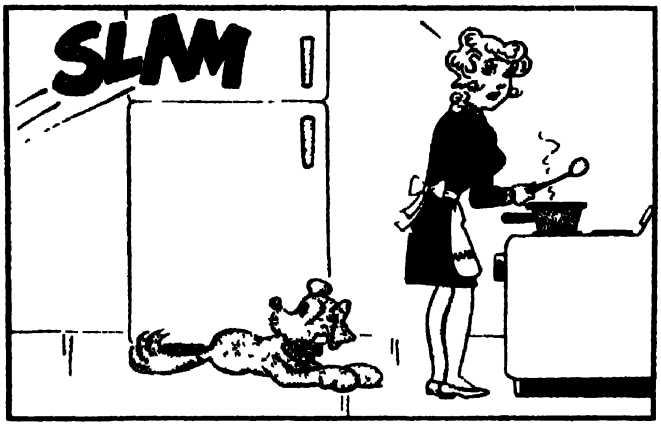


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

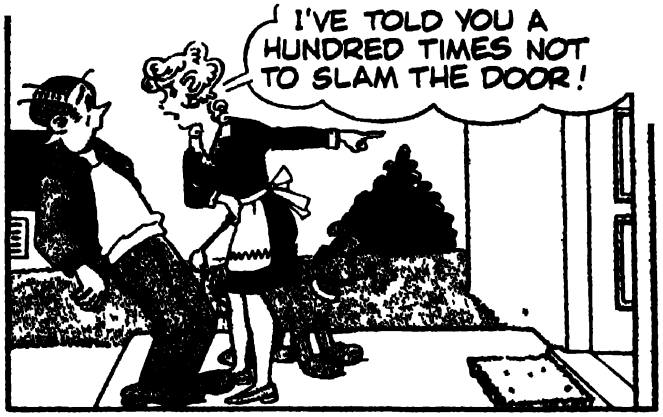


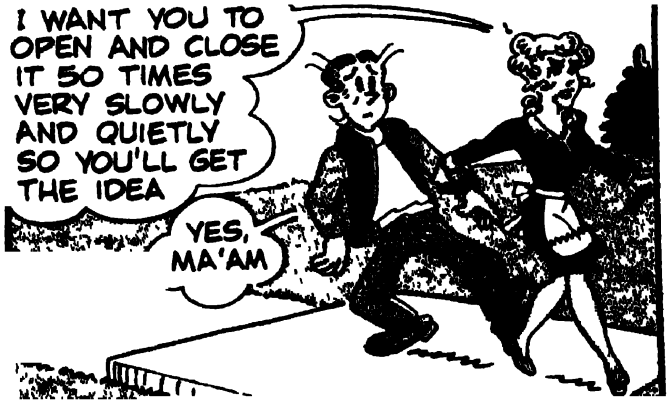

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


BYE, MOM, SEE YOU LATER
KISS
BYE, DEAR

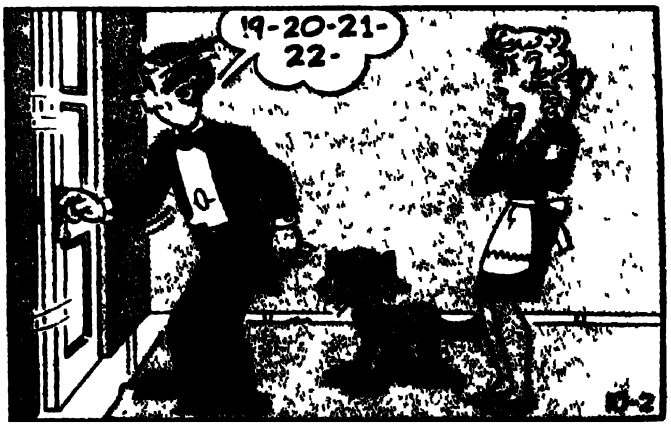

SLAM


ALEXANDER, YOU COME BACK HERE THIS VERY MINUTE!

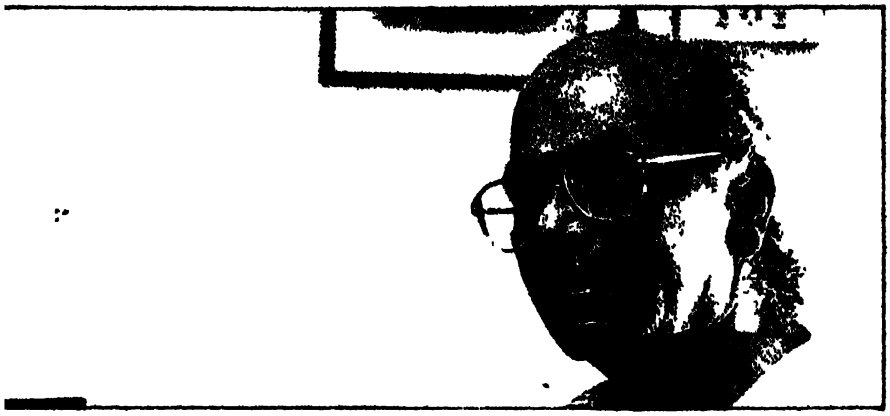

I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES NOT TO SLAM THE DOOR!


I WANT YOU TO OPEN AND CLOSE IT 50 TIMES VERY SLOWLY AND QUIETLY SO YOU'LL GET THE IDEA
YES, MA'AM


SLAM
YOO-HOO! HONEY! IT'S ME, I'M HOME FROM WORK!


19-20-21-22-

SALIL CHOWDHURY *passed away on September 5. Teaching us enough through his music and poetry We reproduce here his First Person published in the Magazine dated November 21, 1993.*



What is your idea of perfect happiness?

As of now, it is my ability to compose a musical note that will unite my countrymen and inspire them to make India among the world's leading nations

What is your greatest fear?

That India may some day be ruled by fanatics who will silence the voice of all reason, and intellectuals will be singled out and shot.

Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?

The great masters of both Western and Indian music and their selections of records and an old gramophone which my father possessed. Philosophically, the dialectical and historical materialism of Marx and Engels

How would you like to be remembered?

I don't think I have any right to tell others why and how to remember me

What do you dislike most in others?

Crude and vulgar show of pomp and arrogance by those in the higher echelons of society

What do you dislike most in yourself?

My laziness and lack of stamina to stand up and protest against all injustice

What is your most precious possession?

An inner voice which helps me put the right notes when I compose.

What objects do you always carry?

My dreams and unsung melodies.

What makes you most depressed?

When cacophony replaces symphony

What do you dislike most on your appearance?

My bald head which used to be so full of thick, black hair, although my wife says I look better now

What is your favourite word?

The bottomline is....

What is your favourite journey?

Sitting on an elephant and passing through the Kaziranga forest, and saying 'hello' to bisons and rhinos I used to do this as a child

What is your favourite dream?

That all men should be equal

What is your nightmare?

Fascism.

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

I have been blessed with so many loves that I have lost count of them But I don't know which is the greatest Maybe, it was my mother's that turned the iron chain of sorrow into gold I keep on searching for it like the madman in Tagore's *Paras Pather*

What is your source of sustenance?

A very high target in front of me which I always set for myself and where I never reach.

On what occasions do you lie?

I lie like my father. He was a doctor and used to lie to terminal patients that 'you will be all right'.

What is your greatest regret?

That even after 46 years of Independence most of my countrymen are illiterate and below the poverty line, and that I can hardly do anything.

What has been your happiest moment?

When my first child was born It gave me the feeling of creating a human life I felt like God.

What has been your happiest moment?

When my first child was born. It gave me the feeling of creating a human life. I felt like God

How would you like to die?

While composing, sitting on a stool and resting my head on the piano keyboard

What brings tears to your eyes?

A good poem or melody, pangs of separation or joy of union, and human empathy like Mother Teresa says, 'I will take charge of all those orphaned at the Maharashtra earthquake.'

How do you relax?

By switching over from music to poetry, from poetry to painting, and playing chess or having a quiet booze.

What do you envy most in others?

What I will never achieve in this life, like being an Olympic athlete, a scientist, a cosmonaut, a Beethoven or an Angelo.

How would you like to be remembered?

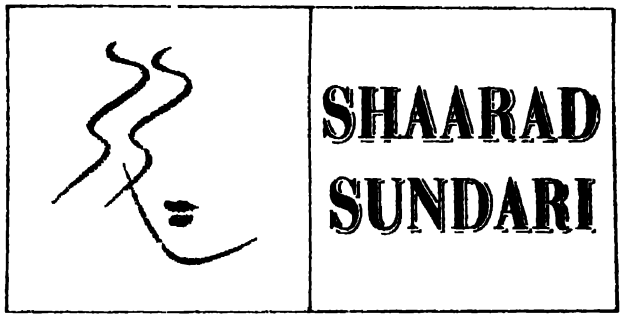
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ITS DURGA PUJA, AND

LAKME-SANANDA PRESENTS



It's Durga Puja and there's celebration in the air

Lakme and Sananda magazine give these festivities a fabulous new dimension by presenting a beauty contest Shaarad Sundari

Win the first prize and you bag some exquisite gold jewellery worth Rs 25,000 There are five second prizes consisting of gold jewellery worth Rs 10,000/ each As for the third prize, there are ten of them an elegant pearl jewellery set each Besides a hundred consolation prizes Lakme Cosmetics sets

How to become a Shaarad Sundari

If you'd like to enter the contest, please go through these rules carefully

1) Dress up beautifully in an Indian outfit, with the right accessories and make-up

2) Send us two postcard size photographs one full length and the other, bust The photographs should be in matte finish (No entry fees required)

3) Grab an issue of Sananda magazine, dated 29th September Fill in the entry form, tucked between the magazine's pages Enclose the two photographs with the entry form and send it to Shaarad Sundari, c/o Sananda, 6 Prafulla Sarkar Street, Calcutta 700 006 Last date 21st October 1995

4) A panel of judges comprising Suchitra Mitra, Sunil Gangopadhyay, Bikash Bhattacharya, Mamata Shankar and Aparna Sen will select the top 16 contestants

5) A tea party will be held at the Taj Bengal in November, 1995 for the top 16 contestants Here, you'll get the opportunity to meet the other contestants and judges as well

6) At the tea party, the judges will rank the first, second and third prize winners (All the sixteen stand to win prizes)

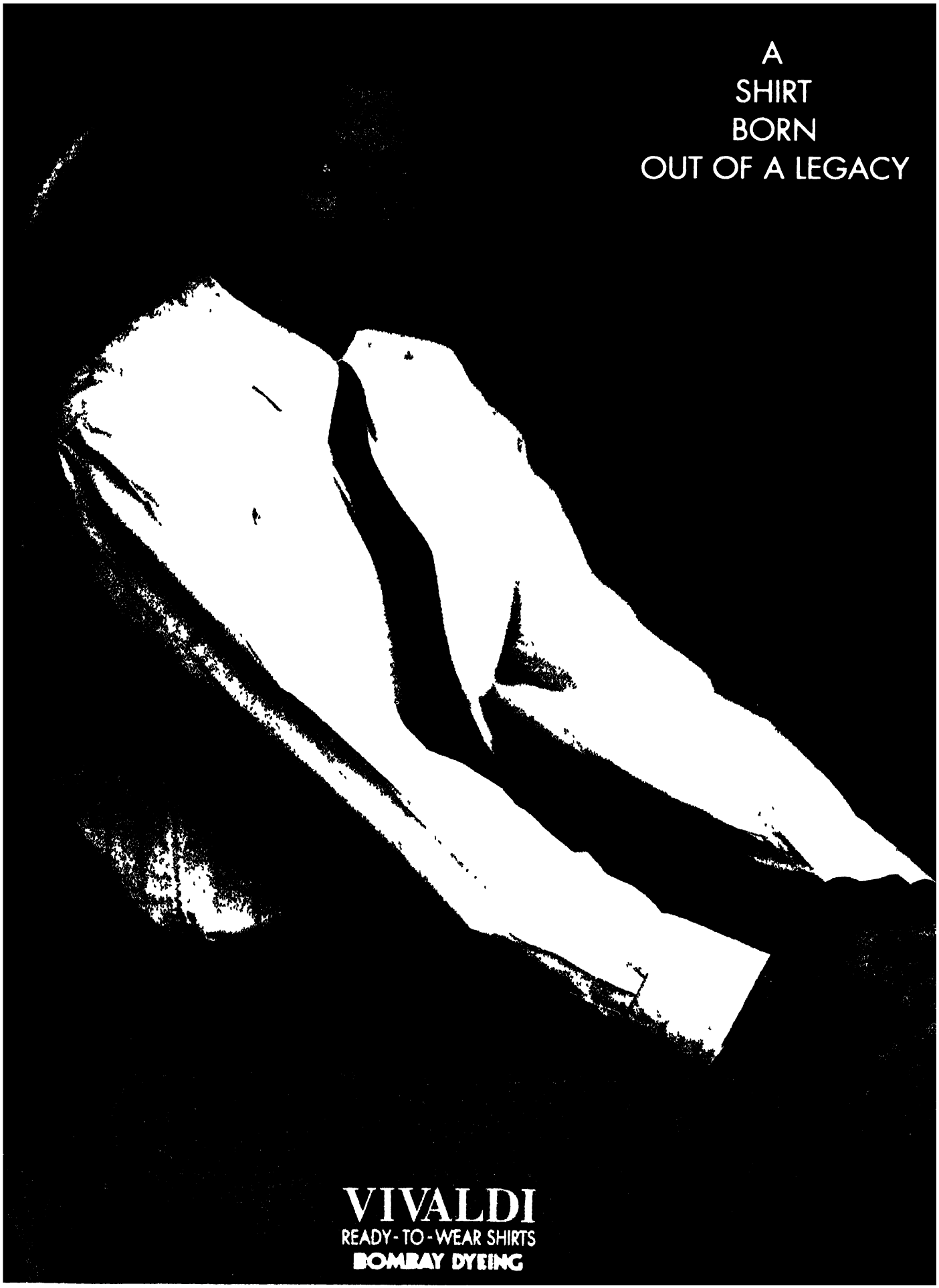
7) You'll receive your prize right there

8) Sananda magazine will announce your victory in a subsequent issue

9) Apart from the prizes, you also stand a very good chance to model for Lakme Limited

Hurry Fame and fortune could be waiting to smile on you

LAKMÉ


A
SHIRT
BORN
OUT OF A LEGACY
VIVALDI
READY-TO-WEAR SHIRTS
BOMBAY DYEING

The Telegraph
1 OCTOBER 1995

POST MORTEM

Salaam, Imran!

■ Pakistani politics has always been in the doldrums and when people find a charismatic figure, apparently clean, they repose their faith in him ('Khan Saheb', August 20).

Tired of Benazir Bhutto and her *bete noir* Nawaz Sharif's theatrics, the people are desperately seeking a change. And debonair Khan seems the best choice at the moment.

With his assiduously crafted image of a gentleman with a mission, Imran should enter the hot waters of politics with extreme caution and, in fact, take a leaf out of Amitabh Bachchan's book who who had to pay for his political ambitions.
Debabrata Mohanty, Balasore

■ The subcontinent is tired of the same old political rhetoric. People like Imran Khan and Amitabh Bachchan bring a fresh new air of hope (not that they always succeed in their missions).

But they enjoy greater trust and confidence of the people than all the politicians put together.

How about cricketers like Little Master Sunil Gavaskar coming forward?
Rajib Chatterjee, Asansol



Imran Khan: Populist politics?

■ The master of the crease is indeed a brilliant achiever! Look at the transformation of his image: from an English spouting Brown Saheb to a patriotic Islamic hero.

Many thought his marriage with the blonde heiress, Jemima, would cause his popularity to wane at home and dilute his chances of donning the Prime Minister's mantle.

But the cricketer proved everyone wrong and is now a serious contender for the hot seat in Islamabad.
Khandakar Mohidul Haque, Calcutta

■ Calculating and shrewd as he is, Imran has spruced up his image with a definite purpose: to get closer to the masses.

As a cricketer he had everything; money, fame, glamour and a bevy of belles. The thing he needed was a political platform to gain power.

And what better way to woo the masses than to build a cancer hospital and pioneer an education movement?
Dipankar Kolay, Jhikra (Howrah)

■ Imran will make a perfect leader of the masses. He is a crusader. He is a man of principles and determination. The result is the well-equipped cancer hospital.
Reyaz Ahmad, Gaya (Bihar)

■ In a world where selfishness is seen as an abiding quality, it is wonderful to have men like Imran Khan who go out of their way to build a hospital.
Anup Kumar Garai, Calcutta

■ Some time back Imran Khan announced he would *not* dabble in politics. And now he becomes the *Wazir-e-Azam* in waiting, holding *durbars* and making *sifarish* and crying, "Be Pakistani, wear Pakistani".

Now, to be a true Pakistani he has to indulge in some India-bashing like his predecessors; declare India its foe, create trouble in the Kashmir Valley and instigate agents of disruption.

On the contrary, he could prove to be a very different PM and erase all the bitterness that exists on the two sides of the border.
Nirmalendu Chakraborty, Cooch Behar (W.B.)

INSIDE



Rajnikant

PAGE 8

CALCUTTA'S GREAT *para* culture is showing its glimmering side once again a trend in self reliance and a more aware civic sense

PAGE 4

THERE IS something unique about cine fan clubs· a book extract

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Cover Krishnendu Chaki

EXTRACT

Superstars as MESSIAHS

BY K. NARESH KUMAR

Extracted from Indian Cinema Ebbs and Tides by K. Naresh Kumar; Har Anand Publishers; Rs 250

The southern cinema might be the repository of excellence in practically anything that it dishes out Be it cinematography, music, thrills, choreography or even the treatment, its directors mete out to the subjects, they handle in their ventures. But while technological progression of this industry has wowed the nation, from the viewers' point of view, the ills that have plagued the medium over the last few decades are still very much alive Which would mean a very careful, even kid glove treatment to the images of its superstars and consequently producing films which are unabashedly defying and propagandist whenever a big hero like Rajnikant or Chiranjeevi in contemporary times stars in them

Stratified, stereotyped movies have been the bane of mainstream southern cinema in all its languages, barring Malayalam moviedom to an extent The main reason none wants to upset the fans of any of these megastars who are otherwise professional, no-nonsense types

It is revealing indeed to comprehend what this has done to big-budget extravaganzas in southern cinema. There are no more multi-starrers starring the recent crop of top actors, the image of theirs as a do-gooder, eternally winning and wooing type is kept intact other than minor tinkering, and above all the ambience of the film itself is one that of a loud, shrill, message-laden one Care is of course taken to show that their demi-gods are infallible and this means the traditional, feudal, chauvinistic mind set reinforcing macho aggression and virility is retained in its pristine form.

And anyone who attempts to make cosmetic changes either ends up with a dud on his shoulder or ensures scathing reviews in the local press that his film which downgrades the aggression of his "action hero" is as good as a

NTR with Meenakshi Seshadri: Godly hero



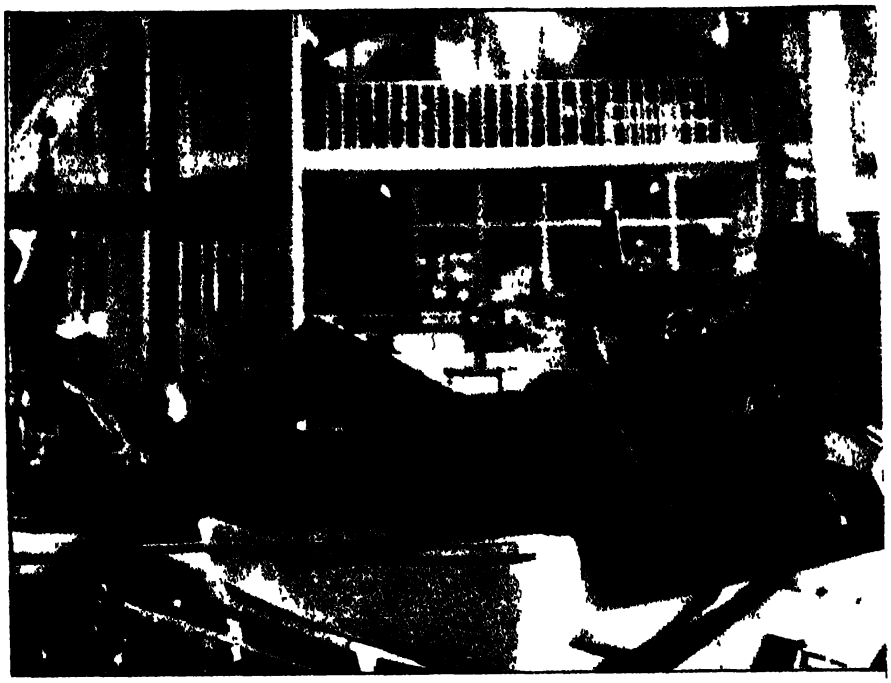
Films Division documentary

And under the established "guidelines" anything goes Even if in current times, with feminine identities all around asserting themselves, Tamil superstar Rajnikant is tolerated if he endorses bigamy under a flimsy pretext of a lost-and-found screenplay in his thunderous success *Veera* routinely, Chiranjeevi disrobes and denudes his heroines and fellow female dancers in his Telugu blockbusters and if he does not "manhandle", then the dance director ensures a "rain song" dream sequence Kamalahasan play upto the lover boy image quite practically even if that means appearing naked above the torso and having his heroine zip up his trouser at a departmental store All this when he is not shown peddling lavatory humour, a sickening stereotype which has continued right up to his latest release *Nammavar*, loosely based on the Hollywood film *Class of '84*

The very fact that such mind-numbing insensibilities have continued as part and parcel of an average superstar movie means the fans want it And there are millions all over the south for each one of the above star Taken in unison, they are practically

Rajnikant Current demi-god





everything for their *annan/anna* as the case may be They can be a captive base for furthering one's political ambitions, a springboard for a commercial leverage and consequent control over the fortunes of a film and above all as the thespians like Sivaji Ganesan and MGR were never tired of saying, they can even be called "blood brothers" or "children", however erratic and undisciplined they were

And this indiscipline is the basic fact behind a dynamic director's shying away from running through this vice-like hold and breaking the cast-iron image barrier Above all, nobody dares to have eggs on his face But there are those "die-hard" optimists, surreptitiously encouraged by the heroes themselves, to attempt things differently, without a care for the box office response K Vishwanath and Singeetam Srinivasa Rao in Telugu, K Balachander in Tamil are some who dared to take on the public and their track record, as can be expected, has been terrible, from the commercial angle

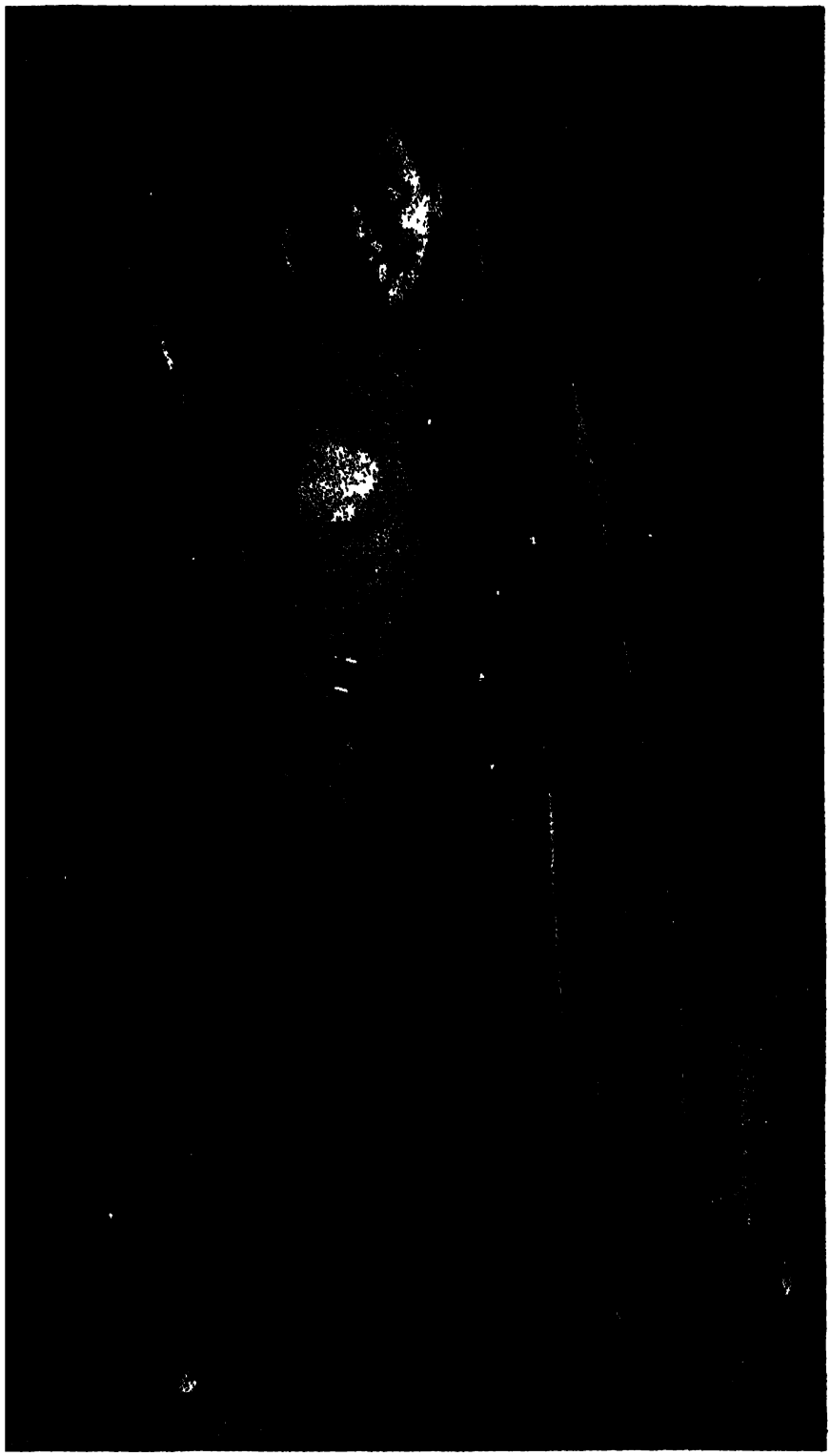
Initially, to begin at the beginning, the stars wanted such adulation, and that too an assured, almost Pavlovian, response to their on-screen antics M G Ramachandran, the guru of the fan club movement in recent times, had such a committed backing that his fanclub number touched an astounding 3000 and the card-holding types easily touched 20-30 lakh youngsters Uniformly hailing from lower middle class milieu, these impressionable, semi-literate Tamilians took up the decoration of the theatres wherever his films were released, regulated crowds, provided refreshments to the womenfolk who flocked to see their *thalaivar* and above all, if need be, made the whole activities self-generating by donating blood to keep the show going And once inside the theatres, they were responsible for the hysterical wolf-whistles and cacophony, a must on the opening day of any new film starring their idol

The other luminary of those times, Sivaji Ganesan, too, had the same set-up Only that they were considered more aware and literate and were thus lesser in number to MGR fans But while the former managed to channelise their frenzy into a long political career and a successful one at that, Ganesan fans were more his supporters for his phenomenal histrionics and noth-

ng much more than this The acklustre political presence of Ganesan and how fans could do not much other than being the errand boys of the local Congress unit at one point of time is a painful fact which cannot be ignored by the veteran actor himself

Nearly three decades after all this got institutionalised in southern cinema the things remain very much the same Only that the old order representing MGR and Sivaji Ganesan in Tamil, N T Rama Rao and A Nageswara Rao in Telugu and Dr Rajkumar in Kannada have been replaced by Rajnikant, Kamalahasan and the latest crop of actors in Tamil, other than Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna, and Venkatesh and Balakrishna in Telugu apart from a few more up and coming ones like Dr Rajasekhar The same frenzy, bigotry and intolerance continue albeit slightly diluted and the adamant, uni-track mentality to see nothing wrong in their screen idol is a continuing passion

Kamalahasan Peddling lavatory humour





MGR with Jayalalitha Guru of the fan club movement

When MGR and Sivaji Ganesan costarred in *Goondukkili* in the Fifties, their only co-starring film then, violence broke out in the theatres between the fans of these respective actors And this was the reason why after a few films, their successors in Madras moviedom, Kamalahasan and Rajnikant, mutually agreed to stop acting in multi-starrers Even if a reputed star acts with anyone of the above two in recent films, the fans want him to accept a secondary, marginalised presence alone So much so in the Mani Ratnam film *Dalapathy* (now dubbed in



Hindi) the Malayalam megastar, Mammootty, was given the smaller, action-laden role and ultimately killed as he threatened to encroach on the superstar status of the other actor, Rajnikant Which would have meant a straight rejection by his adoring crowd all over Tamil Nadu

From the psychological point of view, this is called a "symbiotic syndrome" wherein the average cine-crazy youngster looks upto these screen superstars as a Messiah and a panacea for all the social problems he faces While doing a story on the self-immolation syndrome in Tamil Nadu, a few years ago, this writer had the opportunity of browsing through exhaustive studies made by a practising psychologist of Anna University, Madras, who traced out its fallout to the construction of temples for consecrating the screen idol and retaining them as gods forever to the craving for a simple *darshan* in flesh and blood of the favourite star who has played such wonderful roles on the silver screen

As far as the worshipped were concerned, it gave them a multi-fold dimension of being elevated to such high pedestals to satiating their penchant for being larger than life, a common feature of southern cinema and political life The political success was an added attraction whenever they ventured into public life and to quote a recent example, Rama Rao and his "godly" roles which he played made him such a popular hero that whenever his fans from Andhra Pradesh visited Tirupati, the story goes that they used to visit his house in Madras to seek a "balcony *darshan*" of his replete with makeup *a la* Lord Krishna

The other popular stories of the Sixties vintage are those of how the fans of MGR donated blood to save his life when he was shot at by a fellow artiste, M R Radha, and how some self-immolated on hearing about this incident This adulation, an extreme emotion of the sentiment-excessive southerner, has meant in recent times ticking of posters beseeching the current demi-god Rajnikant to enter politics and vanquish the existing political personalities, a development which has been "officially" lost on the superstar himself who does not want any such diversifications

But in the mainstream cinema too, the scars of such soffocating, syrupy affection have refused to heal As



Mammootty. A megastar

Murali, a Tamil film hero and a fairly popular one at that told a film magazine in Madras recently "The only way to cut down production costs and come out with different kinds of films is to introduce the multi-star concept back into our movies This way there can be everything for everybody" While the concept as such is laudable, whether the frenzied fans will make it happen is of course a million-dollar question After all, there can be nobody better than their own icon

A classic case of "old wine in new bottle", it may be But this is precisely what their popularity has come to mean to The fan club after all is a vicious stranglehold and a permanent incarceration for any successful star in southern cinema ■

COVER STORY

PARA TROOPERS

Illustration: Subrata Chowdhury



Is Calcutta's para *culture coming back in the real sense?*
Soumya Bhattacharya *reports that the benighted city has been showing some definite signs of self reliance and a collective civic sense*

Illustrations: Subrata Chowdhury

MAYBE WE ARE NOT YET LIVING ON THE MEAN STREETS OF BROOKLYN OR DOWNTOWN 'LOS Angeles where gun toting thugs call the shots.

But the image of Calcutta as the 'cleanest' metropolis in the country is fast eroding, as the common man feels more and more insecure to be out on the streets

A fragile police and administrative system tries in vain to grapple with the rising crime rate; women feel threatened to walk on the streets in the evening with the sniggers and catcalls of small-time Romeos making life a daily torment

And beyond the apparent reality of the life of the beleaguered common man lies a tangled web of muscle power and politics that looks down on the proceedings like an omnipotent Big Brother — hawk-eyed and deadly.

The citizens of Calcutta are hard put to sustain their faith in the law enforcers any longer With custody deaths becoming a staple diet along with the breakfast cereal and the morning cup of tea, vigilante squads are coming up in every other neighbourhood to combat the threats of theft, burglary and other crimes that have grown to be as common as the Pujas organised by local clubs



Shaken out of their sense of complacent security, jolted out of the sense that "such things could never happen to us," Calcuttans are steadily realising that unless they take charge of their own lives, no one else will

"We have lost all faith in the police," says 82-year-old Prasad Bose ruefully. Bose, himself a former chief of the state police, has been on both sides of the fence. Now, the balding, wizened, but ramrod straight and fighting fit man, is the president of his local Progressive Youth Forum in Lake Town.

Everyday, Bose remembers, he used to see the police was a silent spectator to the crimes that grew like shrubbery in the locality. Theft and burglary were becoming all too common. Snatchings, and even razor slashing of women's backs by motorcycle/bicycle ruffians, were carried out with utter disdain every dusk.

And the role of the local police, he recollects, used to be "virtually nil"

"It was in the mid-Eighties that we finally decided to form the vigilante squad that would take care of the security of the area." Every night, six paid security guards from a private security organisation used to patrol the locality in batches of two

Facing page: **An artist's impression of 'Greenman of Bhowanipore', Rabin Pal**

The timing in summer used to be 10 pm to 4 am and in the long winter nights, between 10 pm and 5 am

"The residents of the neighbourhood used to go out separately in batches to supervise the work of the security guards We used to make sure that they were working properly and were not caught napping"

As an inevitable fallout of the tightened security, the crime rate in the area went down perceptibly

In the mean slums of Belgachia, where fear stalks the labyrinthine, unpaved lanes, another vigilante squad was formed by the locals in March 1985 Moinuddin Qasim, the *maulana* of the local mosque, is the president of the local Aman or Shanti Committee that is responsible for the security of the impoverished citizens of the locality

Sitting on a mattress of a cramped room of the mosque, Maulana Moinuddin says "The locality had become hard to live in There were too many hooligans throwing bombs every day" This, though, was not the only menace before the people

Rackets trading in illicitly distilled liquor, *satta*, drugs and fisthights made life one long muse / for the people of the slum Antisocials, who infiltrated from outside, brandishing swords and revolvers, took over the locality And the people could scarcely fight back

The Aman Committee was formed to put an end to that terror With a strength of 700, the members of the committee started going out on the streets every night armed with lathis, whistles and torches The slum was divided into five units, with 10 members in four of the units and 15 in the fifth unit which comprised the largest area

The decision paid rich dividends Manawar Ali, one of the members of the committee, says that the guards not just brought back peace and order in the neighbourhood, but made their presence felt by handing over drug pedlars and antisocials to the police

Although they are loathe to speak about it in so many words, the Aman Committee did not let those they caught go scot-free "Yes, we did beat up a few people when we caught them threatening people in our locality" a security guard admits rather bashfully

Although the Aman Committee, which boasts of being a democratic organisation and holds free and fair elections every three years, says that members cut across party lines, residents of the dingy slums observe otherwise

Residents say that it is the members of the committee, backed by the CPI(M), who have let loose a parallel reign of terror "Their word is law You do not question them about anything You just do what *they* say," said an old lady, who owns a small shop in the slum

In almost every quasi vigilante squad that has mushroomed in Calcutta and its fringes, it is this power game played by politically backed, influential persons that has usurped most of the authority of the area And it is these people that wield the clout in the neighbourhood

Vigilante squads had come up in Salt Lake, too, but they were dissolved after the residents were assured that community policing would see to their security But even today, despite the patrol cars that cream across at night with their revolving lights and wailing sirens, vast stretches remain unpatrolled

Worse still, many residents remain unaware not only of their efficacy, but even of their presence

Says P Choudhury, a resident of Block BD of Salt Lake "I have heard the police jeeps more than seen them, but I am not sure they are worth

'They now not only know their own rights, they are quite aware of ours, too!'

Says **R.S. Rawat,** *former deputy commissioner (headquarters), Calcutta Police*

They are the ones blamed for the collapsing law and order problem They are the ones who have failed to provide enough security Yet, the city's law enforcers are squarely shifting from their own shoulders the responsiblity of growing insecurity among Calcuttans.

R.S. Rawat, deputy commissioner, headquarters (***since then posted as DIG, Jalpaiguri***), 'admitted that the number of so-called vigilante squads is rising in the city. "But that is nothing unusual, nor new. It happens all over India. In fact, it is very popular in Delhi."

Rawat, however, admitted that "adequate covering by police of all areas in the city is just not possible". Resistance groups in villages, he said, worked together to provide security for beleaguered villagers

"In such cases, we give them torches and lathis," Rawat said Making it clear that he had nothing against such self-styled resistance groups or vigilante squads, Rawat observed that it was not feasible providing them with torches and other accessories on their nightly rounds in the city

"It is different in the city where you have street lights," he explained.

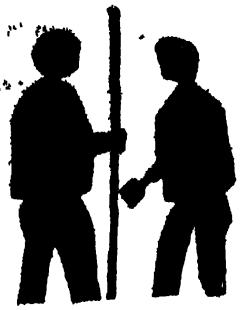
Rawat felt that one of the reasons giving rise to such groups was that "people trusted themselves to guard their own localities" Agreeing that political muscle-flexing and using such movements as a breeding ground for local hoodlums was possible, Rawat said that it "was inevitable that this should be so"

"There is always a tendency for locals in any area to group along party lines. If you have been born and brought up in a certain area, you tend to know the people of the locality and their political affiliations. The first thing that you do when there is a theft or any other trouble is to run to the local political leader and seek his help.

"This obviously leads to politicisation of the groups in a number of cases," Rawat said.

Cases of lynching in the city and the state, Rawat was forced to confess, was very much on the rise. Rawat said that the strictures of the

The club culture in the upmarket neighbourhoods, has also consequently altered in its shades and nuances. Apart from fighting against crimes and drugs, the clubs are now much more politically correct and environment conscious. Clubs in these areas uphold social causes. They make sure that residents do not lack in civic amenities



anything "

Much further south, in the Left bastion of Jadavpur, local clubs had sprung up even before the appearance of police stations in the late Sixties and the early Seventies Jadavpur, then, was a refugee colony, with scarcely any resources, let alone security The clubs gradually usurped the role of law enforcers and 'do-gooders' of the entire area

Even today, with a proper police and administration, the clubs remain the sole controlling authority in the locality

"They interfere in everything, so much so that our independence is often jeopardised," regrets S Dasgupta, a housewife "They have the last word in disputes between landlords and tenants as well as a feud between husband and wife And whatever they say, goes "

The all-pervasive powers of the local club members often take a nasty turn when they decide to take the law in their own hands A recent case was reported when locals, in their zeal to play good samaritans, bludgeoned to death a woman found guilty of stealing clothes.

Interestingly enough, it is in the lower middleclass and poorer areas that the local clubs wield this enormous clout In the relatively upmarket neighbourhoods of the city, the residents are relatively free from the menace of having their lives run by party cadres.

Indeed, in areas like Lake Gardens and Jodhpur Park, where the apartments of the affluent lie cheek by jowl with the dingy slums of the rail colonies, it is the people from the slums who rule the roast "They often terrorise people of our neighbourhood They are the ones who hold sway here," a Lake Gardens resident observes

What contributes to this phenomenon in upper middleclass neighbourhoods is the studied indifference of residents People in these localities keep much more to themselves and do not seek help from neighbours in times of trouble There, the highhandedness of the so-called local toughs takes a different form

Members of the Sevak Baidya Milan Samity, a Congress (I) controlled local club on Motilal Nehru Road in south Calcutta, for instance, say that they do "wholehearted social welfare" "We give clothes and food to the needy, books to school children and see to it that the entire area is kept free from garbage," notes Kartick Singh, a member, with a touch of pride

Yet, those living in the area, beg to differ about the exploits of the members "They are just a bunch of hooligans who extort money on the slightest pretext and have fun at our expense," observes a local resident



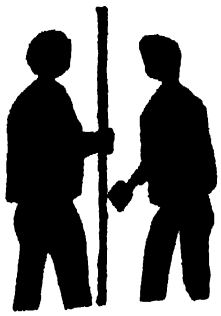
Actually, the entire club and *para* culture that was so distinctive of Calcutta, has fast eroded with people becoming more and more self-centred In fact, many of the much touted security programmes of some of the local organisations were squashed when residents refused to fork out the cash necessary to keep such movements alive

Lake Town, New Alipore, Jodhpur Park and Lake Gardens are merely some of the places where the moribund movements could not be resuscitated for lack of funds "Some people

Human Rights Commission had made people acutely conscious of their rights. "They now not only know their own rights, they are quite aware of ours, too!" he said.

"Lynching is a serious, punishable offence and we try and make the law take its own course when it is necessary." But the main cause of lynching, he felt, was mob fury that

s people not just violently
ressive, but also unidentifiable.
hey obviously stand much less
ance of being caught or punish-
when they are part of a mob.
they scorn the consequences."
ously denying that lynching
due to the eroding faith of the
in the police and the admi-
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that they are
around,
the importan-
and take the law in
hands."



What contributes to this phenomenon in upper middleclass neighbourhoods is the studied indifference of residents. People in these localities keep much more to themselves and do not seek help from neighbours in times of trouble. There, the high-handedness of the so-called local toughs takes a different form

even objected when we used to flash torches and enquire if everything was all right They said they felt bothered," remembers a member of the Lake Gardens People's Association, whose vigilante programme died an early death a few years ago

Calcutta has changed a good deal over the years So, inevitably, has the flavour of any neighbourhood Gone now are the cemented porches in front of houses The congregations of old men in north Calcutta and Bhowanipore, discussing lives of neighbours that were not quite hidden behind frayed and flapping curtains, are no longer to be seen Life itself, it seems, has turned inward on itself, picked up pace and left behind the days of idle chatter, evening teas and card and chess games

The club culture in the upmarket neighbourhoods, has also consequently altered in its shades and nuances Apart from fighting against crimes and drugs, the clubs are now much more politically correct and environment conscious

Clubs in these areas uphold social causes They make sure that residents do not lack in civic amenities The Concern for Calcutta (south division) in New Alipore, epitomises many of the aspects of this new club culture Members of this organisation are increasingly aware of the need to keep their locality clean This includes not just keeping in touch and badgering the civic employees, but also raising the civic sense and the levels of awareness of the residents of the locality, some of them immune to good sense Now, the locality has a regularised garbage collection system, for instance

Says Somenath Mukherjee, a member of the organisation "We are in constant touch with the proper authorities We try to ensure that the street lights are always working" Adds J K Majumdar, another member "If anything goes wrong, like the poor condition of roads and lighting or the mushrooming of tea stalls near residences, we immediately inform the local councillor or authority concerned"

With water scarcity hitting the area from time to time, members of the club also try to keep in touch with the local borough committee and the chief engineer to get things done Another major drive launched by the residents of the area has been against eve-teasing and the drugs menace, though they admit much more needs to be done

"With a number of girls' schools and co-educational schools in the locality, many of the young women used to feel threatened while returning home after classes got over," says Mukherjee The residents of the organisation got in touch with the police

MOB MENTALITY

While Calcuttans are trying, in their own way, to impart a semblance of law and order and security to their localities, lynching, the ugly side of the same coin, is becoming more and more of an everyday event in the city and its suburbs.

Brutal, gory tales of groups of people taking the law in their own hands, of violent mobs going completely berserk, is becoming so commonplace that even the media is giving it less importance in terms of column inches.

Scenes on Calcutta streets do not yet resemble a shot from Jon Singleton's *Boyz 'n the Hood*. But as the stories of people, presumed guilty or innocent, mercilessly hacked, burnt, stoned or beaten to death get more and more common, the incidents get relegated to snippets on the inside page, tucked away between advertisements, often overlooked by the average reader

But like most good, which often contain in them germs of the worst evil, lynching has become the essentially helpful self-policing system carried to brutal extremes. With a number of the so-called vigilante squads in various localities oriented along party lines, members cash in on opportunities to take revenge for past incidents.

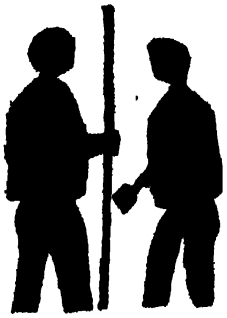
According to a recent survey, there have been as many as 28 lynchings in the state in only 45 days between March 15 and April 30.



and made arrangements for constant police patrols towards the afternoon and evening "The menace was curbed to a large extent," he remarks

The Cricket Association of New Alipore was also formed by the locality youngsters inspired by Pulak Das and inaugurated by Prasanta Sur, MLA (Tollugunj constituency) They roped in former Test player and Ranji Trophy record holder Ashok Malhotra as chief coach and the brilliant Bengal player, Srikant Kalyani, as assistant coach Within three months, they had an impressive team of 175 kids including "10-year-old aspiring Test cricketers" as Malhotra put it

They have set out two concrete pitches in the Children's Park, will get corporate houses to sponsor the venture further and have already got the state sports minister Subhas Chakraborty to commit "equipment and enthusiasm" to the association which promises to produce at least 10 more Ashok Malhotras and Srikant Kalyanis



It is not just the clubs which have changed colour over the years, putting a concern for Calcutta at the top of their agenda. There are even people, who at the expense of their own time and money, have gone out of their way to make the city a better place to live in

It is not just the clubs which have changed colour over the years, putting a concern for Calcutta at the top of their agenda There are even people, who at the expense of their own time and money, have gone out of their way to make the city a better place to live in Rabin Pal, the altruistic 'Greenman of Bhowanipore', is one such person

Over the last 12 years, having spent Rs 20,000 Pal has seen to the greening of the half-km stretch between Townshend Road and S P Mukherjee Road in Bhowanipore by planting 27 different kinds of trees A clerk in a small-time paint factory, this has become Pal's passion A bachelor, Pal has poured most of his meagre income into this scheme

Every morning, from 5, he spends more than three hours looking after his own garden on a public thoroughfare He buys the seeds, makes the bamboo cages to hold the saplings, erects boards with names of trees painted on them and sprays insecticides

It is not as if he did not counter any opposition while going about his job Often regarded as a freak, Pal had once objected to a youth steamrolling over newly sprouted shrubs and been severely beaten up in the bargain! Today, though, he has been accepted as a quirky but passionate individual who cares more for his city than most people

Calcutta has changed a lot over the years And if the club culture of the bygone days is no longer there, it has been replaced with something more in tune with the times The club culture of today cares for Calcutta in its own way Having thrown off the yoke of yesteryear, it is undoubtedly a positive change

And in a city like ours, where even a little change can change a lot, it is an alteration for the better ■

And the numbers have steadily increased.

Apart from the city proper, Dankuni, Akra, Sodepur and Mathurapur, are just some of the names that flash across the lynching map of the state.



A 12-year-old boy was beaten to death in May in Sodepur In an almost unprecedented incident of a lynching for a lynching, a 30-year-old man, suspected to be part of the mob that attacked the boy, was lynched the very next day

Yet, however much one may try to implicate the police, it is undeniable that lynching is more an expression of pent-up fury of an unruly mob than anything else. The fury might be there because of the role of the police in the past (thereby indirectly making them responsible), but once a mob is on the rampage, there is precious little that the police can do.

They are, perhaps, most crippled by a communication gap, by the lack of right information reaching them at the right time. A senior police official remarked that people seldom want to inform the police and subsequently invite danger to themselves.

What cannot be denied, though, is that apart from political equations and identities, a complete lack of faith in the police and the administration among the people has contributed to the increase of such atrocities and human rights violations.

Looked at this way, neither the police nor the administration can evade responsibility for the lynchings that are becoming almost a way of life in the city and its

HUMOUR

'GIN' IN THE GULF

***Bikram Vohra** on the great Indian arsenal*

I live in the Gulf with 1,467,000 other Indians and we work with people of all nationalities including the British The imbalance in salaries between them and us are evened out by the use of our secret arsenal

The same one that lost them the jewel in the crown

The Great Indian Nod or the GIN, as in Djinn or genii Same impact

Perfected and refined over centuries, the Indian nod has subalterns and *burra sahibs* in paroxysms of agony as they try to figure out whether we mean yes or we mean no

What is crystal clear to us in each swing of the head is a complete mystery to the Brits and, to this day, is the single largest reason why they seek succour in gin and tonics It is also the generic root of the English habit of saying, "I say because they haven't a clue what we are saying when we nod"

"So, Ramaswamy, do you think this is a good idea?"

Swing head left to right in slight elliptical mode

"Is that a yes?"

Head bobs more vigorously and then shifts into a compass orbit for extra emphasis

"Is that a no?"

Head shakes like enthusiastic terrier after a bath and then does a few figure eights

By then Cuthbert Dickenson is crying into his files and looking for a dash of Gilbeys so he can dive into it

Over here, in the Gulf, we do have more exquisite situations where Indians have Brits on their staff

So, the boss calls them in, sits them down and then goes into his nod routine, a nod here, a nod there, some more nods and a general closing the meeting nod which has Her Majesty's citizens in a bit of a quandary

Off they go for lunch and John says, "That was a yes, wasn't it?"

"No," says Nick, "it was a maybe "

"Rubbish," says Robert, "it was a definite no, if he was saying yes, he would have gone right to left, he went left to right

"True," says John, "but if you remember last week, he nodded in slow motion east to west and we all thought it was a yes, but what he really meant was, he didn't think the idea would fly

Now, while all this is going on between the Brits and us in the offices, the nod turns into a missile when handed to all the support staff, thousands of whom also reside in the Gulf Houseboys, teaboys, messengers, drivers, onsite labourers all nod away the sanity of their bosses with maddening regularity

"Will you pick up madam from the school?"

"Nodnodnod "

"Did you pick up madam from the school?"

"Nodandnodandnod and shake of head "

"Don't worry, I'll pick her up myself "

Most mystifying to the Westerners is how we understand the inflection in each nod

"Teach me," he says, "please, pretty please "

"No way," I say, "that's how we keep you blighters in place, it is our secret weapon "

"Feel like a game of squash," he says, already defeated

I nod A little shake of the head, a dip and a whirl of the neck

He sighs

"Is that a yes," he says, "or can't you make it?" ■



INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Your work will take predominance over everything else, announces Ganesha October 3-4 are ideal for fusing pleasure and profit Many of you will be making blueprints for the future Once again, partnerships at all levels are clearly and strongly emphasised Prepare for a trip

Taurus

April 21—May 20



Time to shift gears, mentally as well as physically, because of the moon's first quarter The first two days show you the way the wind blows For the next 20 days, matters related to job, pets, new assignments, old commitments have top priority

Gemini

May 21—June 20



A time to show your aces, be it marriage, an official engagement, education and research Your children and grandchildren will demand and get much from you Money derived from inheritance, joint-finances, trusts, public funds, will make you happy in the next 52 days Do expect visitors

Cancer

June 21 - July 20



Mixed results Be ready for a little opposition or rather differences of opinion Be tolerant but put your foot down on fundamental and moral values October does favour changes in the home, as well as important job offers which will continue right through December It will change your life

Leo

July 21—August 21



October is one of the key months for any sort of communication and contacts right from professional matters to strictly personal affairs You will burn the candle at both ends, that is for sure Contacts, appointment letters, deeds, documents will have to be signed Hectic activity

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Do give some attention to work which is pending This is the week when long-distance calls will keep you busy Trips, ties, meets and conferences are highlighted You could also be asked to assume a position of importance Health safeguards are essential

Libra

September 23—October 22



There will be a lot happening in terms of buying, selling, property and personal life Do get in touch with people to further your goals Expenses will be heavy Trips, ties, contacts and contracts keep you occupied for the greater part of the week

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Keep a rather tight hold on expenses and be wary of long-range commitments Messages and news you receive may be biased, to suit one party against another Keep an open house for friends, relatives and wellwishers Hard work, liaison and secret work make it an interesting week

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Your friends and wellwishers rally round you Yes, there will be many opportunities to advance and forge ahead But there is a slight danger of accidents and mishaps It persists till November 22 or so It is certain that you will notch major achievements

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



An exceptionally busy week, because everybody wants a part of you, and generous as you are, you cannot make everybody happy It would be best to call a few friends over, talk things out, take advice if necessary, and entertain elegantly as is your wont and habit

Aquarius

January 20 February 18



Witticism, double entendre, practical jokes and horseplay could possess you In other words, your fun loving side could surface In practical matters, rest assured that success is absolutely certain Work will be done Take care of the family as the health of elders is suspect

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Ganesha says, money, passion, health, responsibilities form the square of your life, the quartet as it were October through December is loan and money time You will be swinging projects then However, there is a danger of theft and pilferage Do be careful

BIRTHDAYS

October 1: **The moon's first quarter focalises heavily on your house and home and Ganesha opines that a few upsets are possible. By February these should be cleared.**

October 2: **Moon conjuncts Uranus-Neptune making you brilliant but erratic. At work and in the home, mysterious, rather inexplicable conditions will prevail**

October 3: **Moon-sun trine leads to success in enterprise and naturally for that you will have the proverbial slice of luck. Time to regenerate yourself.**

October 4: **The sun-Jupiter sextile helps you to seize opportunities in business and work as well as profession. Travels and tours will be ideal for you.**

October 5: **The sun-Mercury conjunction gives you daring and imagination. With these attributes you can literally slay the world. A good time to try the new and the off-beat**

October 6: **Mars trine saturn is ideal for going away with obstacles and difficulties, be it money, love or home You will not only survive but prevail.**

October 7: **Moon-Pluto trine gives you the power and the resources to improve your lot Job, romance are the two wheels which will need a little thought.**

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS

DO

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 7	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC-742	1050	4 7
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1, 3 5, 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
[illegible]					
D2-806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
[illegible]					
PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
[illegible]					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1 3,5 7	IC 722	1250	1 3 5 7
[illegible]					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
[illegible]					
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1000	4 6	VF 105	0950	4 6
VF-106	1745	1	VF 105	1710	1
[illegible]					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0920	daily	D2-101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI-306	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
AI-681	2330	1			
DELHI					
IC-263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5
S2-026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC-812	1700	1 3 5	4S-806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2-006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
[illegible]					
PF 737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S-816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC-701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
[illegible]					
IC-257	1140	2, 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
GUWAHATI					
IC-703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 230	1620	daily
PF-735	0730	1	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
D2-181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
4S-816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC-229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
[illegible]					
[illegible]					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF-106	1000	4 6	VF 105	0950	4 6
VF 106	1745	1	VF 105	1710	1
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JAIPUR					
D2-806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
JORHAT					
IC-213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC-213	1315	3
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1125	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 172	1720	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1835	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
SHILLONG					
PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3,5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1

INTERNATIONAL

[illegible]					
KL 876	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
KB-105	0850	2, 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2 4 5 7	TG-313	1240	1 3 6
TG 314	1355	1 3, 6	IC 732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC 226	1420	1
BG-696	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3, 6, 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 2 3 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1 2 3, 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1875	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RA-214	1030	4 7	RA 213	0945	4 7
IC 747	0920	2 4 6	IC-748	1610	2 4 6
LONDON					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA 143	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU-537	1555	4
PARIS					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6 45	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 35	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**	4-40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	3 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	22 00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	3046
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4-30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9-30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21-00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16-05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5-00	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	6 30	3032
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7 55	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon, Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7 55	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 30	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	7 55	1182
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchenjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gour Express**	5-15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12-30	3134
3103	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues, Thurs & Sat	4-25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20-30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12-10	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8111	6-00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11-35	8018
2421	16-40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	---
--	11 05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	-
-	14 05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
-	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	-
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13-45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	-
-	14-05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545 52 for in coming trains 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203498-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

CHACHI'S MURDER

Chachi died at 6 pm on Wednesday the 5th of April, and came to life again exactly 20 minutes later This is how it happened

Chachi was, as a rule, a fairly tolerant, easy-going person, who waddled about the house without paying much attention to the swarms of small sons, daughters, nephews and nieces who poured in and out of the rooms But she had taken a particular aversion to her 10-year-old nephew, Sunil

She was a simple woman and could not understand Sunil He was a little brighter than her own sons, more sensitive, and inclined to resent a scolding or a cuff across the head He was better looking than her own children All this, in addition to the fact that she resented having to cook for the boy while both his parents went out at office jobs, led her to grumble at him a little more than was really necessary

Sunil sensed his aunt's jealousy and fanned its flames He was a mischievous boy, and did little things to annoy her, like bursting paper bags behind her while she dozed, or commenting on the width of her pyjamas when they were hung out to dry On the evening of the 5th of April, he had been in particularly high spirits and feeling hungry, entered the kitchen with the intention of helping himself to some honey But the honey was on the top shelf, and Sunil was not quite tall enough to grasp the bottle He got his fingers to it but as he tilted it towards him, it fell to the ground with a crash

Chachi reached the scene of the accident before Sunil could slip away Removing her slipper, she dealt him three or four furious blows across the head and shoulders This done, she sat down on the floor and burst into tears

Had the beating come from someone else, Sunil might have cried, but his pride was hurt, and instead of weeping he muttered something under his breath and stormed out of the room

Climbing the steps to the roof, he went to his secret hiding place, a small hole in the wall of the unused *barsati*, where he kept his marbles, kite-string, tops, and a clasp-knife Opening the knife, he plunged it thrice into the soft wood of the window frame

"I'll kill her!" he whispered fiercely, "I'll kill her, I'll kill her!"

"Who are you going to kill, Sunil?"

It was his cousin Madhu, a dark slim girl of 12, who aided and abetted him in most of his exploits Sunil's *Chachi* was her *Mami* It was a very big family

Chachi," said Sunil "She hates me, I know Well, I hate her too This time I'll kill her"

"How are you going to do it?"

"I'll stab with this," he showed her the knife

"Three times, in the heart"

"But you'll be caught The CID are very clear Do you want to go to jail?"

"Won't they hang me?"

"They don't hang small boys They



Madhu produced pencil and paper, went down on her hands and knees, and screwing up her face in sharp concentration, made a rough drawing of *Chachi*. Then, with a red crayon, she sketched in a big heart in the region of *Chachi*'s stomach. 'Now,' she said, 'stab her to death!'

send them to boarding schools."

"I don't want to go to a boarding school"

"Then better not kill your *Chachi* At least not this way I'll show you how"

Madhu produced pencil and paper, went down on her hands and knees, and screwing up her face in sharp concentration, made a rough drawing of *Chachi* Then, with a red crayon, she sketched in a big heart in the region of *Chahchi*'s stomach

"Now," she said, "stab her to death!"

Sunil's eyes shone with excitement Here was a great new game You could always depend on Madhu for something original He held the drawing against the woodwork, and plunged his knife three times into *Chahchi*'s pastel breast

"You have killed her," said Madhu

"Is that all?"



"Well, if you like, we can cremate her"

"All right"

She took the torn paper, crumpled it up, produced a box of matches from Sunil's hiding place, lit a match, and set fire to the paper In a few minutes all that remained of *Chachi* were a few ashes

"Poor *Chachi*," said Madhu

"Perhaps, we shouldn't have done it," said Sunil beginning to feel sorry

"I know, we'll put her ashes in the river!"

"What river?"

"Oh, the drain will do"

Madhu gathered the ashes together, and leant over the balcony of the roof She threw out her arms, and the ashes drifted downwards Some of them settled on the pomegranate tree, a few reached the drain and were carried away by a sudden rush of kitchen water She turned to face Sunil

Big tears were rolling down Sunil's cheeks

"What are you crying for?" asked Madhu

Chachi I didn't hate her so much"

"Then why did you want to kill her?"

"Oh, that was different"

"Come on, then, let's go down I have to do my homework"

As they came down the steps from the roof, *Chachi* emerged from the kitchen

"Oh *Chachi*!" shouted Sunil He rushed to her and tried to get his arms around her ample waist

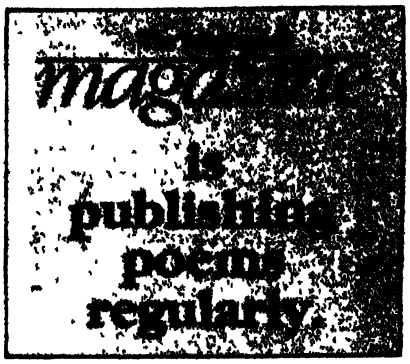
"Now what's up?" grumbled *Chachi* "What is it this time?"

"Nothing *Chachi* I love you so much. Please don't leave us"

A look of suspicion crossed *Chachi*'s face. She frowned down the boy But she was reassured by the look of genuine affection that she saw in his eyes

"Perhaps he *does* care for me, after all," she thought, and patting him gently on the head, she took him by the hand and led him back to the kitchen

(Sanctuary Features)



JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

selects the poems All contributions should be sent directly to him at Tinkonia Bagicha, Cuttack 753001 and NOT to The Telegraph. by ORDINARY MAIL. Contributions sent by registered post or courier **will not be** accepted. Poems should be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned**. All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates. No enquiries will be solicited

Fill in the coupon below and sent with your contribution

___ Block letters please

Name_____

Age_

Address_

ILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

DELUGE BACK HOME

I left India 45° in the shade, parched and shrivelled, and have now returned.

Sensing my return, my dog resolved to avenge two and a half months of neglect by developing a particularly virulent type of eczema

A creeping paralysis had crept over other parts of the household The phone was dead, the gas cylinder was leaking, the vi'eo was jammed, the satellite connection non-existent, the front door wouldn't open, the booster pump had given up, and well, you get the idea

But the bright spot was that the monsoon, which I had been loathe to leave along with the height of the mango season, had come late It was still waiting for me Without incurring any expense, I found our house beautified by miniature waterfalls, springing from upstairs drainpipes into buckets and watering cans tastefully arranged around the house The whole building was surrounded by a moat after every downpour, which never grew deep enough to flood us

The canvas roof of my old jeep had split, leaving it even more delightfully air-conditioned than before, only a patch of canvas over the driver's seat intact

What a marvellous monsoon vehicle it is! Five minutes after setting off, it manages miraculously to draw water from the heavens which buckets down the wiper-less windscreen and through the ignition until I wonder why Kevin Costner and Co didn't make *Waterworld* in India

On the wettest day, when my gallant steed stalled and wouldn't start again, I sat under the tattered canvas watching the rain falling like stair-rods and splashing into the lake which had been a bus stop It struck me then that *The Webbs* must be revived

The Webbs was to be the world's first underwater soap opera The plot was simple — earth man falls in love with water girl — a sort of mermaid, the kind of tale that has fascinated people for centuries Their love faces many problems, not least from the fact that the boy cannot stay underwater for more than 20 seconds without going up for air

The underwater world was originally envisaged as a kind Fifties' America — the kind of place Doris Day would be at home in — and a tank had been identified for the filming

The director had come to the conclusion that no 'take' could be longer than 15 seconds and that the dialogue would have to be dubbed The most crucial thing would be that the bubbles coming out of the actors' mouths would be in sync with the dialogue

Alas, David Benedictus, who had commissioned the series, left Britain's Channel 4 before he could see it through, and this great idea still remains to be made flesh Perhaps, this is a challenge for Doordarshan

What a marvellous monsoon vehicle it is! Five minutes after setting off, it manages miraculously to draw water from the heavens which buckets down the wiper-less windscreen and through the ignition until I wonder why Kevin Costner and Co. didn't make *Waterworld* in India

Eventually, I managed to restart the jeep, and asked a taxi driver who was clad in nothing but a plastic bag hat, underpants and a *kirpan*, if there was any way I could reach home Not, he said, before the flood receded

I sat back and tried to remember the highway code My driving license had been stolen just before I left and I had no record of the number which was essential to get a replacement A part of homecoming was also, therefore, becoming a learner again

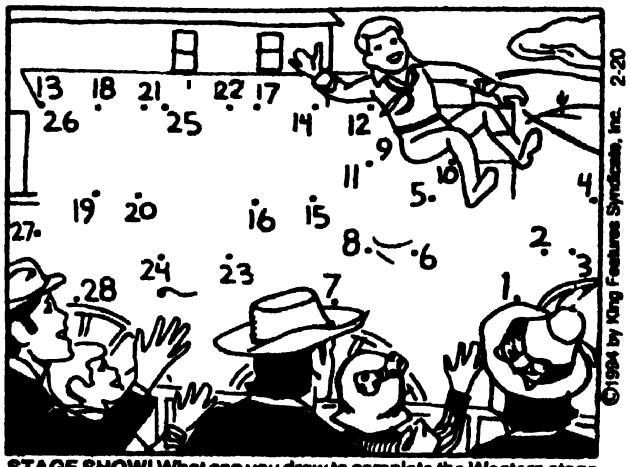
I swotted up the clauses prescribed and during a long and gloomy morning at the RTO, I and a student had tested each other until we were word perfect We had both passed the test But I had left less puzzled as to the reason why Delhi driving was so chaotic

First of course, has to come the inadequacy of public transport — specially the lack of a good rail and tram network Secondly, a learner is tested on various peculiarities of left-hand drive vehicles but is not tested, and therefore, never has to learn, less arcane knowledge like, for example, what to do at a roundabout or a pedestrian crossing

The rain ceased and the sky lost its deep elephant-grey clouds When the road, though littered with dead vehicles, was passable, I bade farewell to the taximen and in first gear at no more than ten knots an hour, proceeded, grateful for the rain, and for its ceasing, and remembering these lines of Robert Louise Stevenson

If I have faltered more or less
In my great task of happiness,
If I have moved among my race
And shown no glorious morning face,
If beams from happy human eyes
Have moved me not, if morning skies,
Books, and my food, and summer rain
Knocked on my sullen heart in vain
Lord, thy most pointed pleasure take
And stab my spirit broad awake
(Sanctuary Features)

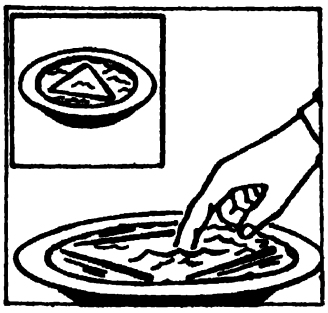
JUNIOR WHIRL ⁘ HAL KAUFMAN



STAGE SHOW! What can you draw to complete the Western stage show above? To find out, insert lines dot to dot

HALF HAZARD! Half of 12 is as much greater than four as twice this number exceeds a score What number is that? Solve this in your head, if you can

The number is 11



TRICK TAKES SOFT SOAP

THREE toothpicks, a dish of water and some soft soap are required to perform this magic trick carefully place the three toothpicks in the water to form a triangle (see small inset above)

Now, gently stick an index finger straight down into the water at the centre of the triangle Alakazam, not! Nothing happens, the triangle remains intact

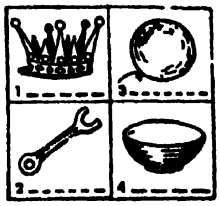
Next, coat the same index finger with soap, and again gently insert it into the triangle

Alakazam, zot! This time the toothpick triangle immediately disbands

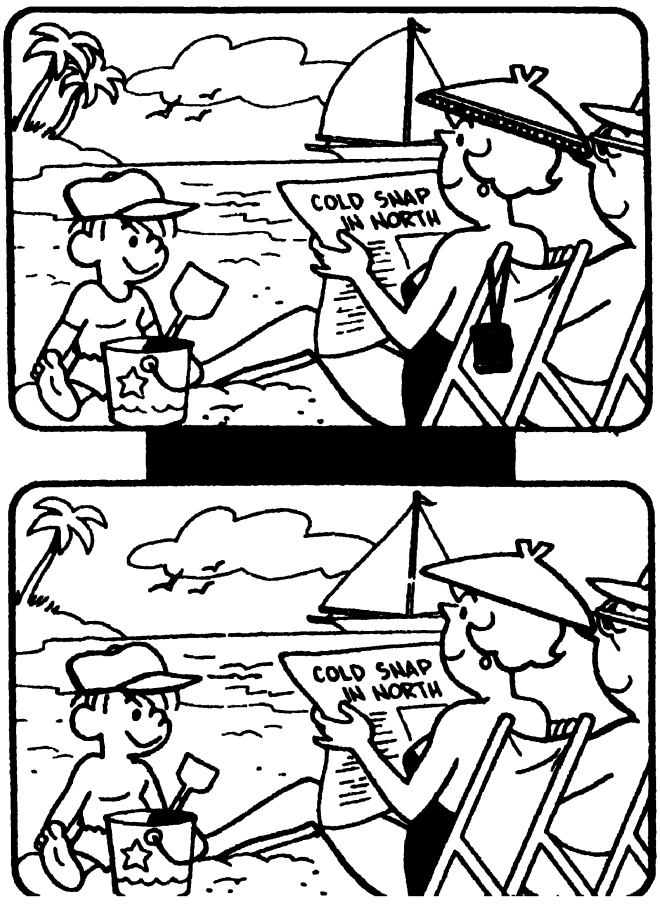
WORD WATCH! Lots of words contain the names of animals and other creatures spelled out within them There's an ox in box, for instance, a cat in scat, a rat in brat, in bee in beet, an ant in rant, a bat in batch, an otter in potter, a bear in beard, a hare in harem, etc

Names of the four subjects pictured below contain the names of certain birds How quickly can you identify the subjects and name the birds?

Crown, crow 2 Balloon, loon 3 Wrench, wren 4 Bowl, owl



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Tree is missing 2 T-shirt is missing 3 Shovel is smaller 4 Sail is different 5 Hat is different 6 Camera is missing

FUNSPOT



HAT CHECK! Three cheers for our pal in the three-cornered hat **Coloring code 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk. blue**

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

TEASPOON

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

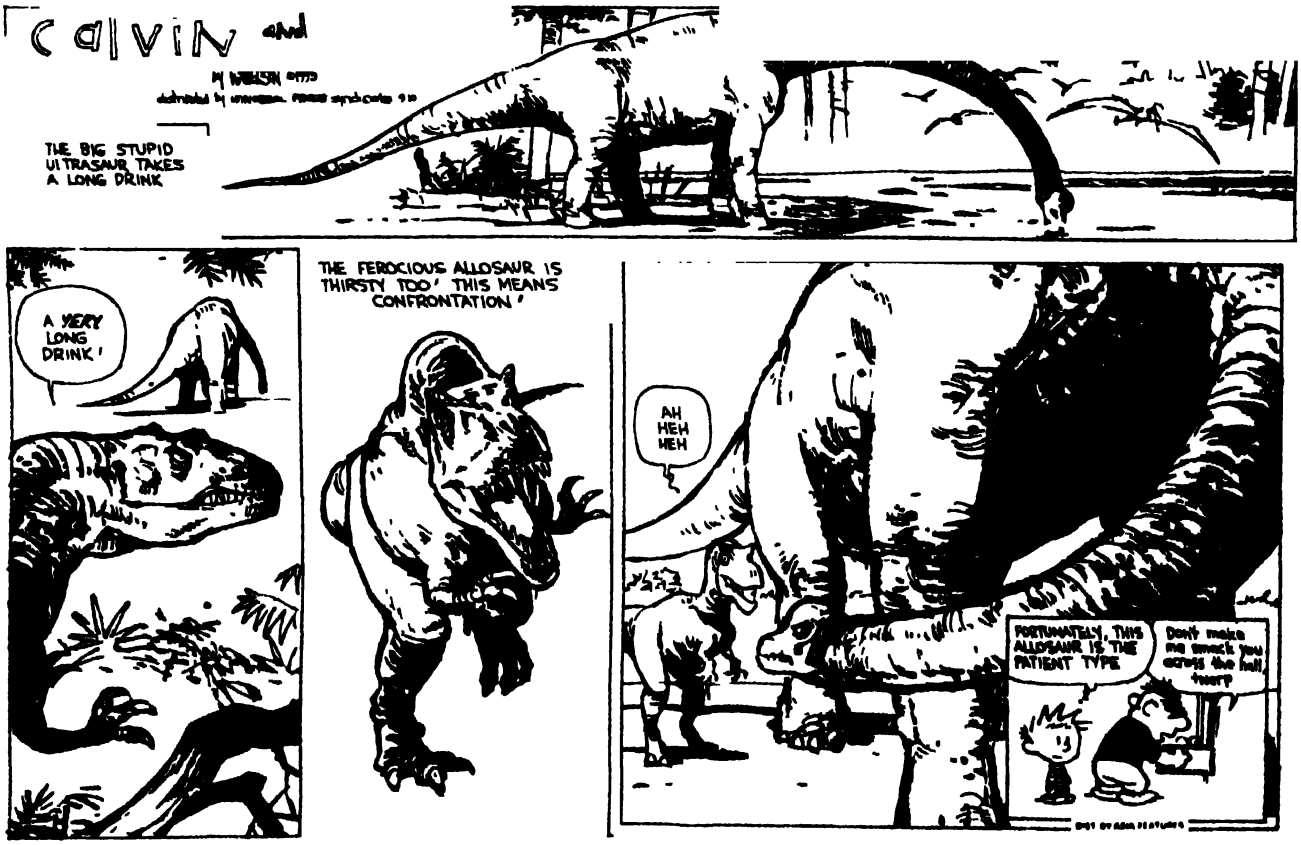
Possible twosome Tape, soon

COMICS

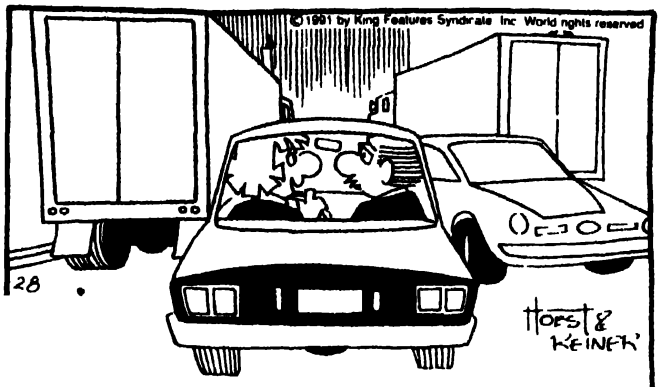
ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES WATTERSON



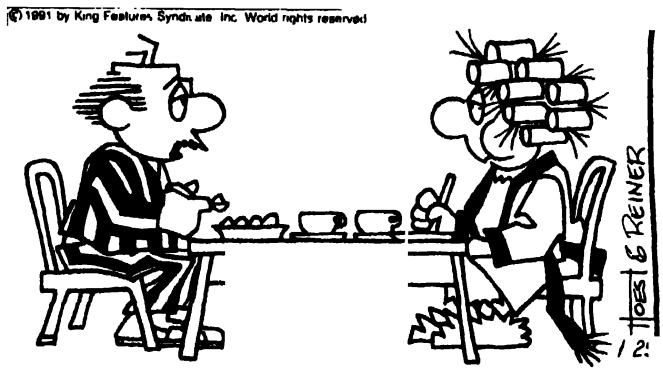
THE LOCKHORNS



"SHUT YOUR EYES, LEROY··HERE WE GO!"



"YOU'RE LUCKY·· WHEN YOU TALK, YOU DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN."

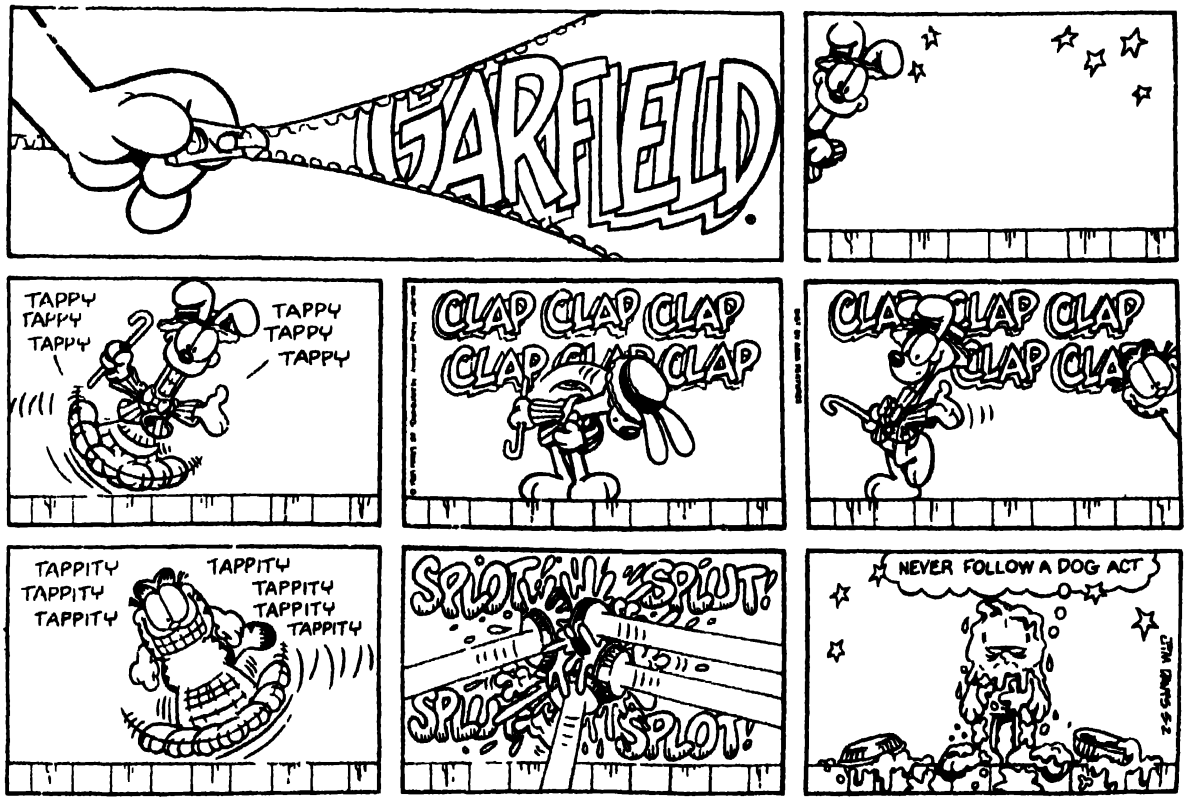


"IT'S NOT EGGS, LORETTA, BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S SCRAMBLED."



"YOU LOOK GREAT, LORETTA! THAT OVERHAUL SHOULD LAST YOU THREE MONTHS!"

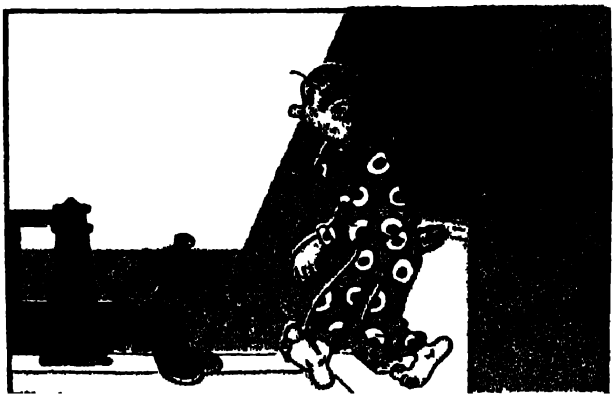
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

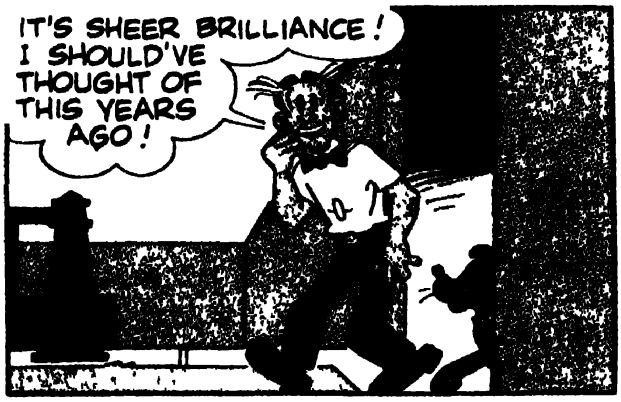




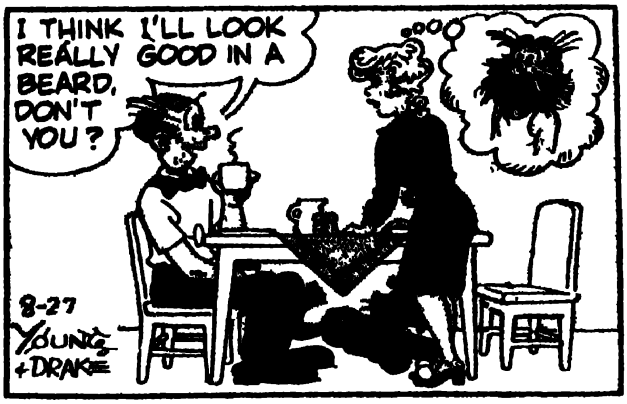




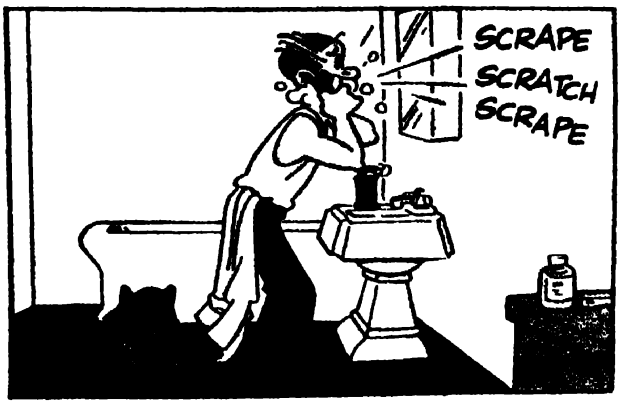








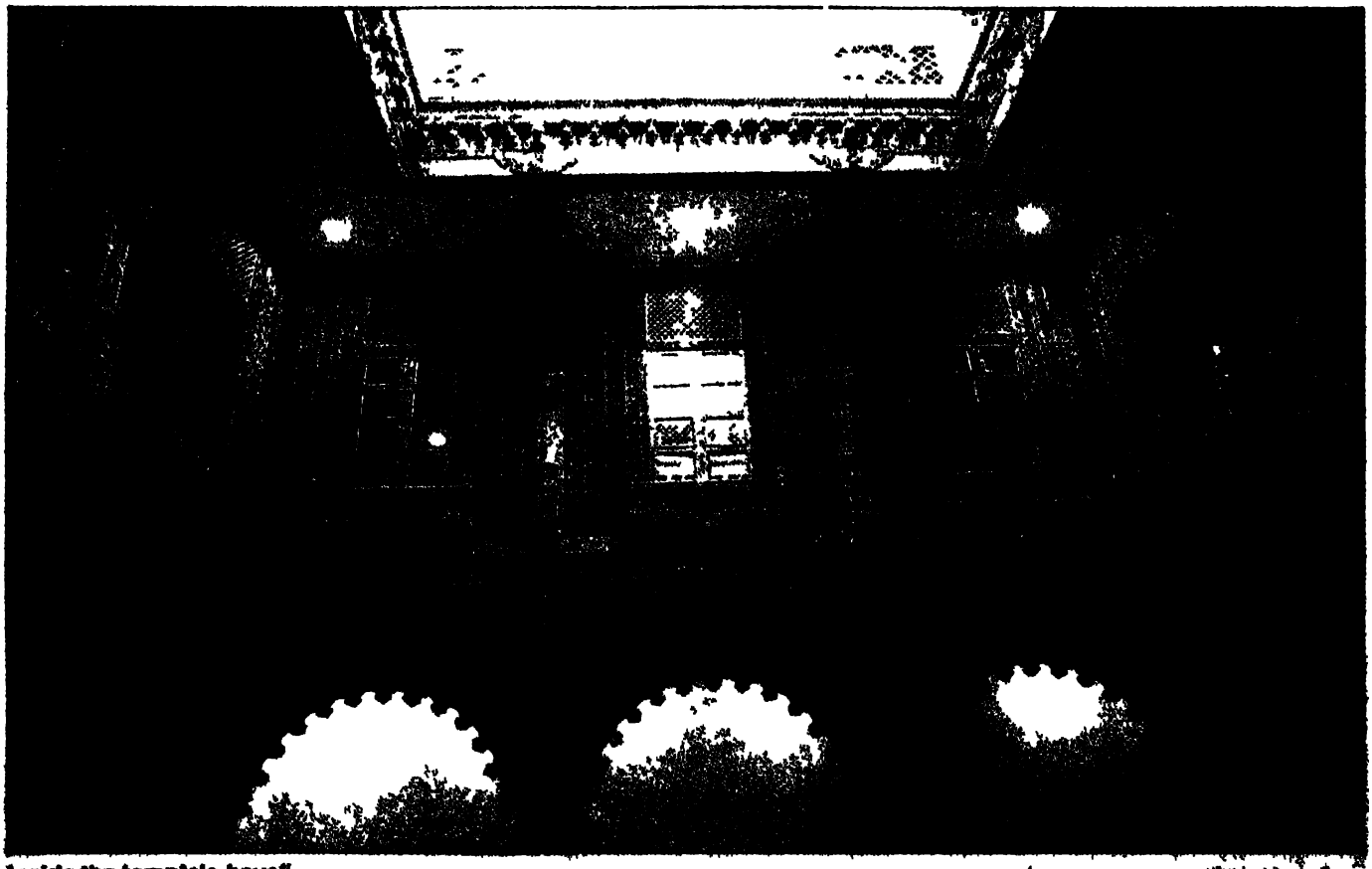
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Focus

MODERN MISSION

The Swaminarayan temple in a London suburb is both a religious and architectural marvel ***Rajlakshmi Bhattacharyya*** *on the vision in white*



Inside the temple's *haveli*

"What Canterbury is to Anglicans and Westminster Cathedral to Roman Catholics, Neasden will become to Britain's 1.3 million Hindus."

So wrote *The Guardian* on what looked like a vision in white—a Taj Mahal so perfect in proportion and dimension that it seemed to bridge *atma* and *parmatma* straightaway.

The temple lies in the grimy suburbs of London—in Neasden. Flanked by industrial sheds that are in a Wembley, the Swaminarayan Hindu Temple is the 'fulfilment of a dream for Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the key inspirer of the edifice.

Officially opened on August 20, a colourful pageant was floated across from Hyde Park through Piccadilly to Trafalgar Square, marking the inaugural celebrations of the Mandir's existence. The temple covers an area of [illegible] and is being described as the biggest temple outside India [illegible] ancient Hindu [illegible] stone by stone [illegible] of the Taj Mahal.

Obviously inspired by the ancient Hindu



The temple at Neasden; (inset) Pramukh Swami Maharaj

...Shiva Parvati, ... Sita-Ram, ... Hanuman, Ghanshyam Maharaj apart from Akshar Purushottam resi de. The ... carving mirrors the mountains, woods and centuries-old rock-cut caves.

On the ground floor of the temple is an interactive exhibition to explain the basic tenets of Hinduism to those unfamiliar with the faith

The *mandir*, which in future would be a major tourist attraction for the drab Neasden suburbs, is secular, being open to people from all religions and faiths, be they Christians, Buddhists, Hindus or atheists.

Living in an era where agnosticism runs rampant, how ironical that the number of religious structures coming up continue to be in inverse proportion to people's declining faith. Is it because, religious belief has never been a precondition for an architect to produce a convincing work of architecture as Le Corbusier showed at Ronchamp? For too often, they are meant to impress, for reasons that are entirely ornamental

Yet, by creating an aesthetic monument steeped in spirituality, the Hindus of the Swaminarayan temple have given both lyric and mystical expression to God's own abode on earth ■

... Akshardham ... Augus... then, has ... the way for cream-coloured Bulgarian limestone for the outside, Italian Carrara marble and white Ambaji marble for the inside, Burmese teak and English oak for the temple's *haveli* (courtyard) architecture.

The *haveli*, adjoining the *mandir* is replete with halls for prayer, conference, marriages, exhibition and sports, other than the extensive library, health clinic, vegetarian kitchens and parking facilities for 550 cars.

The local pink sandstone, used to carve the Akshardham (or "cultural nucleus") at Gandhinagar in Gujarat in 1992 could not be used in Britain for it was felt the stone would quickly crumble in the damp of the English weather. The architects decided on a hard variety of limestone (about 2,828 tons) from Bulgaria.

The unavailability of craftsmen in Britain coupled with the project's alien nature meant that skilled labour — stone artisans, mainly, had to be chosen from India.

In a massive cross-continental effort, the stones were shipped to Kandla and 15,000 people were set to carve those broad chunks of marble and limestone. Each carved block, given a special computer number, was packed into cases and sent to London where it was unwrapped, polished and assembled like a huge jigsaw puzzle

But of course, had it not been for the volunteers, 100 full-time and over 1,000 part-time dedicating themselves towards the completion of the project with the aid of a few local contractors, the temple would have remained a distant possibility.

People from a wide cross section — bankers, students, pharmacists, doctors, engineers and solicitors worked relentlessly with often as little as three hours of sleep per day.

Funds for the *mandir* were raised through voluntary donations from the local Indian community and an eco-friendly can recycling scheme. Older children of the Mission's school collected used cans and paper which they sold to support the project.



The Mission's inaugural celebrations at Picadilly Circus

Modern technological forms were evolved in constructing the shrine when the temple's architect, Sompura, along with Triad Architects, Austin Truman Associates and the Mission's own in-house architects modified the structure to suit rigid codes of building regulations extant in Britain.

There are now two lifts for the disabled encased in marble, fire escapes, and fire-resistant wood for the *haveli*. The temple has an entirely stone-built structure — a cantilevered dome, though the normal stipulation requires the use of steel or lead

Considering the rapid fluctuations in the English weather, an underground heating has been introduced and the entrance covered to ward off the heavy downpour of rain.

Every part of the *mandir* is symbolic. It faces the north-east which is where



Adding ... to the intricate carving

SANDCRAFTED

Manmohan Mahapatra is a sculptor with a difference: his medium is sand

As the sea roars in the distance and the sun bathes the beach with its mellow rays, a silence descends on a corner of the sandy stretch where a vision of priceless beauty emerges from the nimble fingers of a gently-bent figure. Curious holidaymakers peer into the sand, amazed.

An exquisite sand statuette, like the stone figures adorning the facades of the Konark temple, rest against the beach surface; serene and glacial.

Like John Keat's 'Ode on a Grecian Urn' *Thou silent form, dost tease us out of thought as doth eternity: Cold Pastoral!...*

The lights of fishing boats flicker in the horizon and the gentle evening breeze turns ferocious. The bent figure straightens, dusts his hands and with the crowd melts in the gathering dusk; his creation left at the mercy of a jealous sea.

Manmohan Mahapatra has a strange hobby: sculpting figures out of sand and shingle. A hobby that took him to the Harrison hot springs in Canada where he won the Sculptors' Choice Award at the World Sand Sculpture Championship last year.

As a child who grew up on the beach at Puri, Mahapatra was fascinated watching children build sand castles. The artist in him prodded him to experiment with bigger and more intricate forms in sand. And once he managed to put together a complete figure, it became a passion with him.

The beach became his workshop, the sand his medium, and the people's applause his inspiration.

Coming from a family where art is a tradition (the Mahapatras are the resident artists of the Jagannath temple) Manmohan Mahapatra was always in quest of creating something unique.

Once he perfected his craft after nearly 15 years of profound devotion, Mahapatra decided to impart his artistry, which had already caught the imagination of the local people, to others He opened the Academy of Sand Art Culture in 1987. Soon he had a string of youngsters flocking at his beach academy.

But the artist in him would not let him rest contented with just local recognition. He yearned to spread this new art form beyond the shores of Orissa.

And then Dame Fortune smiled. He got an opportunity to try his luck at the world championship in Canada.

The journey from the Bay of Bengal to the beach at Harrison hot springs was like a dream. "In 1990, I went to attend a sand culture workshop in Bombay where I met a famous sand artist from Switzerland, Benno Kaiser," Mahapatra recalls, his face brightening. "We worked together and when he went back, he recommended my name to the authorities at the Harrison hot springs."

Mahapatra was the only Asian competing with some of the world's finest sand artists for the world title The competition is hosted every year between September and October on a lakeside beach where there is no tide which gives an opportunity to the beach masters to fashion larger and more detailed forms.

Mahapatra's sand crafted Radha-Krishna caught the fancy of all Vancouverites, mystique and oriental, matchless in its beauty and aesthetic allure. Mahapatra returned, happy that his dream had been fulfilled.

Most people are foxed as to why such bewitching masterpieces have to be destroyed. "For me the entire process — the ecstasy of creation and agony of destruction — is a part my research and understanding I am I my craft," sand sculptor.

Mahapatra does not believe his art is impermanent. "It is imprinted in the memory," he says "I love creating something new everyday and I love to see the sea devouring it."

Susmita Banerjee



Manmohan Mahapatra with his sand scupture at Puri

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

The Sc
one of the great works of l
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The story
150 years a
Hawthorne has Demi Moore
starring as Hester Prynne —
a vivacious and sensual
young woman who is ostracis-
ed by a rigid Puritanical socie-
ty that brands her as an

Prynne is coerced into wea-



ring a red 'A' in public as a
sad reminder of her love for

dale whose love for her is so
deep that it incurs the wrath
of her l

destroy the entire l

The film is directed by
Roland Joffe, the creator of
The Killing Fields* and *The City
***of Joy*. Gary Oldman plays the**

nd Robert Duvall, the unforgi-

BOOKS

The Indian Menu Planner. One will be tempted to try out the recipes after flicking through its pages An attractive hard cover edition enclosing three spiral bound books

The first section deals with 'Tandoor and dry dishes', the second explores 'Curries and simmering pots' of chicken, fish, lamb and minced meat and the third section contains 'Vegetarian dishes and desserts'

The recipes, compiled by 12 master chefs from Welcomegroup, Maurya Sheraton, are a fusion of traditional flavours of the subcontinent and new delicacies

Simply written and deliciously photographed, the planner is a would-be gourmet's delight The book is published by Lustre Press Private Limited and costs Rs 450

FASHION

Bird of P

, you can blaze a trail
by donning the 'red hot right
now' hat from Nina Ricci's
1995-1996 winter collection.

Fringed with flaming red
feathers and a carmine crest,
the hat strikes one as being
luxuriant, a sort of downy

The outfit, too, is red, dark
and deep, with a rift valley-
like neck. A truly splendid
ione jaded with
ny consider is old hat
in shopping arcades.

LIFESTYLE

Puja Package This time it's HHI offering all who're willing, a special Holiday Bonanza package for 2 nights and 3 days

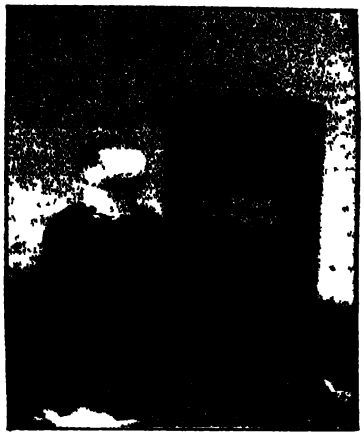
There is plenty of fun and excitement in store — welcome drink, breakfast and dinner on the house, 20 per cent discount on food and beverage in all outlets except Anti-clock, exclusive health club facilities like Sauna, Jacuzzi, Yoga and lots more

To live it up, there are magic shows, movie tickets, shopping sprees, free entry with complimentary ride at Nicco Park, golfing facilities and free entry to the Anti-Clock discotheque.

To top it all are surprise gifts and prizes galore Free air tickets for two, gift hamper for every room All this and more for Rs 999 per person per day on a twin sharing basis or Rs 1,500 for single occupancy per day. Free accomodation for kids below 12 sharing the same room.



Copper Touch Baccarose Cosmetics Limited has added some new items to their 'Copper' product line — Copper Eau de Toilette and Copper Aftershave lotion



With its typical woody, musky, ambery or, in one word, 'Copper', fragrance, the products are available in a 50 ml pack Packaged in an attractive rust and gold striped cartons, 'Copper' aftershave and Eau de toilette come in brown and gold capped bottles.

Eau de toilette is priced at Rs 245 and the Aftershave costs Rs 195 They are available at select outlets in major cities

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Bon Voyage Barbie She has been a teacher, a doctor, an astronaut, a bride and a model. Now Leo Mattel is launching Flight Time Barbie, an air hostess

She has them all — a vanity case, a passport, travel guide and magazine She also adorns a pretty brooch and costs Rs 189

RAMESH

one of the bi... Kumartuli, has been moulding clay into goddesses for the Pujas in Calcutta for the last four decades. At other times he sculpts bronze images. He uses the rich alluvium of the deltaic Ganges to breathe life into his images, designing even the goddess. Paul claims to have brought about a renaissance in clay modelling.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

The harmony which comes to the artist in the absence of all obstacles in his field of activity. It is akin to a feeling which can only be described as heavenly.

What is your greatest fear?

The lack of patronage which may not allow me to fulfill the creative desires in me.

Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?



What is your favourite word?

Durga

What is your favourite journey?

To Hardwar, Dehradun and Mussoorie where I have gone each autumn time and time again.

What is your favourite dream?

To leave a ... behind.

What is your nightmare?

The ... in oil might go from bad to worse. I see my ... the time of ...

[who is the greatest love of ...

What is your greatest regret?

[redacted]

When Bengalis choose to ignore the sweat and tears of the artisans and take off for some quiet holiday during the Pujas

The inspiration to create came from within my soul and has impelled me to move ever onward. My environment, too, has shaped me, in a way.

What do you dislike most in others?

When they betray the truth.

What do you dislike most in yourself?

That I am never satisfied with what I am.

What is your most precious possession?

My creativity which is meant for posterity whether they choose to value it or not.

What objects do you always carry?

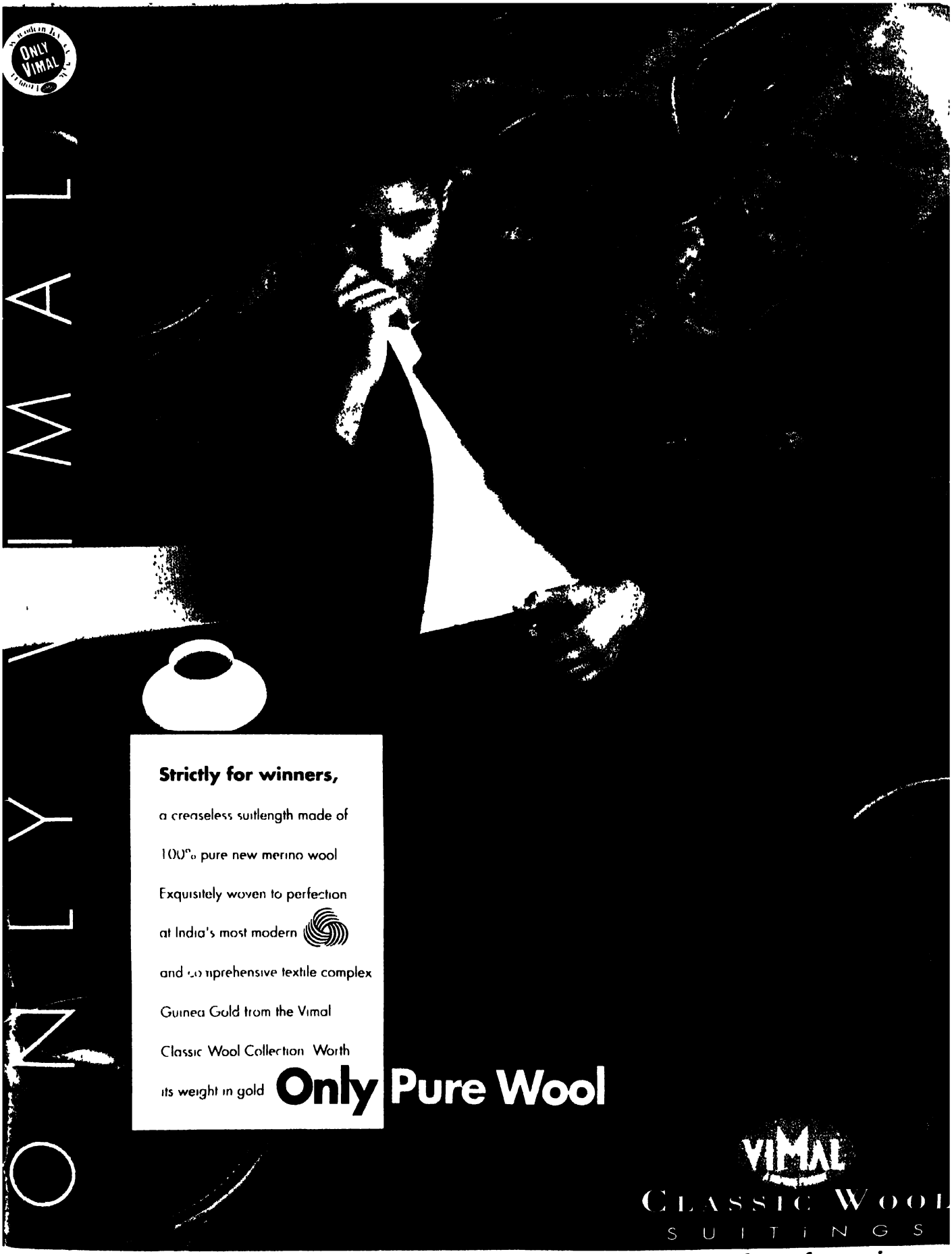
Money, to meet my expenses.

What mak... a depressed?

... frustrated strike in our ...

What do you dislike about on... appearance?

... I was taller and more ... built.



A few of the **600 exotic suitings** created this season



THERE'S NOTHING ARTIFICIAL ABOUT THIS SMILE: IT'S MADE OF 20 NATURAL HERBS

Ayurveda the science of life, has stood the test of time for well over 2,000 years Ayurveda is a legacy from India's glorious past when the Rishis had mastered the secrets of nature for the benefit of mankind Vicco Vajradanti Paste is the original Ayurvedic paste Vicco cares for your mouth — effective, active, totally natural Vicco is for healthy gums & firm teeth Every tube of Vicco contains 20 pure herbal extracts long established by Ayurvedic herbal traditions to be good for teeth, mouth & gums Ayurvedic practice, centuries old, actively involves, those elements in nature most beneficial to the individuals Vicco Paste is made from herbs, barks, roots & flowers no artificial ingredients, no harsh abrasives or fluorides Just the best ingredients for disorders of gums & teeth Vicco's concentrated formula lasts longer and tastes great Vicco is worldwide favourite for decades Vicco is vegan No Animal ingredients

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The Telegraph

8 OCTOBER 1995

POST MORTEM

Chisel and Check

■ The vainglorious attempts to project and analyse Anish Kapoor's complex mind seemed a bit out of bounds with reality ('The Tingle Factor', August 27).

Is Kapoor really that accomplished a painter that his land of birth is not ready to receive his aesthetic message? Or, is he another product of pseudo-modernistic predilection?

Are his creations honestly comprehensible works of art or are they just what they appear to be — heaps of rocks, wood and multi-hued blotches of ink?

It is natural to be curious about modern art trends, but to read into Anish Kapoor's art is a difficult exercise lacking as they are the life force By projecting the dubious merits of artists, we are insulting our sense of judgement
Vishnu Pillai,
Calcutta

■ We are wont to acknowledging the excellence of a person and his creation after he wins recognition abroad

Very few connoisseurs at home were aware of Anish Kapoor till he became a big name in London *Pather Panchali*, in the Fifties, evoked little interest in Calcutta But the moment it won appreciation overseas, cine buffs flocked to movie halls to see the film

Now that Anish Kapoor has become a high-profile sculptor abroad, art lovers and cash-rich corporate houses will make a bee line for his chiselled forms
Dipankar Kolay,
Jhikra (Howrah)

■ An Indian becomes famous abroad, yet none in his homeland see the works which have made him famous

Most of the sculptors interviewed said they had heard of Kapoor, but not seen his sculptures



Imran Khan: A cricketer and a crusader

Kapoor's association with India has been feeble and having lived in the West and imbibing its culture and ethos, his expressions of art naturally appeal to the West's sense of aesthetics

From the pictures of his sculptures I could find very little Indianness in them although he is said to be drawing heavily from Indian mythology and religion

He is an Indian in name only There is nothing Indian in his art
Somnath Mukherjee,
Calcutta

■ Anish Kapoor is undoubtedly a bigger name than M F Husain although the two are celebs of two different worlds.

No wonder there is a streak of envy in the latter's assessment of the former.
Arta Mishra,
Cuttack

Winner all the Way

■ It is very rare that a sportsman occupies the centrestage of national politics ('Khan Saheb', August 20).

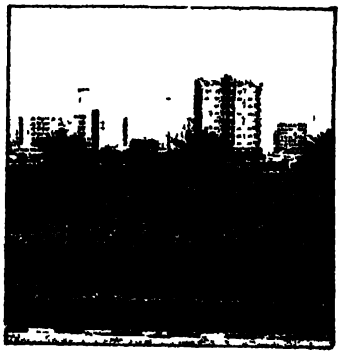
Pele was a national hero all right, but he never enjoyed the kind of hype Imran does. It is time Indian cricketers forgot benefit matches and did some good work for their motherland

It would sound Utopian, but if the two neighbouring countries had sportsmen at the helm, a bonhomie of sorts could exist between them
Debasish Chandra,
Kharagpur

■ It is a matter of great pride for the people of Pakistan what Imran Khan has achieved both on and off the field People will derive inspiration from his iron determination

India has produced players of Imran's might, but not a social crusader of his calibre.
Md. Saghir Ejaz,
Calcutta

INSIDE



Kamal Jalka

PAGE 4

CRICKET PUT Sharjah on the world map And though not as rich and chic as Dubai, this conservative Emirate has, over the years, evolved an identity of its own

PAGE 26

IT IS just not Vishwanathan Anand against Garri Kasparov They are ably assisted by a team of well-honed seconds

Sharjah

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 LIMELIGHT
29 POETRY
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover The Sharjah Tower by Kamal Jalka



The fast-moving Dubai-Sharjah highway

COVER STORY

PETRO CITY



As the Champions Trophy gets under way in Sharjah this week, lensman ***Kamal Julka*** *focuses on some of the breathtaking spots of the desert Emirate while* ***Lokendra Pratap Sahi*** *establishes that it has now developed an identity all its own*

DUBAI HAS ALWAYS BEEN PROJECTED IN A GLitzy fashion. Indeed, it is as much a product (and a very fine one at that) of petro dollars, of the foresight of the many Sheikhs and of the sweat and tears of an expatriate labour force, as it is of slick marketing.

Another sister Emirate, Abu Dhabi, too, has held its own by virtue of being the United Arab Emirates' nattily executed capital. But Sharjah, among the more conservative of the seven Emirates, has not exactly been an outpost in the Gulf.

And though Sharjah may well have suffered in comparison (even oil was struck there much later), specially with Dubai which is a mere 20 minutes drive away, over the years it actually has evolved an identity of its own.

It may not possess Abu Dhabi's wealth and may not be as chic as Dubai, but Sharjah

Sharjah's ruler Shaikh Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qasimi





A view of the lagoon

has had its share of dream merchants and, today, is definitely not a poor cousin of either Abu Dhabi or Dubai

Beaches and boulevards (well yes, the greenery has to be seen to be believed), a captivating lagoon, super markets and 24-hour departmental stores, chocolate parlours, a floating (*dhow*) restaurant, swanky showrooms with gleaming BMWs and Ferraris

Sharjah has all that and more Only, there is no liquor (even though, ironically, the 'dry' Emirate apparently is a transit point for smugglers operating from Ajman to Dubai) And that, perhaps, is one reason why the tourist boom is not reverberating in the manner it should in Sharjah

"Let Sharjah be declared wet, as it was till 12-15 years ago, and we'll give Dubai a run for its money," was how a local, who frequently motors across to Dubai for a "refill" and the occasional evening of belly dancing, put it

Still, pretty appropriate is the welcome which greets all visitors, "Smile, You Are In Sharjah"

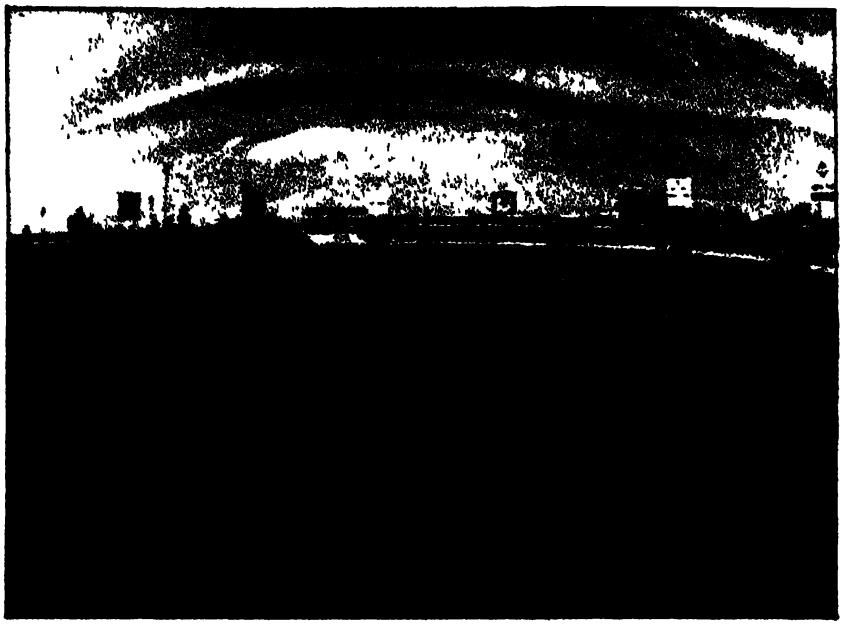
Of course, Sharjah's principal claim to fame is its association with cricket From a centre for purely *tamasha* matches back in the early Eighties when the accent was on shopping, partying and accepting gifts from overawed Sheikhs (not necessarily in that order), it has now emerged as a vibrant and popular neutral venue

The immaculately maintained Sharjah Cricket Stadium, which remains a major tourist draw, has already displaced that ampitheatre extraordinary, the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and the Sydney Cricket Ground as the centre to have hosted the maximum one-day Internationals Sharjah's tally of 90 is five better than both the Australian centres.

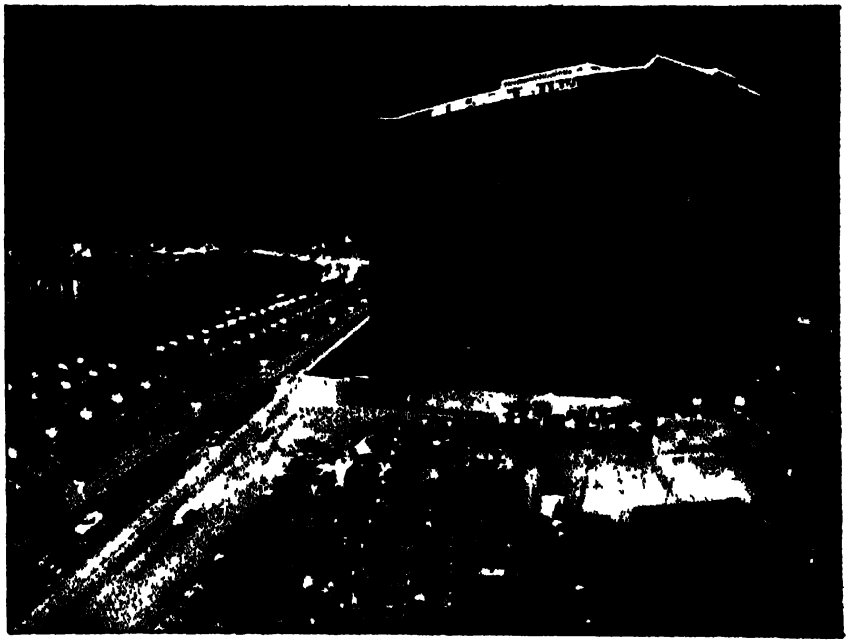
And it is largely to one man, expatriate Pakistani Abdulrehman Bukhatir, that credit for putting Sharjah on the cricketing (and international, one may add) map goes Bukhatir has been well served by organisational wizard



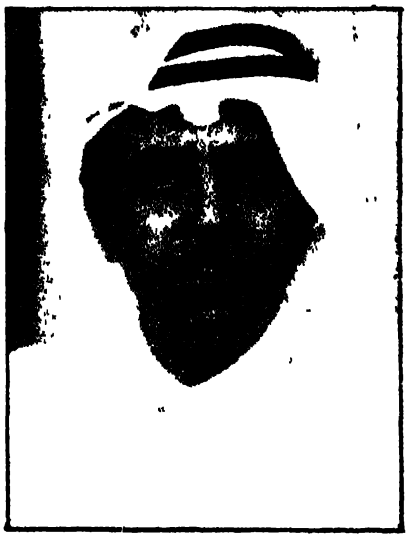
Abdulrehman Bukhatir



Sharjah's cricketing venue



Dubai Intercontinental hotel



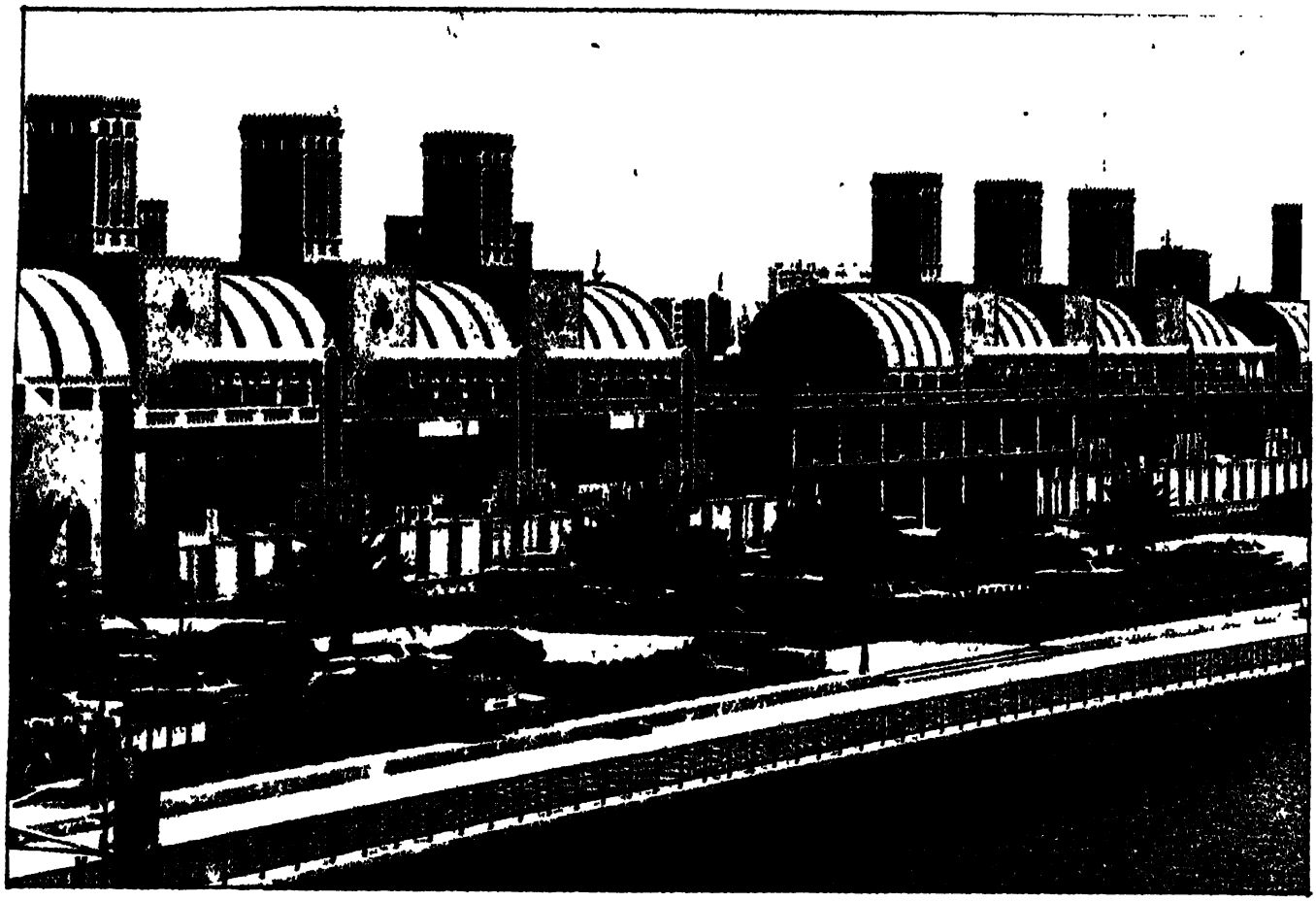
Qasim Noorani and suave operator Asif Iqbal

The Cricketers Benefit Fund Series, Bukhatir's brainchild, will again be in the news this week as the Champions Trophy gets under way. And while India is not participating this time, enough action is assured with world champions (and the region's *numero uno* crowd-pullers) Pakistan, the West Indies and Sri Lanka in the fray.

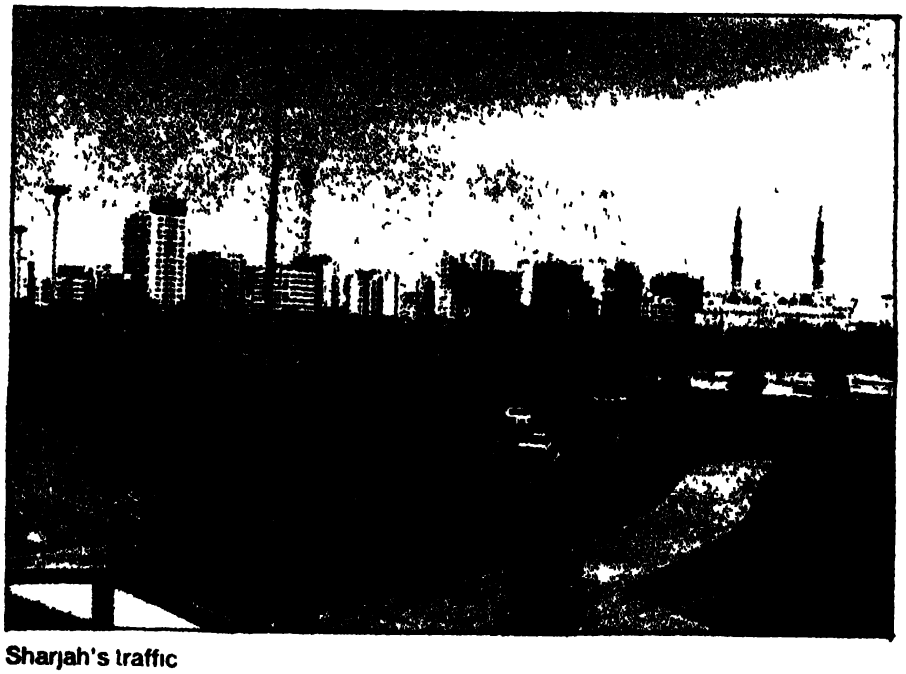
The Indian presence in cosmopolitan Sharjah (as in the rest of the Emirates) is considerable, with the ubiquitous India Association running schools and organising cultural shows. Nothing pleases them more than an Indian victory, particularly over Pakistan. And, nothing devastates them more than an Indian loss, specially at Pakistan's hands.

Pakistanis, too, are to be seen in impressive numbers (most taxi drivers, for instance, are Pathans). But owing to the strict laws and an impartial administration, the tension in the stands, where India-backers invariably are in a minority, never extends beyond the Sharjah Cricket Stadium gates. And just as well.

Problems at home (read India and Pakistan), though, do find an echo among the expatriate community. And, yes, locals insist that tension was palpable in the days and weeks imme-



Souk: Sharjah's shopping complex and a major tourist spot dealing mostly in gold



Sharjah's traffic

diately after the December 1992 destruction in Ayodhya But it was not between Indians and Pakistanis Sadly, the trouble was within the Indian community

"The administration had made it known that any disturbance would be firmly put down So, that way, we were not insecure In fact, at no time, were we threatened by either local Muslims or Pakistanis

"However, a section of our own brethren, from the Malabar region chiefly, felt that some of us Hindus had funded the Babri Masjid's demolition They even organised a demonstration, which led to a bit of stone-throwing " recalled a Gujarati gentleman, who requested anonymity

Geeta, the hugely popular vegetarian eatery which would regularly be patronised by Indian cricketers and mediamen, became a 'victim' of intra-community differences And soon after that demonstration, it was shifted from Revenue Street to a more central location in the Al Aroba (or Rolla) area, which teems with expatriates

Playing safe, the proprietors also renamed it Geetar Clearly, the 'r' was consciously added The change in location notwithstanding, the eatery continues to attract a wide clientele and it is not unusual on weekends (Thursday and Friday nights) to see *burqa*-clad patrons who have liberally helped themselves to either an Amouage or Boucheron spray, flocking to Geetar

That Shaikh Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, Sharjah's ruler and a member of the UAE's Supreme Council, is well disposed towards Indians has given the community much confidence And while the Sharia laws are choking, with stiff penalties awaiting any breach, state-encouraged discrimi-

CLASSIC MATCHES AND DEEDS

☛March 22, 1985 (India 125 in 42.4 overs; Pakistan 87 in 32.5 overs)

India beat Pakistan in an astonishing match. Imran Khan took six wickets for 14 runs, when India were put in, yet still ended up on the losing side. The batsmen were undone by an overdamp pitch in the morning which turned sharply as soon as spin was applied. Quite easily the most talented innings was the 47 by season's debutant Mohammed Azharuddin. Gavaskar held four brilliant catches, three of them diving efforts at slip. India's total was the record lowest total for a team batting first and winning.

☛April 18, 1986 (India 245/7 in 46 overs; Pakistan 246-9 in 50 overs).

The first Australasia Cup final was won by Pakistan off the very last ball against India. With four runs needed to win, Javed Miandad struck Chetan Sharma's final delivery for his third six.

India, put in to bat, were given an excellent start by Gavaskar, Srikkanth and Vengsarkar who put on 200 for only one wicket. However, they slumped from 216 for two to 245 for seven when Imran and Wasim returned to attack. Pakistan's requirement of just under five an over drifted to nine with 10 overs remaining. But Miandad and Quadir picked up the rate in their fifth wicket stand of 71 and Miandad kept the impetus going. With India's field set to prevent a four, he won the match in the most dramatic manner by hitting a six.

☛December 3, 1986 (West Indies 248/5 in 45 overs; Sri Lanka 55 in 28.3 overs)

Courtney Walsh of West Indies demonstrated one of the most lethally economical spells of fast bowling when he took five wickets for only one run in 4.3 overs to skittle out Sri Lanka for the lowest-ever total in Sharjah.

☛October 15, 1989 (India 273/4 in 46 overs; Pakistan 274/4 in 44.4 overs)

Pakistan outwitted India in a high-scoring match in which the match aggregate of 547 runs was the best ever between these two teams. India reached its highest score at Sharjah due to the splendid efforts of Srikkanth (51), Sidhu's maiden 100 (108) and Mohinder Amarnath's 88 (off 78 balls). All of Pakistan's batsmen made useful contributions and Imran's captaincy made all the difference.

☛May 2, 1990 (Australia 332/3 in 50 overs; Sri Lanka 218 in 45.3 overs)

Australia's highest total in a one-day International contained an unbeaten 117 from Dean Jones but of special mention was the 74 run knock of Simon O'Donnell (six sixes, six fours) who reached his 50 in only 18 balls (five sixes and two fours) — the record in one-day Internationals.

☛October 18, 1991 (India 238 for four in 50 overs; Pakistan 178 in 44.4 overs)

India defeated Pakistan at Sharjah after eight consecutive losses. Sanjay Manjrekar (72) and Tendulkar's unbeaten 52 were instrumental in India putting up a reasonable total and then Prabhakar and Raju struck vital blows in crucial stages to enable India to win.

☛October 25, 1991 (Pakistan 262/6 in 50 overs; India 190 in 46 overs)

Hopes were high when the two teams met in the deciding match — the final of the Wills Trophy — after India had beaten Pakistan in the first match and ran very close in the second. Pakistan's total contained a runaway third wicket stand of 171 runs between Zahid Fazal (98) and Salim Malik (87). Then Aaquib Javed wrecked India (47/4) with a 'LBW' hattrick (Shastri, Azharuddin and Tendulkar) and went on to finish with seven wickets for 37 runs — the best innings figures in a one-day international.

☛November 5, 1993 (Pakistan 284/4 in 50 overs; West Indies 285/4 in 45.3 overs)

Just prior to the start of the Hero Cup in India in November 1993, West Indies won a high scoring Champions Trophy final. When they overcame a Pakistan total of 284 in which Basit Ali's unbeaten 127 (100 runs off only 67 balls — the second fastest hundred in one-day internationals) with Salim Malik (84) produced 172 runs in 126 balls for the fourth wicket. Pakistan scored 173 runs in the last 16 overs after being 111 for three after 34 overs. The last 10 overs producing 111 runs.

Thanks to a belligerent innings of 153 from Brian Lara — the highest individual score in Sharjah — West Indies cruised to their target in 45.3 overs.

☛April 15, 1994 (India 219 in 463 overs; Pakistan 223-4 in 44.3 overs)

Sachin Tendulkar's blazing 73 in 64 balls and Sidhu (47) were main scorers for India. From 156 for two in the 31st over, India were all out for 219 losing their last seven wickets for 64 runs in under 17 overs. Saeed Anwar (72) and Sohail put on 77 for the first wicket in just 12.4 overs. Basit Ali top scored with an unbeaten 75.

Compiled by Ravi Kant Srivastava

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nation is something the Indians do not have to lose sleep over.

With the break up of the Soviet Union and emergence of the CIS nations, as also the opening up of China, Sharjah has begun to attract the business class of tourists. Only, they may not really be spending much time in the Emirate.

Some, one was informed, halt for just a day or two, before returning with tonnes of state-of-the-art electronic equipment. Back home, they make a killing on the flourishing black market, particularly in the former Soviet Union.

Obviously the bottomline for this new breed of traders appears to be. Pick, pay and leave, often on specially chartered cargo flights which are quite common. That Sharjah is only a hop, step and jump away from Dubai, universally acknowledged as a shopper's delight, has worked to its benefit.

Indeed, it is an advantage well deserved ■

FIRST, THE GOOD NUDES

Suman Bhuchar *met former model Catherine Bailey, whose photographer-husband David Bailey has published a controversial, coffee-table book of photographs*

The most disturbing photograph of Catherine Bailey shows her naked in bed lying alongside another naked woman Both are blindfolded — while three hooded men stand menacingly behind them

Another equally disturbing photograph shows her wearing a crown of wires, with the whites of her eyes showing and blood trickling from her mouth

These are just two of the black and white photographs from David Bailey's *The Lady is a Tramp*, which depicts pictures of his 34 year-old wife, Catherine, a former model, taken over a period of 10 years

The lady in question describes the book as "a mixture of art and tart" and is curious about it making way to India "Is the book being sold in India?" asks Catherine Bailey

Published by Thames and Hudson, with an introduction by the author, Fay Weldon, it costs £40

Some of the photographs fit the description of a "modern family album" more cosily They show Catherine with her young children, playing on a beach or in the bath She calls them "snaps" The ones of her during pregnancy or childbirth have a touch of a biology textbook

Catherine claims that the pictures were not taken with the intention of producing a book "They are a mixture of everything, including personal ones"

The nudes have excited comment, not all favourable What is one to make of the photograph of her kissing another woman? Another of them entwined together? Or the one of her sitting on a lavatory seat? There are also a series of more straightforward girly pin-up pictures, as well as elegant fashion and beauty photographs

At her husband's studio, Catherine appears relaxed enough in Tee-shirt and trousers With her hair tied back in a plait and no makeup, she looks like a fresh-faced girl She is tall, with dark brown hair and brown eyes She has a touch of a Latin

She calls the book "an album about women — how I think women are great generally"

At one point, her husband sticks his head in With his greying designer stubble, he is instantly recognisable

Catherine Dyer, "an ex-colonial", was born in Zambia, came to England in 1970, grew up in Winchester, educated at a convent school and then entered modelling She met her husband while modelling for him and became his fourth wife They have three children — Paloma, Fanton and Sasha

He had been married to the French actress, Catherine Deneuve, and the model, Marie Helvin, (who also came in handy for another book)

She and Bailey have been together for 13 years — she calls him "Bailey" She now looks after wardrobe on films She is angry with women journalists who have taken her to task for "letting the side down"

"I am a true feminist because I am true to myself," she says

She insists she has not been exploited and had control over the choice of pictures which were published Some, she admits, made her feel uncomfortable (such as the ones of her giving birth) "But that doesn't mean I don't like them"

Her critics, she adds, are the ones letting other women down because they conform to a "mould" — "I am pissed off with them Being a feminist is about being almost anything you want — proud of being a mother, of going to work if that's what you want to do Women are pulled down by other women"

She has an explanation for the 'lesbian' pictures She says, "When I did them, they were about women exploring themselves as females Obviously people are going to be titillated by them because those who see the pictures have their own interpretation"

She says she is "shocked" by the adverse reaction to the pictures from "square" people "They are actually beautiful pictures"

She did not decide which photographs her husband took "He's the photographer so I can't tell him what to do"

So in what circumstances were they taken? And what is it like living with so famous a photographer?

'I am pissed off with them. Being a feminist is about being almost anything you want — proud of being a mother, of going to work if that's what you want to do. Women are put down by other women'





"He's not a photographer one minute and a husband the next He's both, and being an artiste is not something you can turn on and off"

Bailey did not always follow his wife around with a camera Some were posed in the studio "Others were on the spur of the moment"

Bailey does not always work with black and white film, his wife says "He prefers it"

One of her favourite pictures is of Fenton shortly after birth "It lets me remember the emotion of how you see a baby for the first time, you either think it is the most ugly thing you've seen or the most beautiful"

Catherine calls Fay Weldon a family friend who has written the text, "non-judgemental" She explains, "She is a true feminist—she doesn't expect anybody to take on a particular role"

Weldon, author of *The Life and Loves of a She Devil*, observes "The Lady is a Tramp because she is all things to all men She behaves out of order, does what she wishes, and so gets a certain reputation"

She adds "Here we have a collection of photographs to admire, and to make the reader uneasy One woman in so many guises Is it possible? Is it

What is it like living with so famous a photographer? 'He's not a photographer one minute and a husband the next. He's both, and being an artiste is not something you can turn on and off'. Bailey did not always follow his wife around with a camera. Some were posed in the studio. 'Others were on the spur of the moment'



seemly? Is it what makes men love women - -the plurality of selves within the one feamle body?"

For £39 95 (Rs 2,000) Indian readers can find out soon

BARELY SUSTAINABLE

Yes, there are times when it seems that there is not much to be grateful for in life, but from now on, console yourself with this thought at least you are not David Bailey's wife

Poor Catherine! The luscious former model and mother of three, who is the priapic snapper's fourth wife — after Rosemary Bramble, Catherine Deneuve and Marie Helvin — has hardly got a minute, or an inch of her body, to call her own

Imagine this You've just given the kids their tea, popped a wash in the tumble drier and before you get the time to switch on the kettle for a well-earned mug of Cadbury's Options, the old man is on the prowl with his box Brownie

Then it's knicks off and legs akimbo, naked as an egg and flat on your back on a rock in the great outdoors Snap snap snap Then it's into the rubber hotpants for a snog with a spikey-haired blonde woman, both of you fetchingly attired in dog collars Snap snap snap Then it's into the stockings and black lingerie for a scrummage on the fitted carpet and a quick bout of nipple-licking with a brunette Snap snap snap

Why has Catherine done all this? Reportage or titillation? Is she bisexual or is it art?

"I don't think if I was bisexual it would be anyone else's business," she tells me

Over the past years, Mrs B could not even take time out to have a baby or two without hubby weaseling into the delivery room, taking photographs Now they have all been included in a grand and swanky book — *The Lady is a Tramp Portraits of Catherine Bailey* — and at £39 95, it may cost you more than the coffee table on which it is destined to gather dust

It is an odd book, full of photographs, that are, by turns, beautiful, disturbing and quasi-pornographic But can anyone explain what it is for?

The Lady is a Tramp because, "even now and then, she wants to be," writes Fay Weldon, the author of the book's lurid accompanying text, a tortured seam of cabbage-brained piffle about nothing in particular But the words, of course, are a specious attempt to give respectability to this pageantry of pubic hair, kiddie pix, and high fashion shots Is it lechery masquerading as art? Or am I another, as Bailey put it, uptight, insecure woman journalist who just does not get it?

It is not nearly so dark-hearted as some of his previous collections -- *Trouble and Strife, Nudes 81-84* and *If We Shadows*— which featured woman trussed up like chickens with their faces scratched out

New man old Bailey insists that he is totally pro-women — except "at that time of the month" If Catherine Bailey has no problem with her life being laid bare for the sake of art, why should anyone else? In a Sunday newspaper interview, she said she felt privileged and flattered She told Fay Weldon "I know exactly what I am doing I am always in control"

If she is always in control, there must come a point where she exercises it, when she says no No? "No Photographs don't work like that Most of these are snaps, nothing is ever set up"

Are there any pictures of you that are too private? "No, I don't think so"

You have never said, no, hang on, I don't want this one published? 'No"

No then

Jan Moir (*The Guardian*)

CONTROVERSY

MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD

Reader reaction to the Magazine cover story, 'It's Our Life' (August 13), has been overwhelming. As the debate continues we publish a final selection of letters in addition to the ones already printed in our earlier Post Mortem pages

■ If couples do not want to have children, why do they enter into matrimony ('It's Our Life', August 13)? They should have just remained single and promoted their careers.

You have couples where the husband lives in Varanasi and the wife in Delhi. What sort of marriages are these where they do not even live together?

They are all medically sound and yet harbour some quaint notions of individualism.

M S Quraishy,
Calcutta

■ At least the couples are honest to admit they would not be doing justice to their children because of their demanding careers.

D Chatterjee,
Calcutta

■ Hats off to this new breed of courageous couples! Why do men and women hanker for children? To take care of them in their winter years? To carry forward the generation? To prove to society they are not impotent? To crystallise their unfulfilled desires through their offspring?

Frankly, we need more couples like the ones interviewed.

Debasish Chandra,
Kharagpur (W B)

■ Congratulations to the couples who are showing so much responsibility to Mother Earth.

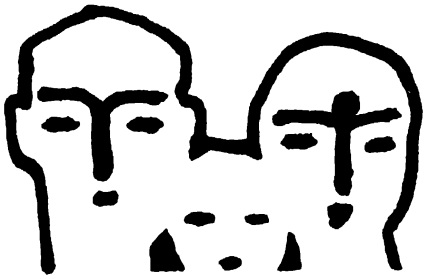
Reena Bhattacharya,
Asansol (W B)

■ I have dug out a remark of H W Lonie published in the journal, *Foundry*, 1961, which reads "Research isn't practical. Neither are babies. They are costly, noisy, dirty and have no practical values. They net no return on the investment for 20 years, and even when they do, they are a liability rather than an asset. There are many reasons for not having babies and for not doing research. The results of yielding to those superficial reasons are the same in both cases. A dim and declining future climaxed by extinction."

Debashis Ray,
Calcutta

■ All the couples reveal some socio-psychological compulsions for being childless. They seem to be driven by the constant fear of not being able to cope with the pressures of career and child rearing.

Samrat Datta,
Champahati (W B)



■ The couples appeared to be enlisted members of a robotic society, subservient to the anti-human aims of profit and efficiency. The cover story was a reflection of a reality that a section of Indian modern society has become a subject of super-industrial manipulation, which has given rise to a social system in which individuals want to be alone.

Ranadhir Chakraborty,
Calcutta

■ Remaining childless despite being medically fit is a form of barbaric narcissism.

Jaya Mitra,
Jamshedpur

■ When the couples have not experienced what it is to be a parent, the choice, they claim they are exercising, is no choice at all.

The parent-child relationship is totally different from the child-parent relationship. They have known the latter, but not the former which is a more superior bond, savoured regardless the heartache.

The couples are thinking as children and not as parents, not knowing the tenderness at babyhood, the sternness at childhood and that final happiness when the child matures into a fine adult.

One does not go through 20 years of worry and heartache just to possess an heir or to pass on the family name or perform one's last rites.

And certainly not to have one's child commenting in print that those who have children belong to the "cattle class".

Children don't just mean changing nappies, mixing cereals or attending parent-teacher meetings. It is a total experience enriched with love and emotions.

Neelam Munshi,
Calcutta

■ If the couples can afford to stay childless they could have stayed single, too. They should not have entered into this farce called wedlock. They would have made excellent live-in partners (in any case some of the couples do not even see each other for days).

What have the couples achieved and for whom?

Biswajit Biswal,
Rourkela

■ If by bearing children we belong to the cattle class, do they not belong to the robot class?

Suneeta De,
Durgapur

■ Thank God these couples have decided to remain childless or they would have produced another bunch of society-hating drug addicts!

Saheli Banerjee,
Calcutta

INNER EYE : Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21 – April 20



Ganesha says, if at all it is possible, the partnership and bonding trend of the last 15 days will be even stronger and more effective, be it personal or professional or business links. The strong influence of Mars also favours marriage, ceremony, ties, publicity, conferences and meets.

Taurus

April 21 – May 20



Last week's shifting of gears mentally and physically continues unabated this week too. Chop and change will be the way it goes. Uranus regained direct motion on the 7th helping you in matters connected with loans and finance. Expenses will mount. Get ready to travel.

Gemini

May 21 – June 20



Once again a time to show your paces because Mars connects superbly with Neptune. Mars is energy. Neptune imagination. therefore, you should succeed in carrying out your plans. Children and education are highlighted this week too.

Cancer

June 21 – July 20



Mixed results. Be ready for a little opposition or rather differences of opinion. Be tolerant but put your foot down on fundamental and moral values. October does favour changes in the home, as well as important job offers which will continue right through December. It will change your life.

Leo

July 21 – August 21



Communication, contacts and journey, as said earlier, will be there this week also. Inspiration and exultation could seize you and as these are happily infectious, you may expect excellent cooperation from those around you. Children, research and new projects are foretold.

Virgo

August 22 – September 22



Finances and family are the duo ruling your life. It would be a good policy to be tolerant and caring instead of carping and nit-picking. In all fairness, many Virgoes are generous and loyal too. You will be wining and dining in style. Complications can be cleared partly.

Libra

September 23 – October 22



Time to get engaged, be married, travel, move and manoeuvre to advantage, make plans, meet those who matter and thus make your presence felt. Monetarily, you are definitely entering into a better phase. This will continue right through November.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 22



As said earlier, keep an open house for friends, relatives, wellwishers, as it will give you satisfaction and will turn out to be good business as well. You win both ways. From October 10, Venus enters your sign, and thus by the end of the week, you may expect pleasing events.

Sagittarius

November 23—December 20



Like the previous week, now also you will notch major achievements and that should make you happy. Birth of children, grandchildren, religious rites, gigantic projects, fanfare and publicity, good news from distant places is probable. But expenses persist.

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



Once again a busy week, because everybody wants a part of you, as said last week. Now you will be in a position and in a mood for fun and games as well and that should round your life beautifully. Sweethearts and friends will play ball with you. Do mix business and joy.

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Practical jokes and horseplay fuse with hardwork and pleasing results, thanks to the moon's excellent placing in your third angle of valour and ventures, points out Ganesha. New job assignments, contracts and commitments are destined for Aquarians who definitely make news.

Pisces

February 19—March 20



As said earlier, October through December is loan and money time. From October 10, you can make a better and easier time of it, thanks to Venus zooming away in your angle of luck as it is technically called. November should be particularly pleasing. Be positive.

BIRTHDAYS

October 8: The full moon trines Jupiter giving you thrust, direction and luck, the three significators of success. Travel, love, and marriage complete the scene.

October 9: Moon square Uranus-Neptune could make you edgy as a result of undue stress and complications. Learn not to mistake the woods for the trees.

October 10: Mars sextile Uranus, an excellent formation, assures you of money and comfortable living. Changes in the home make you feel important.

October 11: Moon-Saturn sextile leads to gains and stability as Saturn represents solidity and security, and the moon stands for opportunity. Why not be a bit daring?

October 12: Moon trine Mercury means good news and success in all creative pursuits. The result of past efforts and your own finesse will now begin to show.

October 13: Moon-sun trine always shows happiness and favourable circumstances, but not always great money. It is certain that you will be loved and cherished.

October 14: Mercury is in stationary positioning which leads to a few difficulties or misunderstandings in messages and news. Goods could be lost.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 7	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 7
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
D2-806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	3 5 7
AIZAWL					
PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BARODARA					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1010	1 3 5 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 3 5 6 7
BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1000	4 6	VF 105	0950	4 6
VF 106	1745	1	VF 105	1710	1
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
AI-681	2330	1			
DELHI					
IC 263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9 303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	4S 806	1115	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF-737	0730	3 5	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC-701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 230	1620	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S 811	1635	4 6
D2 181	1155	1 3 4 5 6 7	D2 181	1640	1 3 4 5 6 7
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1615	3 5	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1000	4 6	VF 105	0950	4 6
VF 106	1745	1	VF 105	1710	1
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1350	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 2[illegible]	1520	2 4
JAIPUR					
D2 806	1330	1 3 5 7	D2 805	1250	1 3 5 7
JORHAT					
IC 13[illegible]	1130	7	IC 21[illegible]	1335	
IC 213	0910	1	IC 213	1315	1
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 543	1115	1 3 5	IC 544	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1730	daily	IC 764	1135	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 102	1730	1 3 4 5 6 7	IC 66[illegible]	2350	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 739	1330	2 4 7	IC 739	1845	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 765	0640	3 5 7	IC 280	1130	4 6
RANCHI					
IC 219	1330	2 4	IC 49	1835	4 7
SHILLONG					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AIRMAN					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
BANGKOK					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 1 5 7	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
TG 314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6
BUCHAREST					
RO 076	1950	5 7	RO 075	1055	5 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	1200		IC 226	1420	
BG 698	1735		BG 697	1655	
DHAKA					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG 092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG 094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KATHMANDU					
RA 214	1030	4 7	RA 213	0945	4 7
IC 747	0940	2 4 6	IC 748	1610	2 4 6
LONDON					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA 143	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARO					
KB-106	1105	3	KB-105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6 45	2312
3005	19 30	**Amritsar Mail**	6 35	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
		Poorva (New Delhi) Express via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
		Rajdhani Express via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun **Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	10 45	2302
2307	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3015	00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	3016
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	6 30	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Expresr**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7 55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 30	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	7 55	1182
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13 40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5085	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express**	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandel (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003		**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	5 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6513
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

THE COLOUR OF DARKNESS

I had the train compartment to myself up to Rohana then a girl got in The couple who saw her off were probably her parents, they seemed very anxious about her comfort, and the woman gave the girl detailed instructions as to where to keep her things, when not to lean out of windows, and how to avoid speaking to strangers

They called their goodbyes and the train pulled out of the station As I was totally blind at the time, my eyes sensitive only to light and darkness, I was unable to tell what the girl looked like, but I knew she wore slippers from the way they slapped against her heels

It would take me some time to discover something about her looks, and perhaps I never would But I liked the sound of her voice, and even the sound of her slippers

"Are you going all the way to Dehra?" I asked

I must have been sitting in a dark corner because my voice startled her She gave a little exclamation and said, "I didn't know anyone else was here"

Well, it often happens that people with good eyesight fail to see what is right in front of them They have too much to take in, I suppose Whereas people who cannot see (or see very little) have to take in only the essentials, whatever registers most tellingly on their remaining senses

"I didn't see you either," I said 'But I heard you come in"

I wondered if I would be able to prevent her from discovering that I was blind Provided I keep to my seat, I thought, it should not be too difficult

The girl said, "I'm getting off at Saharanpur My aunt is meeting me there"

"Then I had better not get too familiar," I replied "Aunts are usually formidable creatures"

"Where are you going," she asked

"To Dehra, and then to Mussoorie"

"Oh, how lucky you are I wish to go to Mussoorie I love the hills Specially in October"

"Yes this is the best time" I said, calling on my memories "The hills are covered with wild dahlias, the sun is delicious and at night you can sit in front of a log fire and drink a little brandy Most of the tourists have gone, and the roads are quiet and almost deserted Yes, October is the best time"

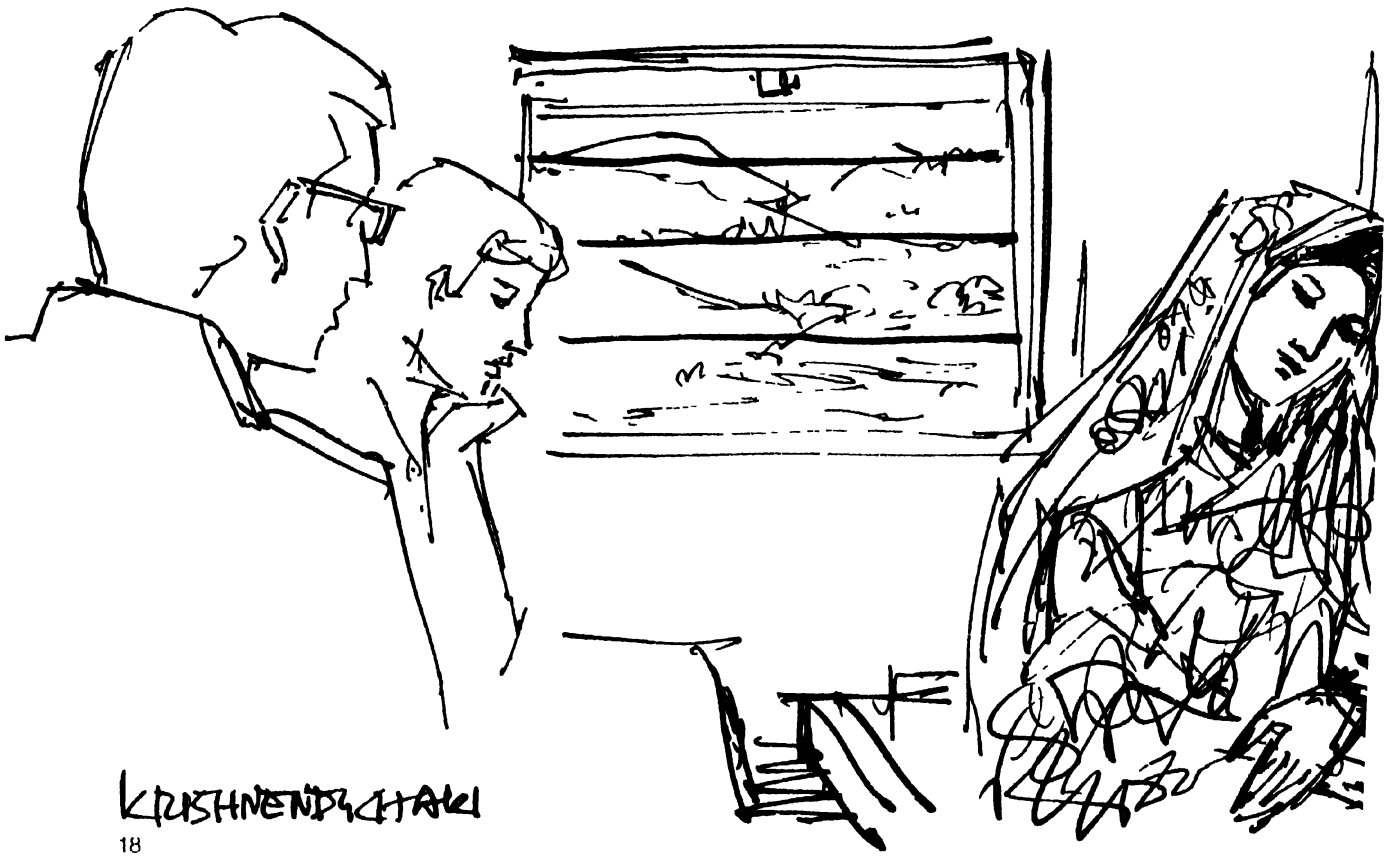
She was silent I wondered if my words had touched her or whether she thought me a romantic fool Then I made a mistake

"What is it like outside?" I asked

She seemed to find nothing strange in the question Had she noticed already that I could not see? But her next question removed my doubts

"Why don't you look out of the window?" she asked

I moved easily along the berth and felt for the window ledge The window was open, and I faced it, making a pretence of studying the landscape



As I was totally blind at the time, my eyes sensitive only to light and darkness, I was unable to tell what the girl looked like; but I knew she wore slippers from the way they slapped against her heels. It would take me some time to discover something about her looks, and perhaps I never would. But I liked the sound of her voice, and even the sound of her slippers



I heard the panting of the engine the rumble of the wheels, and, in my mind's eye, I could see telegraph posts flashing by

"Have you noticed I ventured, "that the trees seem to be moving while we seem to be standing still?'

'That always happens ' she said "Do you see any animals?"

"No, ' I answered quite confidently, I knew that there were hardly any animals left in the forests near Dehra

I turned from the window and faced the girl, and for a while we sat in silence

"You have an interesting face ' remarked I was becoming quite daring, but it was a safe remark Few girls can resist flattery She laughed pleasantly, a clear, ringing laugh

'It's nice to be told I have an interesting face I'm tired of people telling me I have a pretty face

Oh so you have a pretty face, thought I, and aloud I said "Well, an interesting face can also be pretty "

"You are a very gallant young man," she said "but why you are so serious?"

I thought, then, I would try to laugh for her, but the thought of laughter only made me feel troubled and lonely

"We'll soon be at your station, ' I said.

"Thank goodness it's a short journey I can't bear to sit in a train for more than two-or-three hours '

Yet I was prepared to sit there for almost any length of time, just to listen to her talking Her voice had the sparkle of a mountain stream As soon as she left the train, she would forget our brief encounter, but it would stay with me for the rest of the journey, and for some time after

The engine's whistle shrieked, the carrige wheels changed their sound and rhythm, the girl got up and began to collect her things I wondered if she wore her hair in a bun, or if it was plaited perhaps it was hanging loose over her shoulders, or was it cut very short?

The train drew slowly into the station Outside, there was the shouting of porters and vendors and high pitched female voice near the carriage door, that voice must have belonged to the girls' aunt

"Goodbye,' the girl said

She was standing very close to me, so close that the perfume from her hair was tantalising I wanted to raise my hand and touch her hair, but she moved away Only the scent of perfume still lingered where she had stood

There was some confusion in the doorway A man, getting into the compartment, stammered an apology Then the door banged, and the world was shut out again I returned to my berth The guard blew his whistle and we moved off Once again, I had a game play and a new fellow-traveller

The train gathered speed, the wheels took up their song, the carriage groaned and shook I found the window and sat in front of it, staring into the daylight that was darkness for me

So many things were happening outside the window, it could be a fascinating game, guessing what went on out there

The man who had entered the compartment broke into my reverie

"You must be disappointed, ' he said "I'm not nearly as attractive a travelling companion as the one who just left "

"She was an interesting girl," I said "Can you tell me -- did she keep her hair long or short? '

'I don't remember, he said, sounding puzzled "It was her eyes I noticed, not her hair She had beautiful eyes — but they were of no use to her She was completely blind Didn't you notice?"

(Sanctuary Features)

The Telegraph
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is publishing poems regularly.

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selects the poems All contributions should be sent directly to him at Inkonia Bagicha Cuttack 753001 and NOT to The Telegraph by ORDINARY MAIL Contributions sent by registered post or courier **will not be** accepted Poems should be typewritten in double space on one side of the paper Please retain copies of submitted poems as they will **not be returned** All published poems will be paid for at our regular rates No enquiries will be solicited

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GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

RETURN TO AYODHYA

Convoys of trucks thunder down the highway from Faizabad to Ayodhya past small shops and houses lining the road In one sits a man known as Chumman He is surrounded by piles of *kharaun*, the wooden sandals which he makes and which are worn by *sadhus* and Hindu holy men He is an old resident of Ayodhya and he is a Muslim

It is clear from Chumman s appearance and home that there is not a great deal of money in *kharaun*-making although he sells some 4,000 pairs a month to a trader from Varanasi The best business he ever did, however, was thanks to *Ram Janambhoomi Nyas* It was he who made the *kharaun* for the *Ram Paduka Pujan* campaign when replicas of *Bhagwan* Ram's sandals were worshipped village to village

"They gave me an advance for the wood," he said obviously impressed by the fact "So I bought the *shisham* - we use *shisham* for *kharaun* - and went to *Kar Sewak Puram* I made them 5,000 pairs"

Chumman was sawing *shisham* wood on December 6, 1992, when the Babri Masjid was demolished Then home guards told him to move out quickly He had fled to Faizabad When he returned he found his house and workshop looted and burned "They did n't leave even a nail," he said

December 6, 1992 had been the last time I had passed his workshop Revisiting the holy city for the first time since then, I hoped to hear that Ayodhya's peace of which its inhabitants had been so proud had completely returned

But often things are not quite so simple Chumman said "On the surface everything is as it was, and we appear to have the same good relations with the Hindus here But in our hearts, we have lost confidence I don't have hope of that old peace returning"

'When Lord Hanuman decides, then the Ram temple will be built,' he [Mathura Das] said happily. 'He won't make it while these dogs are fighting after scraps.' 'Dogs?' I queried. 'Politicians,' he replied

Just near the road to the Dhana Pam Janambhoomi are gardens full of flowers from which garlands are made for the temples of Avodhya — and any guide will tell you there are 7,500 temples Men and women move through the *chandni* bushes plucking the small white flowers and there are Muslim *malis* These gardens belong to the Muslims Zaibunnissa, one of the women gathering flowers did not agree with the views of Chumman "Now there's no trouble," she said "It was the outsiders who caused it all"

Whoever is right, the small Muslim community which had fled Ayodhya has picked up the threads of its life In one family, living behind the mound on which stands the makeshift Ram temple, three generations of women sit together to thread flowers into garlands for Hindu *malis* much as before

Next door to them a 75-year old *tongawallah* Mohammad Ali, looks after a horse belonging to a *Mahant* of Hanumangarhi Every morning he drives his own horse and *tonga* to pick up pilgrims from the railway station, takes them to bathe in the river Sarvu and then on a tour of the sacred places of Ayodhya

Everything appears as before in the lanes of city too, although a booklet containing scenes of the demolition and gruesome photographs of corpses has joined other souvenirs on sale I found busloads of pilgrims from Gaya heading for *darshan* at Hanumangarhi, by far the most impressive building in the city A young boy offered to escort me for Rs 2, his main skill being to fight off the monkeys which grab sweets as you climb the steep stone steps to the temple

Inside, the head *mahant*, Mathura Das, was facing the main shrine reclining against a cushion "When Lord Hanuman decides then the Ram temple will be built," he said happily ' He won't make it while these dogs are fighting after scraps" "Dogs?" I queried "Politicians," he replied

For the shopkeepers in the bazaar below, December 6 had been an unexpected Diwali, and many were convinced that the temple would be built as soon as the BJP came to power in the centre, perhaps at the next general election Their main concern about Ram Janambhoomi, however, was the damage to business done by the Central government's acquisition of the area

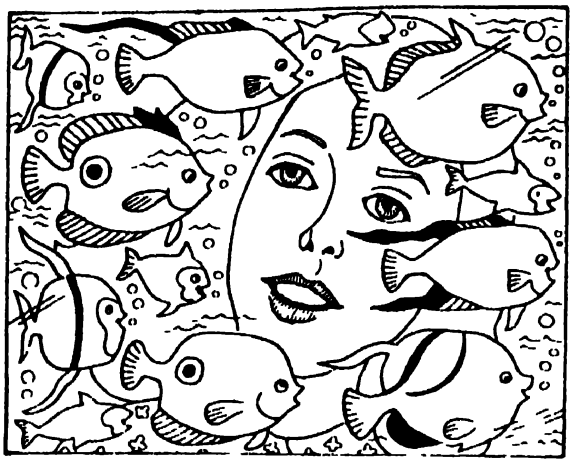
The popular shrine of Sita Rasoi was no longer open to the public, an access to the Ram mandir was restricted to six hours whereas before the demolition it had been open all day

But while to outsiders, Ayodhya is synonymous with the Babri Masjid/Ram Janambhoomi dispute, I found it was just one of the issues which concerned local people *Mahant* Mathura Das complained bitterly and at length of a "television disease" destroying people's religiosity "*Nanga naach*" (Naked dancing!),cried a *paanwallah* and devout Hindu in disgust, "People are watching all that and enjoying it Men are always attracted most by what is bad And now look, here in Ayodhya, this city of Ram, hardly anyone is coming to see *Ram Lilas* any more *Jaisa khaye ann, vaisa hoye man*"

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

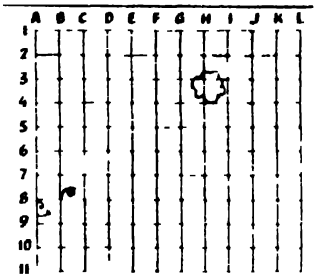
HAL KAUFMAN



FIND TWINS! Two of the 12 fish in the picture above are enough alike to be twins. Which two is for you to decide

SUM FUN! Let's see if you're on your toes in dealing with the following arithmetic. Pick any even number. Add 18. Divide by 2. Subtract the number. Add 41. Answer is 50. Right?

Why? [illegible]



HOP-TO-IT CANVAS

QUICK on draw? Let's see. A certain hippety-hoppety creature is concealed among the grid lines shown. Draw it before it hops away.

Here's how. Simply draw the following lines in accord with letter and number coordinates indicated.

To start, draw from A-9 to C-9, D-10, B-11, C-11, E-10, E-9, H-8, J-6, K-7, L-6, TO L-5

Continue from L-5 TO K-6, J-4, H-4, F-6, D-7, C-7, F-3, C-5, C-3, B-5, B-7, A-8, finish at A-9

Use a sharp pencil.

Draw straight lines.

Be sure to draw lines in accord with letter and number coordinates.

What can you draw?

GLOBAL DE-GLITCH!

Challenge. Find the names of four countries and the capital cities in the diagram below. All are well known to travellers. One is a country in Asia, two are countries in Europe, another is a country in North America.

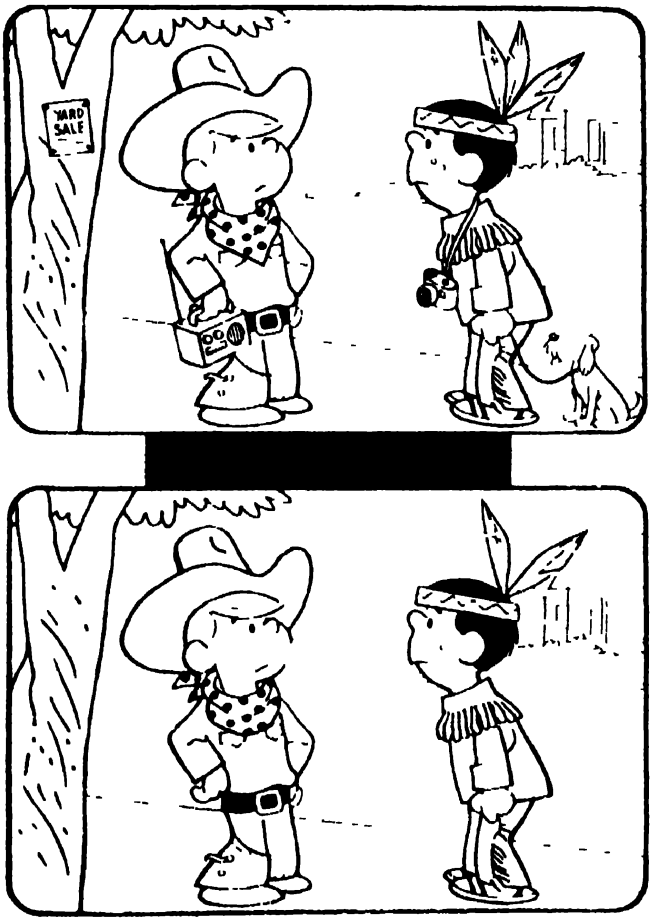
Letters of names are scrambled. Names are scattered.

See, how quickly you can puzzle out all eight.

Time limit 1 minute.



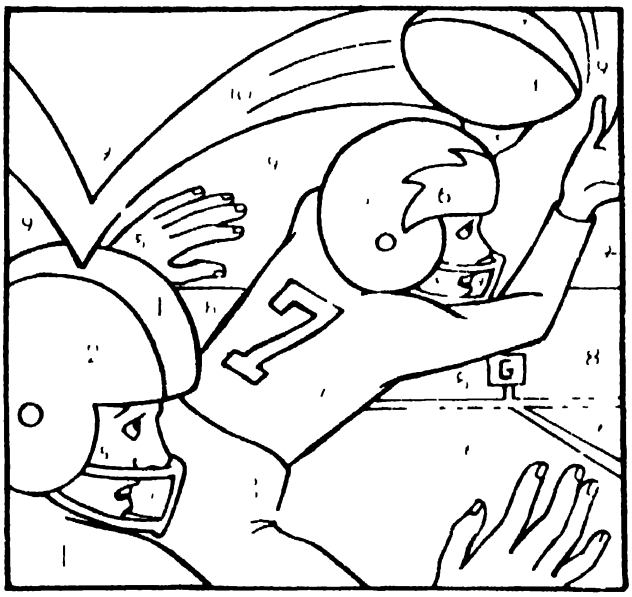
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES. There are at least six differences in drawing detail between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Different eyes 1. Top hair is thinner 2. Band in 3. Band in 4. Camera is missing 5. Feather is missing 6. Dog's missing

FUNSPOT



HEADS UP! Credit this catch to heads up play. Colors: 1—Red 2—Blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk green 9—Dk purple 10—Lt purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

TREASURY

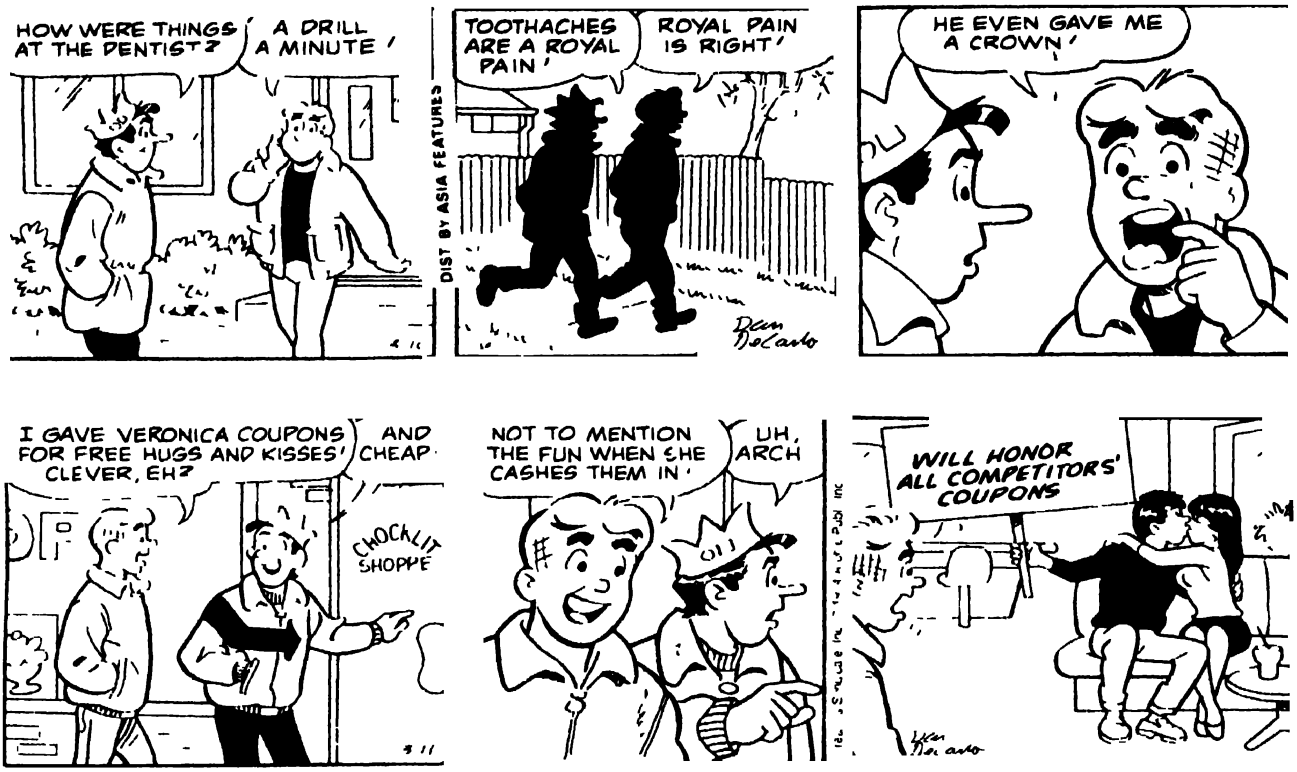
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points

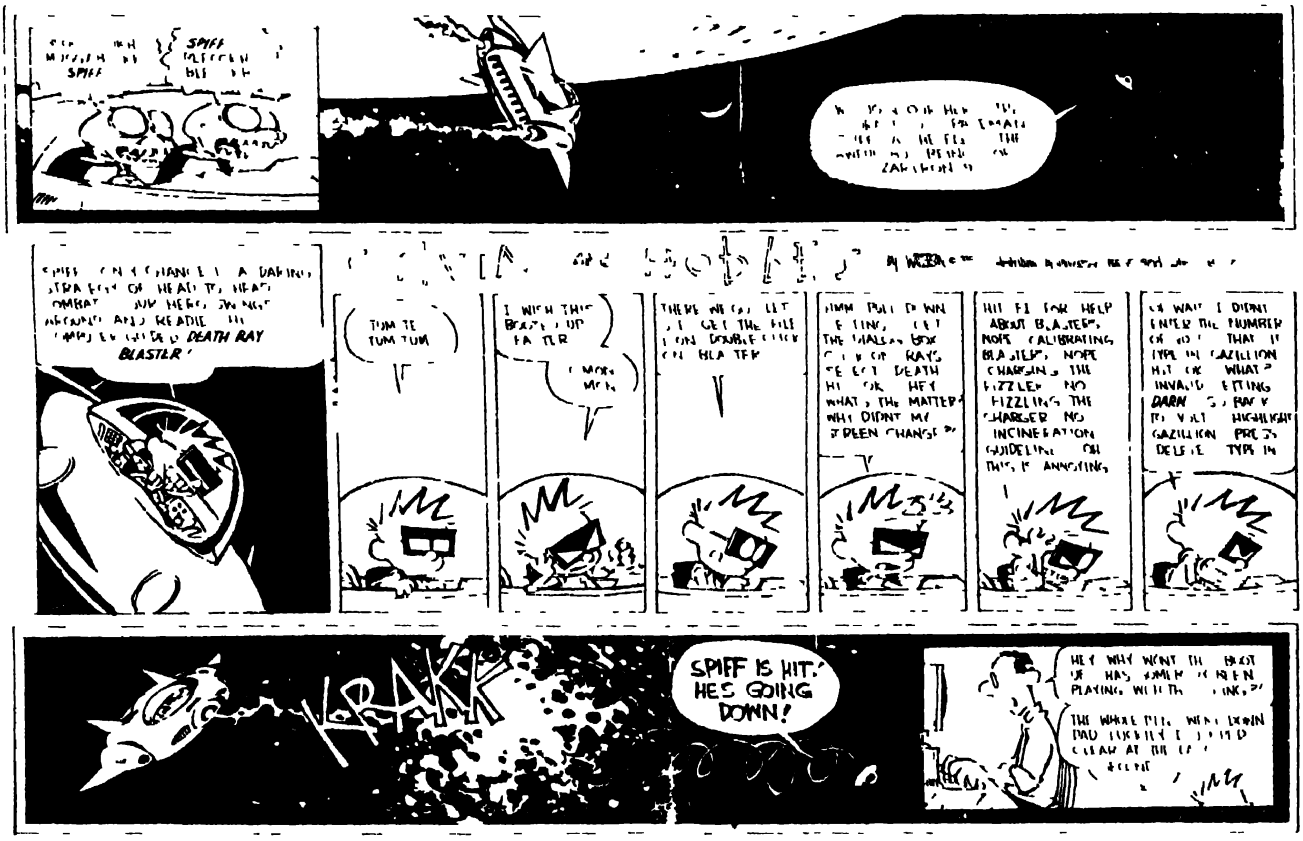
[illegible] Score. Have fun!

COMICS

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES — WATTERSON



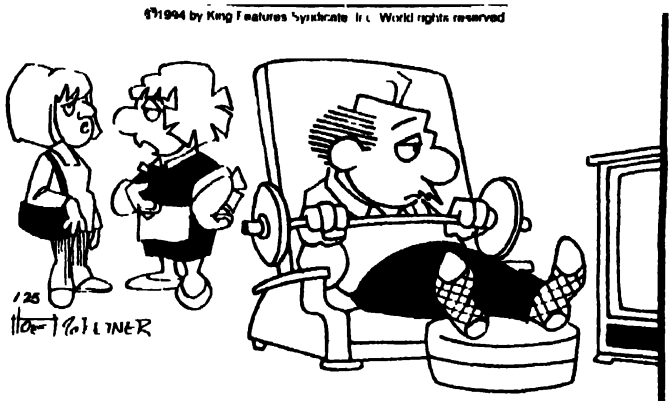
THE LOCKHORNS

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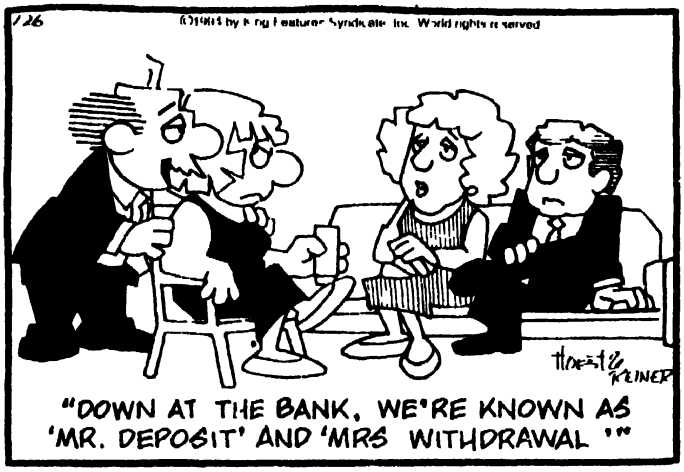


"WHEN WILL YOUR MOTHER BE HAUNTING US AGAIN?"

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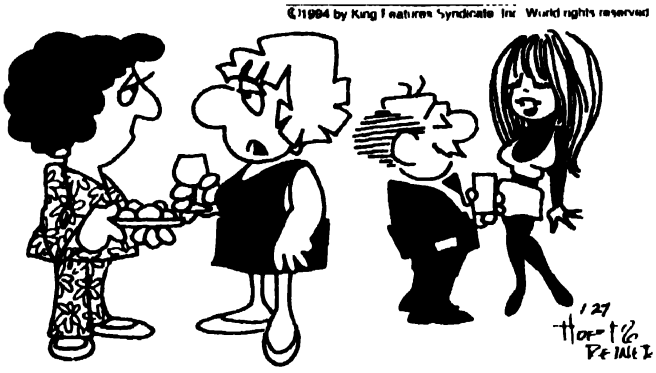


"LEROY'S TRYING TO EXERCISE MORE"



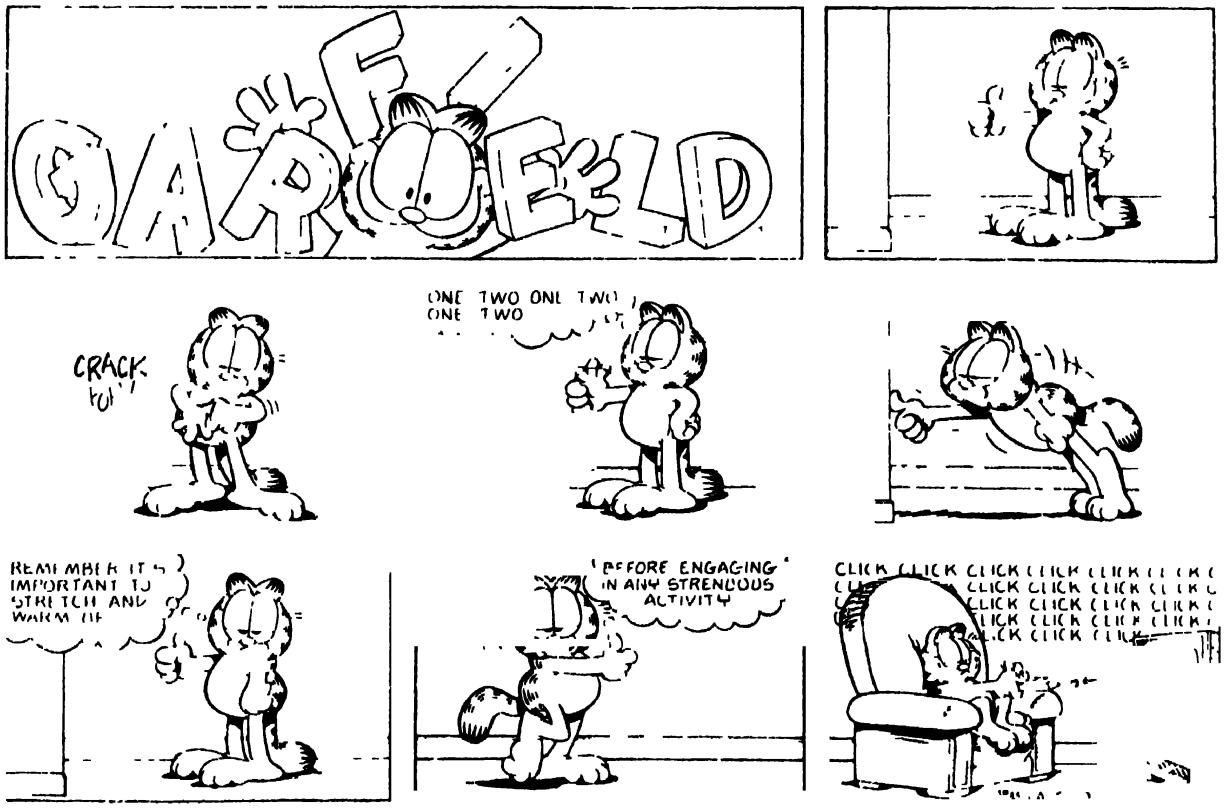
"DOWN AT THE BANK, WE'RE KNOWN AS 'MR. DEPOSIT' AND 'MRS WITHDRAWAL'"

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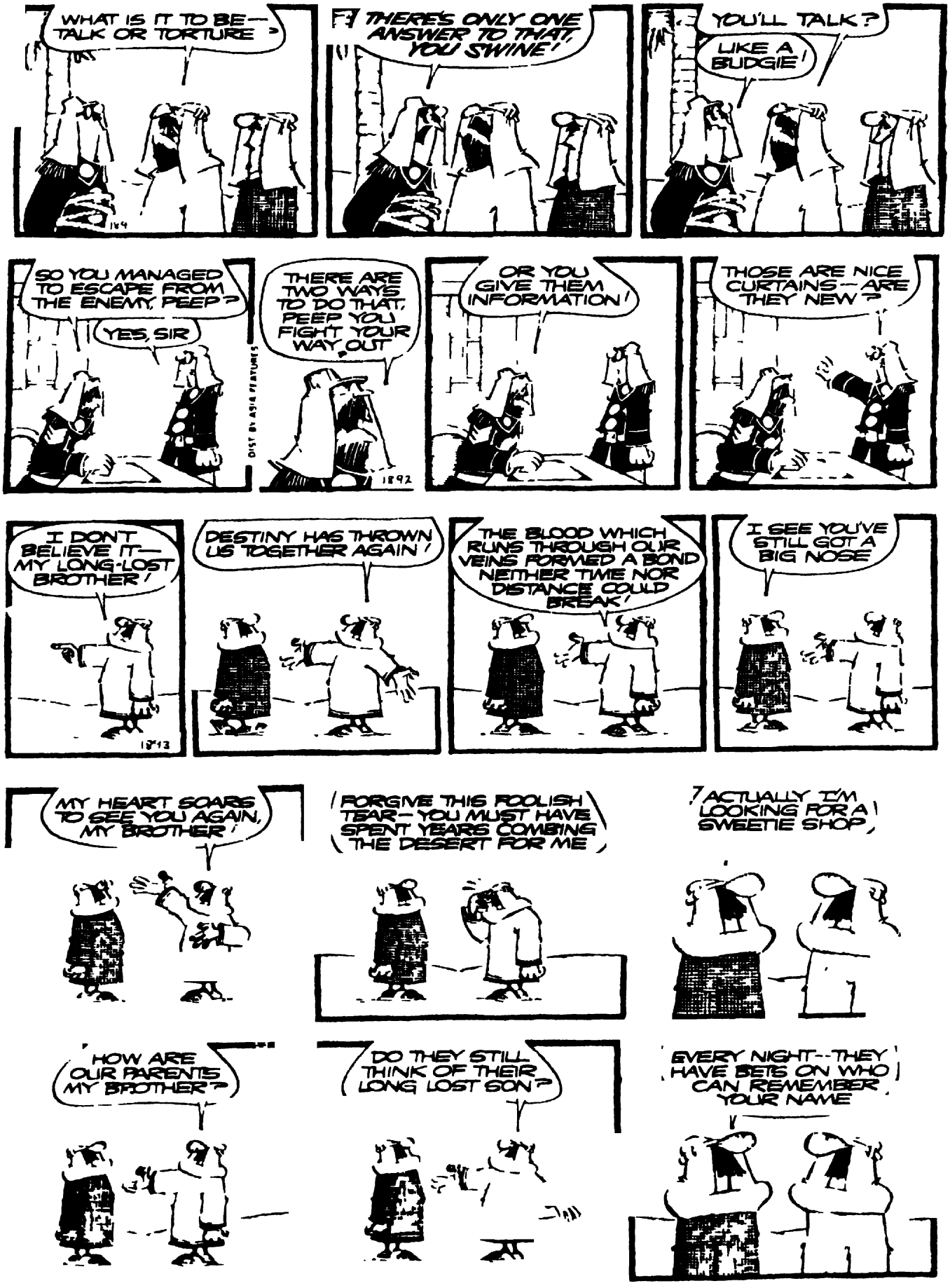


"THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS MADLY IN LOVE WITH LEROY. NOW I'M JUST MAD"

GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVI

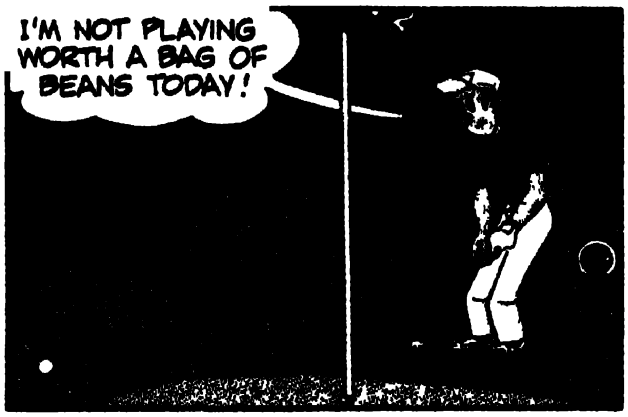


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



















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AGAINST ALL ODDS

***Devangshu Datta** takes a behind-the-scenes look at the backroom weapons honed for the Anand-Kasparov duel.*

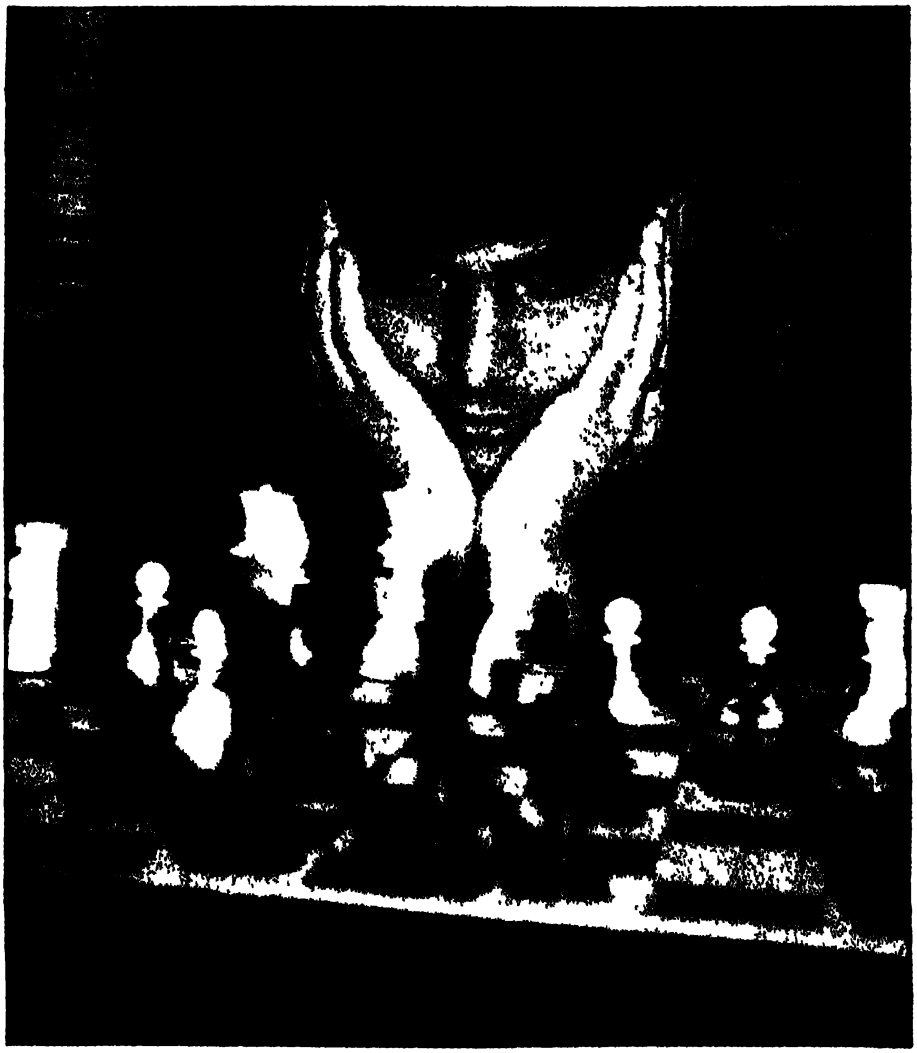
Even as Anand and Kasparov spar mentally across the 64 squares, there are new weapons being forged in the backroom Both have fulfledged teams of seconds to back up their own febrile imaginations The quality of those research teams can make all the difference between winning and losing the world championship

The concept of a second arose from the ancient and honourable practice of formal duelling 'Vhen two medieval men had a disagreement they would ask their seconds to call on each other The seconds would check with their opposite numbers and pick a time, place and weapons of mutual convenience so that the principals could slaughter each other with all due respect to convention

The chess second of course has a rather different set of responsibilities from the original concept. He is a backroom boy who does a lot of donkey work as well as creative research He also has to ensure that his principal is well prepared psychologically When it comes to a world championship match, that is vital

The need for a team of backroom boys is obvious if one considers the sheer workload involved in preparation Before going into the world championship match, both players will have studied every published game by their opponent. That would work to an opus of close to a 1,000 games itself They will also have looked at most of the 10,000 odd games that have been played in grandmaster contests in the last two years.

This is just preliminary spadework to try and establish trends and weaknesses In itself, it is enough to occupy several qualified people fulltime Kasparov, for example, employs a permanent team of half a dozen people, most of them Grandmasters of repute. So much so that GM Valery Salov disparagingly said at Sanghinagar, "Kasparov would be hard put to stay in the top five if he had to rely on himself alone."

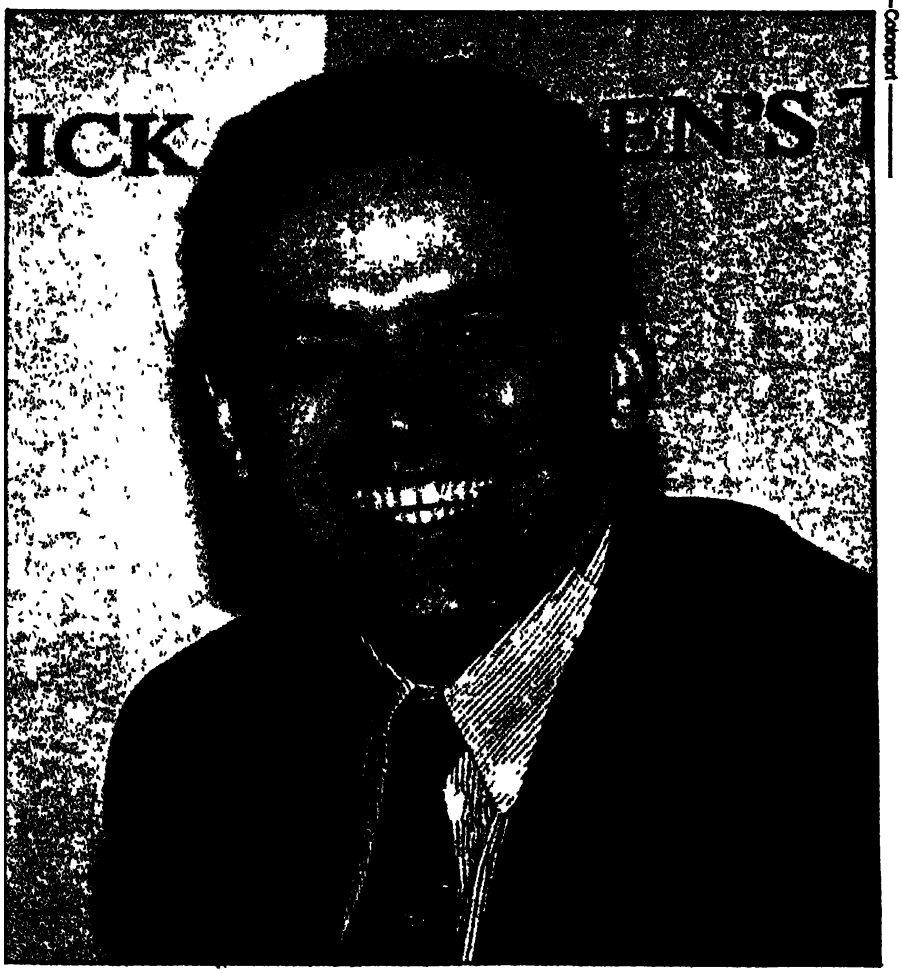


Vishwanathan Anand: Checking out choices

The champion's seconds probe his opponent's style for patterns and weaknesses. They also check out his own games for the same features.



Alexey Dreev (left) surrenders to Anand



Garri Kasparov: Smelling victory?

They find new opening ideas, dissect his inspirations and also occasionally prompt radical shifts in style. The whole concept was developed by "Mr Soviet Chess" Mikhail Botvinnik who picked a player who was similar in style to a prospective match opponent and play him in a secret training match as part of his preparations It worked well enough to keep him world champion for 13 years Since he also ran a chess school that successfully produced Spassky, Karpov and Kasparov, it is not surprising that they refined the technique and developed almost the point of overkill

The only world champion since the War who has not used a regular second was the enigmatic Bobby Fischer Even he chose GM William Lombardi as an official second before his Rejkjavik 1972 match. Lombardi who is a jesuit priest in private life was one of the few people Fischer came close to trusting with his secrets

Confidentiality is after all vital — Kasparov's second GM Evgeny Vladimirov switched sides midway through the 1987 match and moved over to Karpov's camp It was no coincidence that Kasparov just about managed to retain by tying the match

Until he played his first world championship qualifying cycle in 1990, Anand had always worked alone He picked Swedish GM Ferdinand Hellers as his first match second for the contest against Alexey Dreev After that, he switched to Russo-Belgian GM Mikhail Gureyvich for the quarter final against Karpov This was a horses for courses strategy because Gureyvich is an ex-Kasparov second who has a personal hatred for Karpov as motivation

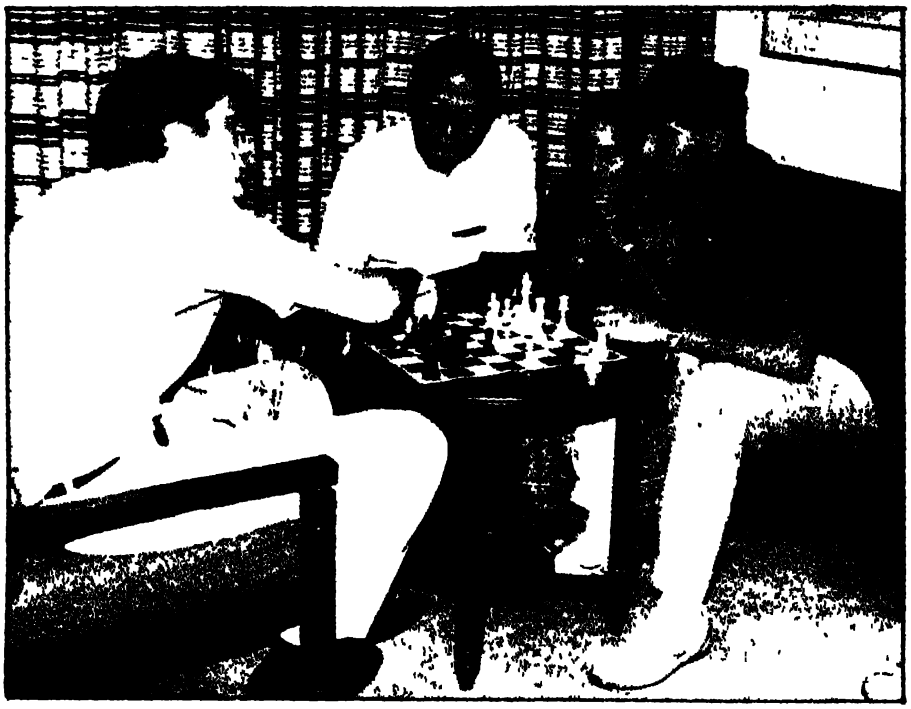
Since then, Anand has developed a semi-permanent association with American GM Patrick Wolff They are good friends and like working together Since the first Sanghinagar Match against Gata Kamsky, Anand has also been associated with Georgian theorist and International master Elizar Ubilava But it was only last November that he picked up a really big gun

Before Anand went into the second revenge match against Kamsky, infact, before he met Michael Adams in January, he decided to look for a change in style. That was when he hired Artur Yusupov, the Russo-German GM who is known as "The Wall" because of his sheer solidity Yusupov is a former world Junior champion who has twice reached a Championship Candidates Semi-finals and lost a quarter final in 1994 to Anand himself The 35-year-old is reputed to be the last living descendant of the Mad Monk Grigory Rasputin and the toughest match player imaginable

His influence became obvious when Anand won 4-0 without breathing hard against Adams It became even more obvious when he beat Kamsky comfortably in a revenge match without allowing serious counter chances The defensive solidity that the Indian was always lacking seemed to have



Artur Yusupov: 'The Wall' behind Anand



Anand (right) with his parents and second Ferdinand Hellers

finally come along with Yusupov's influence

The next serious hiring decision Anand made involved an amateur chess player Sometime before the Kamsky match he hired an old friend of his from Amsterdam Dr Albert Toby is a sports psychologist whose enthusiasm for the game far outruns his playing skills This was also a conscious effort to develop the right temperament to play a long-grinding high stake match without losing patience Thus far, it seems to have worked because he has opened with a sequence of six draws

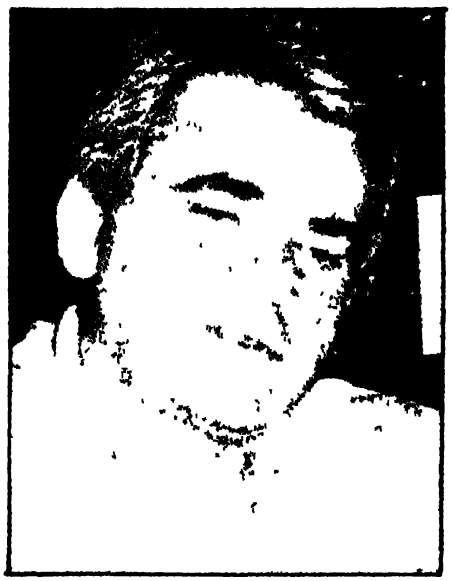
Finally, before the match itself, Anand has hired another big gun Another amateur this time but one with rather impressive chess playing credentials Dr Jonathan Speelman is a senior wrangler at Cambridge He has also twice reached the Semi-finals of the Candidates and is known as as an exceptional theoretician Even with that array of talent backing him, the Indian ace is seriously outnumbered by the opposition He must be hoping that quality will make somewhat for a lack of quantity He is also favoured somewhat by one interesting match condition All games are being played to a one session seven hour finish This means no adjournments which remove the prospects of a serious analytical burden for the smaller team apart from being a drag on the stamina of the principal This team has evolved over the last couple of years with additions whenever Anand has felt the need It is not a strictly hire and fire situation Anand finds it impossible to work except with friends or alone Active players like Yusupov and Speelman who may both have legitimate championship aspirations of their own are unlikely to work except for someone they like and respect The charm of the 25-year-old challenger who is probably the most well-liked person on the circuit may have worked in his favour

Before the match began, Anand was being assessed as a 40 percent underdog Thus far, things have gone neck and neck which is a sign that he has done more or less the right things so far The contribution of his team to this must have been considerable although difficult to assess. However, in case the reader is thinking it would be a case of Kasparov's team or vice versa nothing would be further from the truth

Each player is completely alone when it comes to taking the really critical decisions with the clock running In the final countdown, no matter how well prepared, it is the player's skills and nerves that must carry the day.

However, the careful way in which Anand has prepared himself and covered every angle that he could possibly cover must cause a reassessment of the initial odds and it must be in the Indian's favour ■

Boris Spassky

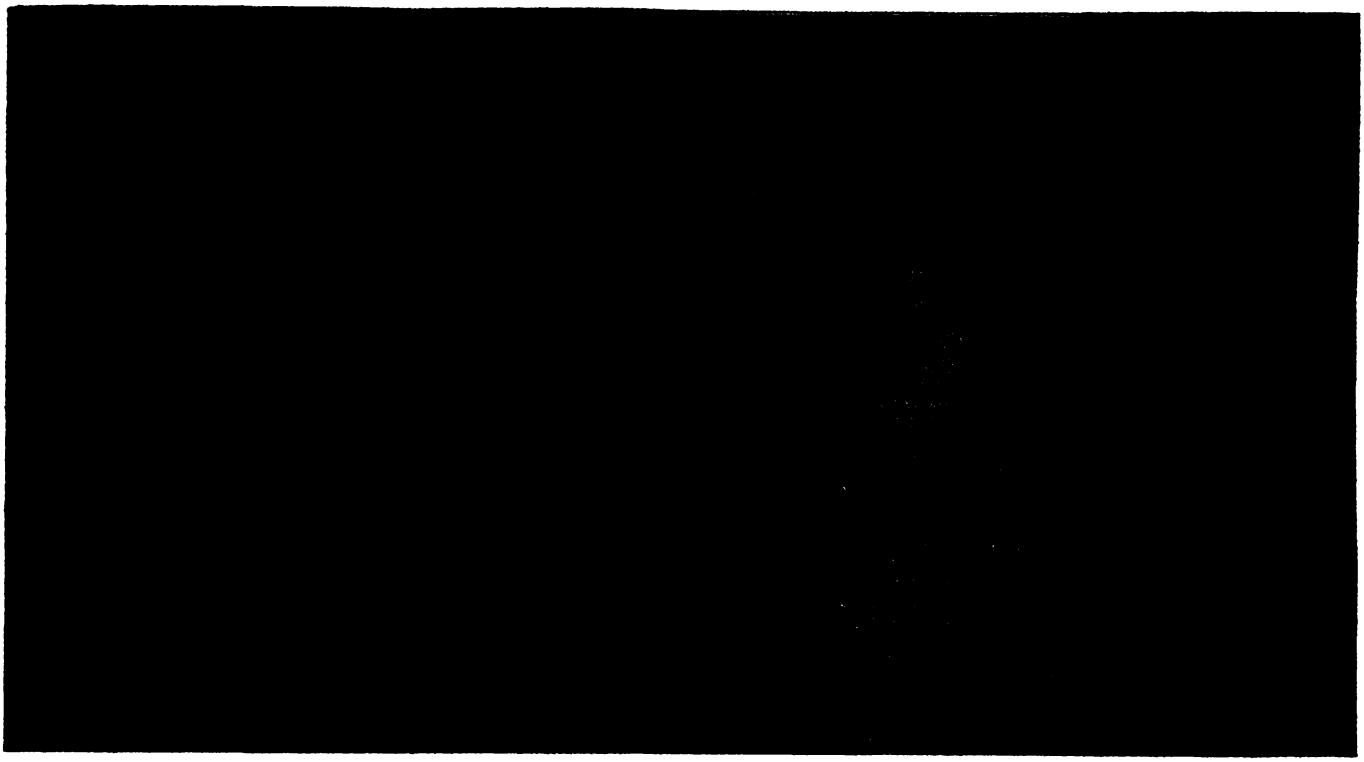


Bobby Fischer



POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



The Dawn Breaks

On a world dark and
black as death —
The dawn still breaks
On the fields of blood
and tears
Where man's hopes
breed like the hopeless
spring
The dawn still breaks
On the starving men, the
naked,

The blind and the dying,
The dawn still breaks
On the workers who
sleep with
Dreams of sweat on
their brow,
On the raped girls, the
knifed boys,
On a world as this
Where no one weeps, no
promises survive
Tomorrow may be peace
but not tomorrows exist
And still the dawn
breaks
On detached
attachments
On bodies dead before
they are dying —
And still the dawn
breaks
On the dusty graves of
lost loves
Where men's souls
hunger still,
Seeking no respite

Malini Bhagat

Night in Cuttack

Night descends
like a long-drawn-out
sigh
of an old man
on this streetless city of
mine
Night, in fact, never
leaves this city
lurking between the
ancient stones of
Barabati
hidden by many-
layered cobwebs
of an intriguing past
which the sun can never
unravel
Night remains etched
on the dark face of
Goddess Chandi
as she jealously stands
guard
over the spirits of kings,
soldiers
and their concubines
Night touches me and
my forefathers
with loving fingers
hiding our sins, agonies,
dreams that went sour,
under a thick inky cover
Night is, it seems, in love
with this ruined city of
mine –
I love the night

Dipak Samantarai

Outrage

A battered boat floats
along the river
As I sit on the bank, lost
in thought,
Torn pieces of a red sari
whirl in the air,
To its aimless solitude I
compare my lot
A few broken bangles
reflect the light,
I think of the myriad
hues of broken dreams,
Abrupt awareness
pierces the darkness of
night —
I distinctly remember
hearing a scream.
A predatory eagle
circles overhead,
Somewhere its victim
hides in fear,
Consciously I follow its
flight —
The battered boat is no
longer near

An unspoken story
Repeated over the ages
Despite the screams and
ravaged dreams,
The battered boats sail
hopelessly by
As the eagle swoop
down in victory

Mahasweta Bose

FIRST PERSON

SANDIP PATIL, *or 'Sandy' as he is known, stunned the cricketing world when he suddenly announced retirement in late 1986. That he still had a good many years of cricket left was underlined in no small manner when he came out of retirement—at Madhavrao Scindia's behest—to guide Madhya Pradesh as a hugely successful player-cum-coach in the Ranji Trophy. In more recent times, the salt-and-pepper bearded Patil has been making headlines as the Indian Colts' and India A cricket manager. He is widely tipped to succeed Ajit Wadekar as the national team's cricket manager after the 1996 World Cup.*

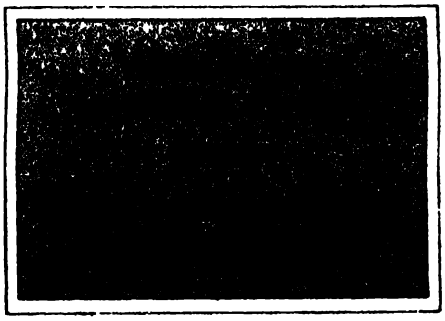
What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Harmony and peace within the family
What is your greatest fear?
Losing my dear and near ones.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mother.
What do you dislike most in others?
Bad intentions and not being punctual
What do you dislike most in yourself?
That I am too punctual
What is your most precious possession?
Self pride.
What objects do you always carry?
Watch and wallet
What makes you most depressed?
Looking at old people.



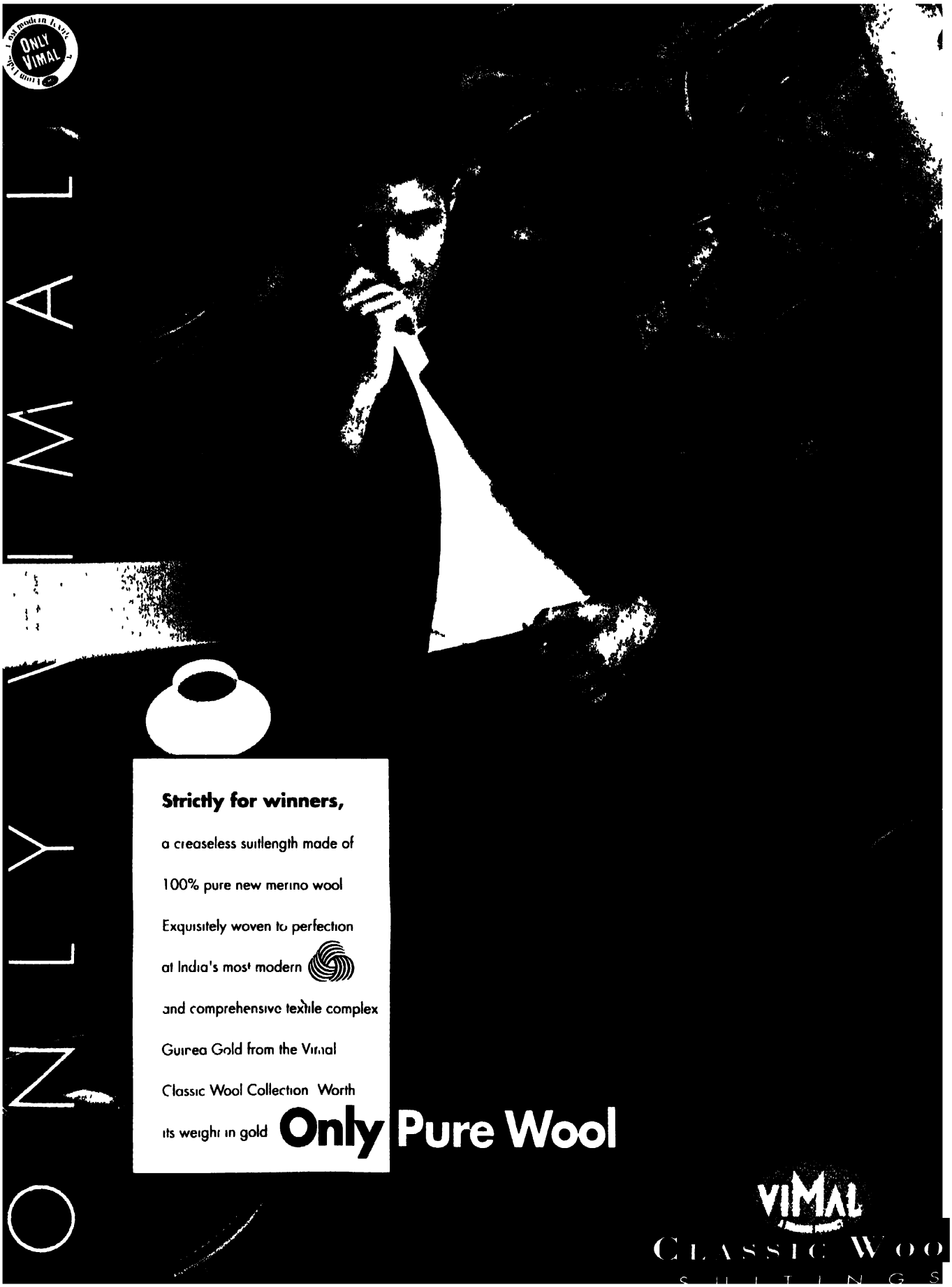


-Uttam Roy

What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My paunch!
What is your favourite word?
Hi
What is your favourite journey?
To Masai Mara game reserve in Kenya and to Matheran near Bombay.
What is your favourite dream?
Being in charge of any wildlife sanctuary.
What is your nightmare?
Nothing
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
My 'cosmic' music system
What is your source of sustenance?
No comment
On what occasions do you lie?
When I want to avoid attending functions
What is your greatest regret?
That I did not oblige my fans and wellwishers who felt I should have continued playing
What has been your happiest moment?
Getting married to Deepa
What brings tears to your eyes?
Emotional scenes in movies
How do you relax?
I'm a restless person



What do you envy most in others?
Ability to sing or entertain singlehandedly
How would you like to be remembered?
As one who always wished well and helped others
How would you like to die?
Happily and without leaving any burden on family and friends



ALLE-CHANT Guinea Gold Limited Edition

A few of the 600 exotic suitings created this season

The looks of a winne



Just call Citi
Or call Travel House Service Co

15 OCTOBER 1995

The Telegraph

POSTMORTEM

The Madding Crowd

■ Somehow the Magazine feels tourism means Goa ('Take Your Pick', September 3). The sun 'n' sand paradise may be an exotic destination for foreigners, but as Indians we should not be neglecting the flora and fauna that exist in abundance in some parts of North India

For instance, the Magazine could have highlighted the sylvan Garhwal hills — regions of unmatched natural splendour

Our tourism policy is shaped to cater to foreign visitors

Foreign tourism, we should not forget, brings in its wake an erosion of domestic culture and ethos Goa, a hideout for drug addicts and hippy culture, will bear this out

Of course, this does not mean that we discontinue foreign tourism as it is a big foreign currency earner

Santosh Kumar Sharma,
Kharagpur

■ Goa has picture perfect beaches and sells very well abroad But there are other scenic spots in India, equally tantalising, which could have been featured

Abhishake Saha,
Ichhapur (W B)



Goa: Hideout for hippies?

■ Last year I visited Diu and, as the Magazine says, Goa and Diu are totally different from each other For the zest-loving type there cannot be a place other than Goa No wonder it is so popular with honeymooners!

Partha Pratim Modak,
Howrah

■ With the promotion of tourism the first thing that suffers is the environment With an increasing number of visitors, more and more hotels come up and more and more waste is littered Noise pollution also reaches its peak Such cacophonous invasion is soon going to rob the places of their beauty and tranquility

Panchanana Baskey,
Baripada (Orissa)

■ Goa has been overexposed It has been the favourite destination of film producers, honeymooners and lovers of fun and feni Diu may be virgin territory, but it will very soon become another Goa

Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore

■ For those who love the wild and the greenery and yet do not get an opportunity every now and then to pack up and hop into a train, the only consolation is reading books or articles on travel.

Bisakha Mukherjee,
Calcutta

Star Gazing

■ Readers have heaved a sigh of relief that the Magazine has chosen to discontinue with Rasoi It's time you dropped First Person and Inner Eye, too

Sukla Das,
Jamshedpur

Jayanta Mahapatra will be out of town for a while. Readers may please send their poems to him after the third week of November.

INSIDE



Gautam Patole

PAGE 4

MARK TULLY, the Gora Indian broadcaster, has just come out with his first book of short stories And we flew him to Bombay to have his heart ripped open by none other than the Queen of the Quill, Shobha De

Mark Tully-Shobha De

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Cover Gautam Patole

COVER STORY

The Heart of Tully

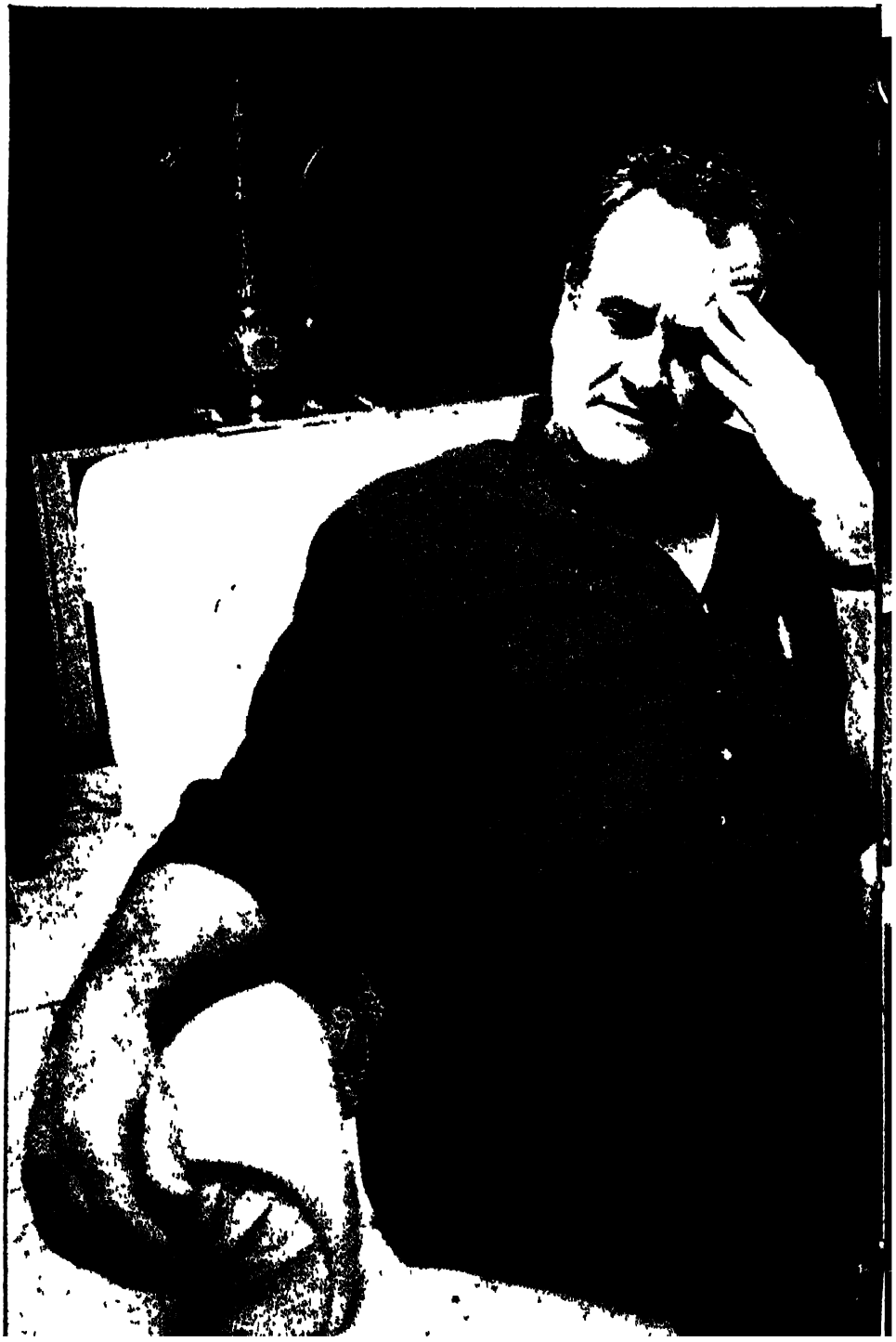
Shobha De** cuts into the broadcaster-turned-novelist and tries to show up the real **Mark Tully

Photographs by Gautam Patole

In 20 years of interviewing both "names" and non-entities, I have (by my reckoning) flopped spectacularly just twice. Generous souls would say that is a pretty good average. Yes? Naah. Not when the "flops" have been smart, media savvy men like Sunil Gavaskar and now, Mark Tully. Maybe, that is the key — smart and media savvy. These guys know only too well how the game is played. They can anticipate the questions and cleverly deflect them. Making sure nothing major is given away. Gavaskar's career as a cricketer depended on how deftly he dealt with googlies. Tully's on how cannily he got others to spill the beans. See what I mean? With my right hand on my heart, I can honestly swear that I did my bit. I tried my damndest to get Tully talking. My reading of the situation shows he neatly sidestepped all the tricky stuff. Well, bully to Tully. Judge for yourself.

Read on.





Shobha De: Tell me what you feel about a four-letter word called hype. What does hype mean to you?

Mark Tully: A lot of bother, I think As far as I'm personally concerned, if you get involved in a situation where there is hype like selling a book, for instance You have to get involved in hype otherwise your publishers may get cross with you They'll say you're not working hard enough to sell your book, I won't give you an advance, or something like that So, to me hype suggests over the day something that causes a lot of bother But I suppose it's necessary nowadays

Do you think it's a misunderstood word in today's context where everything is so market-driven. Sad to say, but...

No, I don't think it's misunderstood, it seems to be a necessary evil, I think, that's the way I would describe it really

Do you go along with it? Do you think what we are indulging in right now is part of the hype?

Yes, definitely

How do you feel about it? Are you uncomfortable about indulging in this exercise or are you okay?

I'll tell you honestly, Shobha. When I was told [by The Telegraph] that I was being flown in to Bombay by The Telegraph to be interviewed by Shobha De, I felt this was not something that I should be doing.

Are you sure? (Laughs).

I felt it was charming in some ways, and like a fool in some ways. There is this problem, you know, that are you seeking publicity yourself or are you seeking publicity for a product in the sense that other people have invested in you? If you're seeking it for your-



self, it must arouse some sort of uncomfortable feeling and I hope I'm not seeking it for myself

Given today's environment, how does a writer, or a painter, or anybody who has something up for public scrutiny, get heard, seen, read or viewed without creating a sufficient amount of noise?

Of course, there are people who are so well known or their work is of such quality that they don't have to indulge in hype Graham Greene is an example, V S Naipaul is another example I mean he doesn't have a major hype anyhow by the publishers But for most of us, we have to have a lot of hype It's the same as when you're doing a new radio programme, like when I started a new radio programme recently on BBC Radio in London, I had to go through a whole lot of commercial exercises Now if you say to the producer, I'm not going to do that, it's very unfair to the producer, the producer's livelihood depends on the success of the programme, and if you don't let the people know about it, none's going to listen to it So it's a vicious circle

Yeah...would you say that you have to get noticed at any cost in a very very aggressive, very competitive market. A lot of effort goes into the writing of a book and it can sink without a trace because people don't even know of its existence, they don't even know it's out there in the market place.

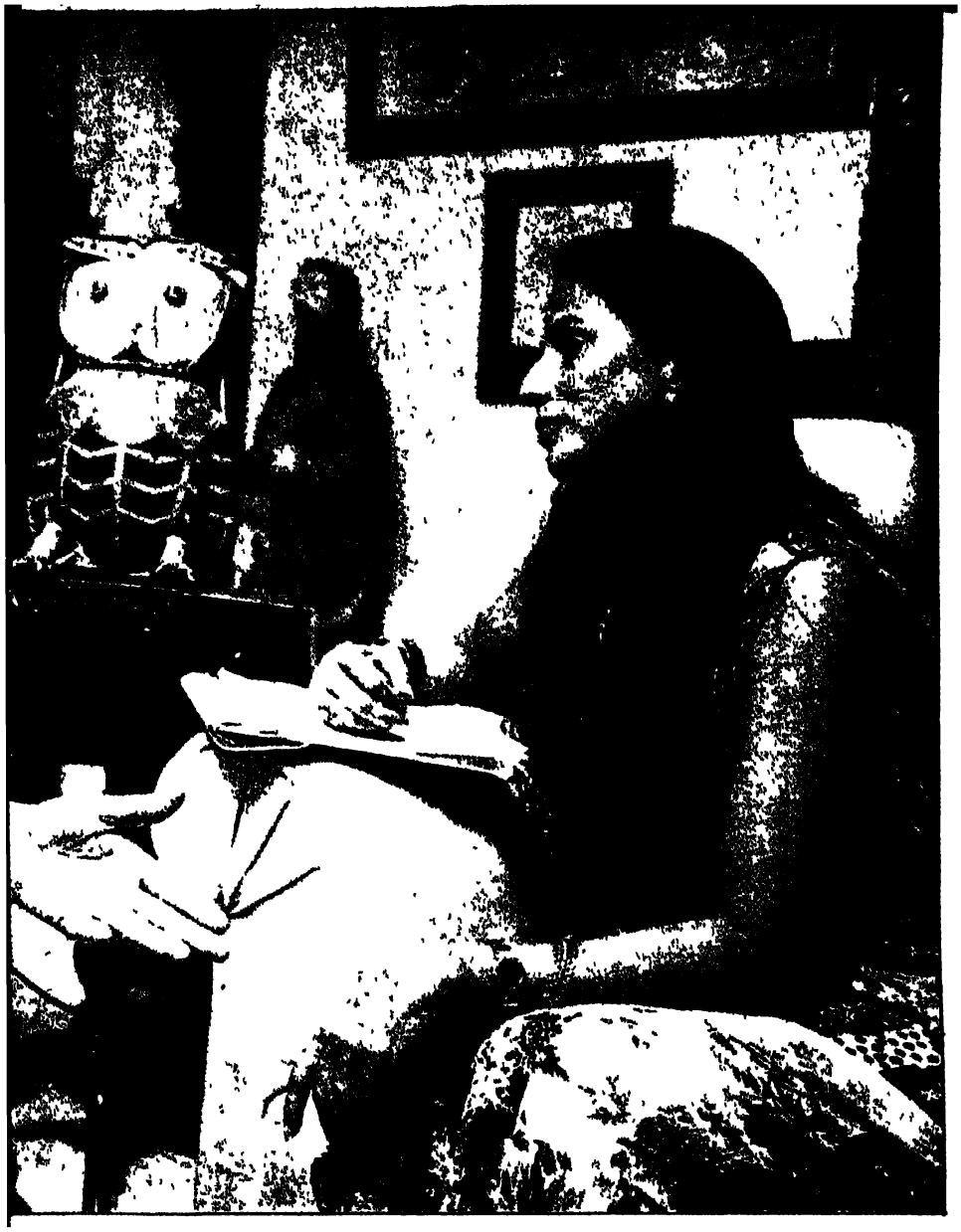




Yes, that's what I'm told, and I have to rely on the publicity people on this Though sometimes I wonder I mean, after all people have heard of Shobha De and they see it on the bookshelf, they will say I liked his last book, or I liked his last broadcast, or I didn't like his last book, they'll either buy or they won't buy. But that's what I'm told by the publicists

What was your experience with your first book? You did get a lot of publicity for that.

Yes, a lot of good, and a lot of bad publicity for it And one lesson I learnt was that it is true to say that all publicity is good publicity The book sold very well And I was actually quite happy about that publicity because in a way the book was an attack on certain type of people living in this country and in Britain. Basically what I would call super-Westernised ones. And they



were the ones who got very angry about the book So, got ya!

How did you respond to criticism then? Did you feel touchy like most first-time authors do?

No, I always feel touchy about it I am after all fundamentally a broadcaster, I'm a guy who's spent most of his life writing one too many despatches With my first book, I was always afraid that after every 200 words or so I told myself what do I do if I find myself typing Mark Tully, BBC Delhi! So, I'm particularly sensitive about books because I know I'm not it's a new area for me, and this book which I've now written is even further away from anything I've ever done because it's fiction I've been trying to draw characters a bit as well, which is not something I do very much in journalism. I know the traditions between journalism and writing and drama, even poetry and prose are not part and

. I'm a sort of person who performs much better when I am really confident about something So when I do something new, I'm lacking in confidence so criticism matters a lot to me

Do you expect people to make special concessions because of the fact that you are Mark Tully — broadcaster? Do you secretly hope that they'll say,"Okay, old chap, that was a good try". Why should anybody be extra kind to you?

No, no, I don't think they should be kind to you. In fact it is actually no help for people to be kind to you because then you don't learn and sometimes, you know, you get a bit fed up with compliments It's all ungrateful to say this, but it's a funny feeling, you're grateful to them in one way, but in another way, it makes you feel that what's it all about, what do they really think, or are they just being too polite or something like that, or do they think you're too demanding which is even worse: they think you're that sort of person that if you don't come up to Mark and tell him what you think of his broadcast or programme you hurt him or upset him I hope they don't think that

Do you think Indians are, on the whole, very polite people but they will go out of their way to compliment a person because culturally it's expected that you're nice to people, you don't tell them what you actually feel.

Not all Indian reviewers are kind to people which is right, they are doing their job But on the whole, Indians are the most kind and the most generous about what they say about what you've done, and very friendly, and amazingly anxious to meet you, in a nice way

But do you think you would have had the same sort of reception had you been, for example, a Black journalist from the UK?

Working here?

Working here. Don't you think a lot of it has to do with the Gora Saab complex that most of India still hangs on to, I wouldn't say suffers from, but certainly it's very evident..

Well, first of all I would say I am an Indian in a way, I was born in this country and my mother was born in Bangladesh, and my father spent 22 years of his working life here I'm on my sixth generation in Calcutta, so in some ways India is a multi-racial society, you know, and there are Englishmen who are Indians, so in some ways I think I'm not just any other Gora Saab, I think I have some Indian roots and things like that I also think that, you know, this 'gora' thing can be both ways People can get very angry if they think they are being taken for a ride by White people, that they are in some sense acting in a superi or manner or anything like that So I don't think it's entirely due to that I may be entirely wrong, but then things would be jolly bad!

Is it because, like a lot of your critics feel, you've gone native with a vengeance. I mean, you've become more desi than the desis themselves.

Well, you know what I said about that All right, let's take some things Why do you wear a kurta pyjama in daily life I like if possible, specially now that I've left daily news, at time in the day to have a bath and put on comfortable clothes and have a bottle of beer with my friends Now I'm not wearing Indian clothes because I feel when you are working it's stupid but I don't feel comfortable in this dress in this country I'm sure you'll agree Kurta



pyjamas are much more comfortable than trousers

Oh, by far!

So, I don't do that to be desi I smoke Indian cigars because they are very cheap I don't mind drinking Indian whiskey because I've drunk it over the years I think actually it's something quite different, more a personal belief, and people appreciate it is that you cannot run away from what you are You're a fool if you think that if you have a basic English background you can become totally Indian I can't become totally Indian I know that, and I have no desire to pretend to become totally Indian

Somewhere deep down, do you wish to be reborn as an Indian in your next life? Your sense of identification seems to be total. You've been made into an icon here. Do you think you would have had the same kind of a reception had you been based in, say, Glasgow?

I wouldn't know I mean, I have been shown this great generosity in India I absolutely agree with that I suppose in part it is to do with my being a foreigner In part also as I always say it is because I broadcast on the BBC and BBC is so widely listened to And in part I hope it is because I have managed to fit in with the country And I've said this many times before, that one of the things that I've learnt in India is to have a great respect for Karma I believe that you are what you are In some ways, your life makes itself The wisest way to live your life is to follow your Now, I've known that I am very English in many ways I went to an English public school, I was in the British army for two years, I went to Cambridge, and there could hardly a more English university, I have lots of British friends and all the rest of it So, I've known that I cannot change my Karma

There is no debate about your competence in what you've been doing for all these many years. But the kind of celebrity status or hero worship that you've encountered in India, whether it was your association with the BBC or your own personality, or the fact that Mark Tully changed the voice of the BBC — would you have had the same success rate, the same kind of adoration and adulation had you been posted in your own environment, Australia, for example?

I don't agree with that, I don't think, I don't think I've had adulation and adoration I think I'm quite well known and, touchwood very hard, I'm reaso-

nably popular at the moment, but you know the saying, beware when all men speak well of you You know, in England there are television reporters and broadcasters who are extremely well known and extremely well liked They are opening bazaars and opening shops and giving after dinner speeches and the rest of it So, you know, you can get well known but it's certainly true of me that it's India which has made me and I've said that publicly many times

I was in London a month or so ago, and I was at the BBC studios. The impression I got was that you're dead meat now. You're bad news as far as the BBC is concerned. They really don't want to talk about you very much or go into what happened. I know that you have spoken about what went wrong, but after such a long association, do you think it's like hacking off your own toes with an axe that you let drop from your hand?

Well, first of all let me say that I am actually more in the BBC now, in some ways, than I was before Now I have a regular Sunday morning programme on BBC Radio Four and I'm making four films for BBC One on the lives of Jesus, and I've just completed a radio documentary on Guru Gobind Singh, and I'm doing another one on Calcutta So, I don't think that I'm absolutely dead meat, as you say But I do know that some people were and are very angry about with what I said about BBC But this is rather light when I said people were angry about my book, I was not upset What would have upset me when I made that kind of, as it became well known as my famous speech, what would have upset me is if nobody had bothered That's *would* have upset me! That was my nightmare actually People would say, you know, it was a three-month process when I would wake up at night and sometimes think supposing it all falls flat on its face I still think, and I thought, that what I had to say was important I knew it would annoy some people

So when you stuck your neck out, you were prepared for the bad blood that it created.

Absolutely

Was it important enough for you to say it irrespective of the consequences?

I would just like to give you the background quickly to this What had happened was, there were these major changes taking place in BBC, which many of us felt were being done too hurriedly, without enough consideration for BBC's tradition, and background and particularly not without enough concern to protect radio from being swamped by television There was a controversy about the director general's tax situation as well Five very senior journalists wrote a letter to the *Times*, I think it was, saying that they totally supported the reforms, they totally supported the director general, and these people who were against them did not have the guts to stand up, didn't have the courage to stand up in public, but were leaking stories to the press So I had been asked that year to give what is called the Radio Academy lecture, which is quite a prestigious thing So I had a platform to stand on So I said, well, I am one of those people who have some grievance about what was happening, and I do not see why we should be insulted and called cowards by these people Had I not had that platform I wouldn't have done anything because no one would have known So, anyway, it was Karma, it was fate working that put me there, you know

But don't you think that in the long run, your career opportunities got restricted because of your taking a stand.

I don't mind so, Shobha, at all It sounds sort of grandiose, but I feel that I was put in a position to do something, I had to do it If there was no price to pay for it, in some ways it was not worth saying, not worth doing Certainly there was this hostility generated by it, if people didn't get angry about it, it's not worth doing I actually am very very surprised, in a sense, and very pleased, that I am still doing so much work for BBC It's the other way round

What do you feel about Indian journalists who are jumping into the television medium feet first, everybody seems to be hosting a show or a panel discussion or anchoring news programmes. Television is the flavour of the decade. we all know that. But it is a very, very cruel medium as well. And I think a lot of people are being shown up, warts and all. And not everybody can make that crossover successfully. What do you think of this whole trend in print journalism, where an exodus is taking place?

I think there is a complete misunderstanding in India People seem to think that television kills other media Television has not killed print media in Britain or America or anywhere else, and the print media have a very different and very important role to play, in that they are much more detailed, in many ways you need much more talent and skill to get into print journalism. You have got to write that much hard, you've got to have much more material, investigate your story much more deeply In the same way that television has not killed radio , although in this country some people seem to think that television automatically kills radio In Britain it is radio which is an expanding market, not television So I think part of this lemming-like rush towards TV is because these people think that this is the only, this is the medium of the future

Do you think this is a panic reaction? Do they think it's all over for print journalism?

In part, I'm not sure

Or is it the glamour, the fame, the money...

Yes, there is glamour, the fame, the money, perhaps the reaction that this is the medium that we've got to get into Also, the fact that suddenly television has opened up here. I think what you will find is viewers will be making their own judgments and some journalists will discover that they are not very good at television. So they will move out of it, and out of all this, and some people will emerge as new stars

Do you want to rate a few of them?

No, no, no, I don't want to rate anyone!

That would have been nice.

I would say one thing that two people whom I enjoyed watching those were the two I enjoyed the most, let's say

Yes, I think they're probably the best, anyway.

I wouldn't say that

You don't say it, I'm saying it! (Laughs)

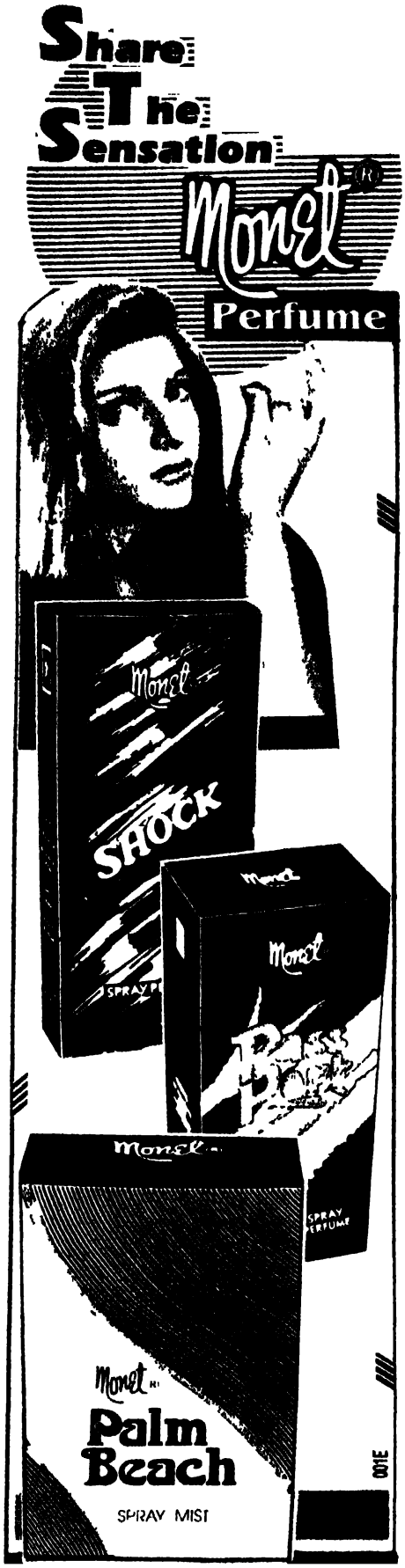
That's okay!

Do you feel that the average upper middleclass Indian has a feeling that somehow you're more Indian than that person, because that person is obsessive about Western pretentions? That seems to come through in your writing.

I certainly don't think I am more Indian than they are I think it would be very stupid to say that I've said I cannot be

Tully Singh?

Tully Singh or anything like that, you know. But I do dislike intensely so much that is happening in the West, I should say, it's a passionate concern



that the same sort of thing should not happen in India And I find it very sad when you talk about Indian culture and that sort of thing, they say you're BJP I mean, I'm not BJP, I'm not Congress I've a lot of quarrels with both of them But to simply put it as stupidly as that, if you speak about Indian culture, if you speak about the greatness of Hinduism, you get called BJP That is extremely narrow minded and

How do you feel about the political climate right now, particularly the emergence, if one can call it that, of Sonia Gandhi, how do you see that?

I've argued this with the leaders of all the parties that we are missing the fundamental trend The institutions of this country have been so undermined by lack of reform that whoever comes into power cannot do very much unless they come in with a determination to reform the institutions of this country, *all* the institutions of this country After all, if you are BJP or if you are Congress, you have the same police force, you have the same bureaucracy, you have the same courts .I may be done for contempt of court if I say this, but I honestly don't think the courts or judges can be very happy about the state of litigations, about what happens in Indian courts I know many many of my friends in the IAS are deeply unhappy, and in the IPS, about the state of the IPS and the IAS They are your tools and if you don't have tools in your hands, your hand is powerless In a sense, I think all this Sonia, Wonia, BJP, Congress, is all a lot of irrelevance

This will take an organised campaign to project her as a national leader. And to talk about saving the country, do you see any absurdity in the situation, what is her *locus standi*?

I might put it differently Her husband, whom I knew well enough and personally I was very fond of, was a politician in a way, was brought up in a political background He had a massive majority and was not able to make major changes This is the kind of politics here You call a new *neta*, and say, *'Naya neta aa gaya, woh humko bachayega* It's not a question of that The *neta* cannot do anything about the tool in his hands And that is why I think it's one of the fundamental things that needs to be done

About Sonia...

You're trying to get me to say something rude about Sonia! (Laughs)

I was angling to get you to say something about her, umm!

My own view about Sonia Gandhi is this· Personally, I have not met Sonia Gandhi When I used to see Rajiv, Sonia was never there, she didn't seem to like the press I would say that anyone who thinks that they as one individual can save the country, and Sonia, I don't think that Sonia has ever said that she can save the country People are running around saying that she can save the country I don't think that one person can possibly save this country She could bring about improvements, but

No, but she is taking a higher and higher public profile, now she is addressing meetings, she has broken her sphinx-like silence, do you think that's a good move or a bad move? The sphinx speaks, as it were?

I would take a dispassionate view of it This is a democracy Anyone is entitled to stand for an election, anyone can go into politics, and I don't see why Sonia Gandhi should be robbed of the opportunity But I would add that if she goes into it, she will have to take the rough with the smooth, just like anyone else She knows her husband took a great deal of roughs as well as smooths

As far as the corruption angle of India goes, the Western media seems to be obsessed with the scams, and the big scandals, the economy, the black money, and so on. How different is it from the way things work in other countries?

I think there is no country which is without corruption I think that has to be accepted But I think there are certain features of Indian life as it now is and as it has developed since Independence which encourage a greater deal of corruption unfortunately And it is nothing to do with the natural temperament of Indians, or anything like that But there are factors, I would name just three or four, and number one, of course, is the fact that the very institutions are not functioning very well

Number two, the government is involved in far too many things And each time it is involved in something there are opportunities for corruption by politicians and by civil servants Number three, under the British Raj, there was corruption at the lower levels But at the top level, you had people who were so well paid and belonged to a sort of *biradree*, if you see what I mean, whereby if you are corrupt in that *biradree*, you are ashamed, you are put to disgrace So, at least at the very top you had a totally incorruptible person But you look at the situation today The other day, a retired bri-

gadier said to me, and he wasn't a corrupt man at all, and he said to me, you know, I spent 35 years in the Indian Army, more than two thirds of this away from my family, and I have a pension of four thousand rupees If I were paid at that sort of level and had to try and live a middleclass life in India, I'm sure I would be corrupt I think the marvel in some ways is that there are many honest people around, I think that's a marvel

***Isn't* that a marvel! Oh, dear!**

Because, you see, honestly, you look at it, you know what it costs to lead a middleclass life in this country Anyone who joins the IAS or the IPS comes from, or legitimately has aspirations to educate their children well, to dress well, to have the money to mix with other members of the middle class, and that's a legitimate aspiration And they are not paid the sort of money that will enable them to do it And their pensions are appalling!

Why is the media in Britain fixated on the sex lives of their politicians? I mean, if the Indian media were to start running stories about the sex lives of our ministers and Prime Minister, and so on, we wouldn't have a Cabinet left, would we?

You are, perhaps, more of an expert on this subject than I am! Actually, I think you're right Personally, I found this peculiar and strange situation happening in the West On the one hand, everything in terms of sexuality is enormously open When I was a boy in a British public school, my brother was sacked from the school just for going out with a girl There was no evidence that he had even kissed her, but the fact that he went out with a girl, he was sacked Now, everything has become enormously more liberal in the West We are meant to treat relations between women and men much more openly Yet, on the other hand, there seems to be this hypocritical morality that says that politicians shouldn't have affairs Why shouldn't politicians have affairs? It's up to them.

Just across the Channel, a politician who doesn't have an affair, someone in France, for example, would be considered a weirdo, an abnormal person if he didn't have a mistress on the side

This is the point I'm not saying that in Britain you are considered a weirdo if you don't have affairs But the number of broken marriages

In France, you're considered a hero if you have a mistress...

Yes, yes I don't think the French attitude is necessarily right But I do think there is a tremendous hypocrisy in the British attitude, particularly towards their politicians and their sex lives I mean, we journalists are no one to point a finger at anyone

But we do all the time, and they are all front page stories.

I know, and personally, I am one of the few journalists who believe that people do need some protection I happen to feel that if we don't want a monarchy in Britain, we should decide that in a rational and proper way Not by undermining the monarchy

But we do all the time, and they are all front page stories.

I know, and personally, I am one of the few journalists who believe that people do need some protection I happen to feel that if we don't want a monarchy in Britain, we should decide that in a rational and proper way Not by undermining the monarchy, by an obtrusive coverage of their private lives I admit that if you want to preserve the monarchy it would have been much better if Prince Charles had managed to go on living with Lady Di, and if Princess Anne hadn't been divorced, and all the rest of it I'm not saying monarchy is blameless, but I really do not think it is up to the press to destroy the monarchy and for us to haunt them this way

How do you rate the competence of the Indian press on the whole? Do you see falling standards, do you see sloppy reporting...indifference, people not thorough with their homework, what's the quality of their writing like?

I think on the whole India has a free press, it has a very large press, I think there are good and bad journalists I would say about the writing, and that is my personal view, that people try very often to be too clever in their writing Simple writing, specially in journalism, works much better I find when you meet the Hindi press their sentences seem to go on and on forever I'm not brilliant in Hindi, but I feel that people who are even good at it sometimes find it difficult to understand I'll say two things Number one, is that I think that it is a pity that there seems to be an increasing tendency for the management and proprietors to interfere in the editorial processes Big powerful editors like Girilal Jain, Frank Moraes, would find it much harder to survive today That's a great pity That seems to be a universal truth The other thing is, people should look at their copy and say, have I tried to be too clever here?

Could you give some example of someone who writes in this particular way?

I couldn't And that would be unfair

Are there any columnists who you like? Who you think don't write in a clever way, but who are accessible, whose writing you have enjoyed over a period of time?

Yes There are people The editor of *The Times of India*

Padgaonkar?

No, before Girilal Jain Who used to do these columns on books

Sham Lal?

Sham Lal, Sham Lal I love Sham Lal's columns I think that K Subramanian writes with great feeling and fervour about nuclear matters I like Swaminomics, there's a point of view and nicely written I always enjoy Khushwant's column, I must say! I like the way he deliberately insults people

What about Mani Shankar Aiyar?

Mani actually, I do enjoy Mani, he goes over the top completely sometimes But in a rather enjoyable way

You enjoy it then?

I enjoy it in a way But I certainly don't agree with his politics at all But Inder Malhotra's political columns are well informed And, well, Kuldip Nayar, who has a point of view

I think you've said some nice things about everybody, actually. You've covered them all All the Delhi columnists are covered! (Laughs)

I don't really feel nasty

There's nobody who sends you up a wall, nobody who drives you nuts, crazy, you can't ignore the person and you read the person, but you can't bear what the person is saying, that kind of thing?

There are lots and lots of columns which I start to read but just can't go on reading that turgid stuff That happens a lot of times, but I wouldn't say that there's a regular columnist who does that because on the whole I think it's a market situation that if the guy is that bad

There's no one who gives you fever? Someone who makes you say, Oh, God! I want to go and strangle that person?

No, not like that, really I don't think I would like to think of that really

There are some foreign correspondents who are based in India, in and out of Delhi A lot of them, I find, take the easy way out, they are sloppy, they don't do their homework, their writing is often very careless, and the BBC has been accused of that often enough, in the last few months at any rate But they seem to get away with it because we are overawed at

the thought that Oh, *New York Times*, Oh, BBC, Oh, *Sunday Times*, Oh, *Telegraph*, you know? But I don't think their work is necessarily better than some of our worst work. A lot of times this arrogance and lack of attention to detail is obvious. Maybe they feel it's not important enough, maybe they would be more on their toes in a place like Germany but this is the Third World and they get away with it. Or am I being paranoid?
I think, first of all, India is unduly paranoid about the foreign press You go to Parliament and hear MPs saying BBC is the foreign hand that is destabilising India I've said time and time again that it is that MP who is insulting India Because he is saying that this country is so fragile that one despatch from the BBC is going to destablise the country
No, it's not that. That is something they politicise for their own purposes. But I'm talking as a member of the fraternity. A lot of the time I find thedespatchesextremelysloppyand — just careless
Let me just say this As far as the BBC goes, I would not presume to comment on the BBC since I left and it's changed a lot I don't want anyone to say I'm criticising individuals at all But I'll say this when I was in BBC, all right, it was a Third World country, but we have a huge audience in this country so we have an enormous feedback And we had in London, Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, working in the Eastern Service who went through every bit of copy that you wrote and therefore you were always under great and very close scrutiny I'm sure that still happens in the BBC I would also say that I know now three of our former foreign correspondents who settled in India, I'm not the only one There is a retired head of Reuter who is settled in India, there is another Reuter man, who when his turn comes, wants to come back to India because he is married to an Indian So, there are five foreign correspondents in India who care so much about this country and want to continue living here and have an association with it So you can't say that they are all
But it's only the disaster stories that make news.
Ah, but that's not the correspondent's fault, that is news
But who's filing those stories, I mean, there's never a positive story out of India.
No, no, I don't think that's true
Hardly ever, there is always a slant, there's always a...
There is a huge, almost a hype on the economic side, about how good India is on the economic side I mean, where would all these foreign businessmen be rushing to India without the foreign press telling them how good India is in economics?

That's a phenomenon in the last two years, but till then we've been accustomed to, you know, the worst kind of stories, the worst images, and it's not just national pride or sensitivity that makes me say so. I think people are just not interested, even the foreign correspondents are not interested, in other kinds of stories, they are too lazy and spoilt.
No, I don't think that's true at all I think it's something quite different



You have to look at news and what sells, in a sense, as news If you listen to BBC or watch BBC Television news, how many other stories will be about disasters? A large number you know This is one of the most Editors think that these are the stories people want, not just about India, about everywhere If you watch BBC Television news

It has become extremely boring, I can't watch it anymore.
I would personally feel, and again, I've said this many times, what is at fault is not the correspondents but news values
But who decides all this, in any case, they must be getting some feedback from their various correspondents.
It is merely the editors and the people sitting in London who decide that And the big bosses, the big wheels and the bigwigs
Is there something called objective journalism? Does it exist? How objective is objective?
I think it's a good question It's like saying, is there such a thing as truth? Let's take this interview as an example You are taping it, you are going to edit it
No, I'm going to send the tape tonight to Calcutta and it will be edited...
Well, someone will edit this tape Now, I could say, at the end of it, I don't think this is the truthful version of the tape You got the balance all wrong, you selected it all wrong You can say, I think I made Mark Tully look a fool

I haven't been able to, unfortunately! (Laughs) I'm trying very hard!
So, objectivity is, to some extent, in the beholder's eye
Say, you're filing a story...
Yes, you do try to be objective Again, there's something I have to say and that is, that everyone makes mistakes in every field of life Doctors make mistakes, and any journalist who thinks he's never made a mistake is a fool, or a liar

Tell me about the Delhi social scene, you're a part of it; is it all that it's cracked up to be?
I think, increasingly I am not being social I've been in Delhi so long and I have lots of friends, but I'm not into too much partying and dancing, I love drinking I like spending my evenings having a drink with my friends Last night, for instance, I went home, and had two friends, and we sat all evening and we drank and ate a lovely meal I'm not into dancing and I'm not, I would rather
That's okay. How do you rate the Delhi women, the Delhi babes...? I've seen them at your place so don't tell me, I don't know who they are and I don't know who you are talking about!
Well, I love beautiful women, who doesn't? I think there are some very beautiful women in Delhi and who are socially high profile I'm not going to say who they are! And they are a pleasure to the eye, if that's not a sexist remark I'm sure it is, but I don't care Extremely charming and interesting to talk to
What makes the Indian woman different? Something that sets her apart?
Yes, I think there is something that sets her apart. You may see this as racial, but it's the combination of the Asian and the European that is at its finest in the Indian woman

Features-wise, or their minds, or what?
Oh, that's talking features-wise In mind terms, well, you know, I, I, know that, I mean there are many in Delhi that are very easy to talk to, they have a good sense of humour, very nice to be with, very charming You don't feel sometimes that I'm a man and she's a woman and there is some difficulty There are many ladies like this in Delhi as well as in Bombay
You have a very unusual domestic arrangement, which you've talked about. It seems to work very well for you.
I never talked about my domestic arrangement until I made that speech in London Then I knew that BBC would run a press campaign against me, and I knew if I was not open about my odd domestic arrangement they would turn this on to me and, therefore, I had to speak about it in public But these are not worth talking about, simply because it's my business and the two women involved And I think you can hurt people if you talk too much about these things In the same way as I think with someone who's married would necessarily want to talk in great detail about their marriage No life is without its ups and downs and its goods and bads I can't avoid it and it is in the public domain and I don't deny that it exists
Was that part of, to use a crude American expression, a cover-your-ass strategy when you decided to go public with that aspect of your life?
Yes, you could say I covered my ass!
How do you rate yourself as a journalist? You've been at it for more than 20 years now, 25?
I've had a lot of luck
...and, luck can take you only this far.
I had the privilege of working for BBC for so long That's an education for anyone And I think I have been lucky in one way that I tend to get on easily with people, they can talk to me, that is something that is important I regard myself as reasonably active and hard working journalist
Have any stories backfired on you, have you misused information inadvertently or...
The time I felt almost guilty was when we did a film on World Bank and Bangladesh, and I interviewed the head of the World Bank in Bangladesh for quite a long time, and we used a small bit only about corruption in Bangladesh. When I reflected on that I thought if I had been the head of the World Bank in Bangladesh and seen the film, I would have felt very let down
In the Indian context, someone like Amita Mallik, popularly called Amita Aunty in media circles: She gets too worked up about people's accents and she expects everybody in India should speak like Mark Tully or an approximation, at any rate. With a proper and pucca, British accent. Do you think that is the hallmark of good broadcasting?
Funnily enough, I think my accent is very unfashionable in Britain I think regional accents are much more fashionable The old public school accent, which mine is, is unfashionable there
But in India they seem to be obsessed with this. There are columns and columns devoted to mispronunciation, for example. Do you think so much of emphasis ought to be given,



considering English is not our language? If the French can speak English and the Italians can speak English with an accent, and it's called very cute, and very sexy, what's wrong with an Indian accent?
I absolutely agree with that, one hundred per cent I've argued on this with the BBC many times, I'm used to their bias against Indian accents And time and again I would say, look, we put a Frenchman on, and he goes, *si, si,* and *ya, ya,* and *oui, oui* and all that, and we say, aah, marvellous, sexy! You put an Indian on, and they say, Peter Sellers That's absurd and ridiculous and absolutely wrong I've fought against that very, very hard After all, if someone was to come to me and tell me, please don't speak Hindi with that atrocious accent, where would I be? I'm not very good at languages, I don't have a very good ear, so I speak Hindi like an Englishman But I try to improve, I am not saying I shouldn't try to get better But I would be very disappointed if I wasn't allowed to speak it because my accent was obviously not an Indian accent
Do you think you would have been as successful on television as you were on radio? There are different requirements and do you think you'd have met them?
I really don't know I've done television and still doing television All I can say is my first love is radio, I feel much more at home with the radio And because I feel more at home, I do it much better If someone was to say to me, you can only do radio or television, I would ask for radio everytime Radio is a much more intimate medium You can be much more yourself, I think, on radio This programme which I do for BBC Radio Four every Sunday morning, is a sort of chat show in the real sense, you really feel that you're talking to the individual listeners and you get letters back from them which shows that you are actually talking to them And I think you can be much more chatty and much more intimate on radio than on television
I was on the Simon Bates show, and it was a lot of fun, actually.
Yes, Simon Bates and John Dunn they are excellent interviews Lots of very good radio shows in Britain
What about the libel laws in Britain?
I think with libel laws the great difficulty is to draw a balance between effective libel laws and preserving justifiable, and I would use the word justifiable, freedom of the press Where is it right to say, beyond which the press cannot go That's a very very difficult thing to say But I have a feeling, and it is a very unpopular view with most journalists, but the line is drawn too much in favour of the press and not enough in favour of the public
You spend a lot of time in Calcutta.
Some time, some time Not a huge amount Because I'm a director of this company which is run by a friend of mine who left the BBC and joined us, called Dipankar Ghosh I don't know why people think I live in Calcutta, or I live in Lucknow, or I have bought a *haveli* somewhere
How wonderful! You haven't?
No, I still live in the same flat as I did before I sometimes say that the BBC left 1, Nizamuddin, I haven't
When you go to Calcutta, don't you find it is a city which still clings to the Raj nostalgia, the hangover, the whole colonial thing sits over that

city?
It does in a way, I love the trams in Calcutta I would stay in the Bengal Club when I go to Calcutta
You can't get more Burra Saab than that.
That's very funny I believe, and I've written this, that colonialism was extremely bad for India And yet, I was brought up in the Raj, in Calcutta, and my father had this great honour of being elected to the Bengal Club Only Burra Saabs were members of the Bengal Club in those days Despite the fact that I don't think the Raj was right for India, I do love, in some ways, the relics of the Raj I am a relic of the Raj myself!
Have you been reading some of the new writing out of India in English, the quality of writing, what do you make of it?
I think there are some brilliant Indian writers
And now with this book, do you see yourself as part of that lot, that movement?
I see myself as a jobbing journalist trying to write books, basically Some of these people are extremely talented writers I hope I have a certain talent in telling a story, I hope this book will make people read, and if they do, I think they will want to read them for the stories rather than for sparkling writing I am a journalist and I don't think I have joined the ranks of great writers or anything like that
You said it was 'faction' [fiction based on fact]. Are there a lot of recognisable people..
I hope not too recognisable
Delhi people or are there types?
Not many Delhi people These are basically what we did for research was to travel around in eastern UP, staying mainly in the small towns, and going into villages as well, meeting and talking to people One of the beauties about Indian, specially Indian villages, is that you just stay there and people talk to you willingly, openly, you just sit down and ask them anything So, these are stories which we have heard Not all of them are entirely true to the story because you want to make a better story to tell a story The people are disguised for obvious reasons, and sometimes one or two stories run into one, and one of them is really a fiction in my own mind, it's about an *ikkawallah*, an *ikka* in UP is a tonga, it's the sort of thoughts I would have if I were an *ikkawallah*, about this polluting transport, these scooters and things like that, putting me out of business
Written in his voice.
But it's me trying to imagine what an *ikkawallah* would feel like if this happened to him There is a little story in it as well We have been at pains to talk to lots of people and shown the stories to people who we think understand what we're writing about, and we've asked people if they think they are realistic
Your primary publishers are Penguin. You didn't think of selling it to, say, a British publisher first?
No, you see it is being jointly published by Penguin India and Penguin UK And what I believe in firmly is that if you have a good relationship with someone you don't want to go and look for another partner To me, it's nice to make money writing books, but I can honestly say that what matters more to me is to work with people whom you like I don't think they would, but supposing someone came along and offered £5,000 more than Penguin would give us, I don t think I would be interested, I know Penguin India, they have done so well, it would be a folly and ungenerous to go anywhere else
You emerge as far too nice a guy, there must be something...
I can tell you, I am not that nice
You have been very, very polite, cautious, careful, not one slip-up anywhere, you haven't said anything inadvertent or impolite about *anybody*.
Well, I can say impolite things about myself
That's not good copy, you know that!
Well, obviously, I have failed.
No, you haven't failed The only thing I would say is
...that you are just a terrfic guy!
I'm *not* a terrific guy! I'm a very boring, ordinary man I don't like people to be rude about me, so I don't try to be rude about other people Two things I would say are There are some people I dislike, and I have been very rude to them In my disagreements with the BBC, there have been some people whom I have come to dislike very deeply and very intensely And it has been a very unpleasant experience Because when you dislike people deeply, it actually harms you in a funny way, and this isn't being goody-goody or anything, it's just the truth of the matter It actually harms you more than them and you also run the danger of making an absolute fool of yourself So, I've tried to curb this tendency, but I can honestly say there were some people I *hated* in the controversy I had with the BBC
But you took these guys on. Were you even remotely aware of the possible fallout, it could cost you your job?
Oh, yes, of course!
So did you do it because you thought you were at the end of your run with the BBC anyway?
I did it because of the reason I explained earlier, because I felt that fate had put me in this position When some people say, you were very courageous, my answer was, I was not particularly courageous I had two years to go anyhow before I had to retire And if I had to go two years earlier, maybe they would take my pension, and what the hell, I didn't like the changes that were being made in London and I didn't like the people I was working for at all back in London, I didn't like their attitude
Do you feel a misfit being a Gora Saab in London now? Do you feel a non-entity, anonymous?
I don't feel a non-entity because if it's not boasting, I'm an entity in Britain What I like best in life is friends and friendship, and I have tons of friends, I love going to pubs and having three or four pints with them When I left BBC, so many people said to me, thank you for what you did But I don't care what the bosses say think I know, and I know it really well, that there are lots of people who are glad that someone spoke up at that time But you say, that people say that Mark Tully is dead meat I'm sure that's what some of the managers would like to say, I could name some of them Lots of people commission me, I have lots of friends over there and I'm working very happily in the midst of all I think I feel a dreadful sense of let-down
We've done *The Heart of India*. Are we going to do *The Soul of India* next?
This peculiar Hindu thing is happening to me I started life as a student of theology and intending to be a priest in the Church of England Now, I am making four films on the lives of Jesus and doing what you might call a religious programme every Sunday morning So, it all seems to have come full circle And I've always been very interested in religions I would love to work, with someone else perhaps, on a simple book on Hindus But I'll have to work with someone who knows the subject better than I do A good combination there because people who know a lot often become too complicated, so they need an idiot with them to make sure they explain themselves

The extract from *The Heart of India* on Page 18

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21 – April 20



Ganesha says, influences will be fully manifest this week You will have much to do with loans and funds, public trusts and money and the consequences should be pleasing A trip at short notice is very likely A dash of romance and laughter lends colour and fun

Taurus

April 21 –May 20



Time to reach out to people and places by publicity and journey Overwork will definitely tell upon your health There is a strong financial and family accent to the week, and you could augment your income or have a family get-together But there is also a chance of a separation

Gemini

May 21 –June 20



The moon's last quarter turns your attention to house and domestic matters Children and creativity give great delight The Mars-Uranus sextile fine placing favours job opportunities, joint finances and loans This will also continue right through November

Cancer

June 21 –July 20



The moon's last quarter in your sign galvanises your behaviour patterns, making you act, rather than merely react You will be mighty successful at it by December A little opposition will have to be faced Health of elders might cause concern Do the needful

Leo

July 21 –August 21



A nagging health factor could crop up, causing irritation and discomfort On the plus side, home shop or office could come in for their full share of attention You will most certainly meet interesting people and real characters to excite you You will communicate at all levels

Virgo

August 22—September 22



While friends and well wishers will certainly try to pull your chestnuts out of the fire for you, it is up to you to make every effort to forge ahead Those in journalism, research, TV, the big screen, medicine and psychiatry should do amazingly well

Libra

September 23– October 22



Mercury in your sign, according to Western astrology, has now become direct, giving you good news Those in sales, promotion of products and advertising show imagination and rare skill A good time to marry between now and December or get engaged or enter into a contract

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



It is your turn to call the shots, at least partially Mars and Venus help you to climb out of a hole Journey, ceremony and rare insights into the working of human nature will be yours Religious rites and a shift are possible for Scorpios Secret matters and relationships are likely

Sagittarius

November 23 December 20



A little bit of everything is the way it goes for you, and very probably, that is how it will suit you too Young people could do you a good turn Collaborations, ties, marriage, partnerships, gaiety and group activity will be the major highlights of the week You will be on an important journey now

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



Clashes and kisses for Capricornians A few moves will turn out right, a few, wrong It is absolutely certain that you will be meeting a lot of people and alliances and friendships are bound to happen For the eligible, November could well be marriage time

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



Ganesha says matters related to job, loans and pets take top priority It is certain that you are building steam This week, work and play will go hand in hand Beware of expenses though, they could really hit the roof Many of you are in for travel, communication and new commitments

Pisces

February 19—March 20



Many of you will be driven by boundless enthusiasm even though you might not be so ambitious by nature and inclination By November and December, you will reap the fine rewards of it, and therefore, renew the efforts you put in now Loans and joint finances will be released

B I R T H D A Y S

October 15: Moon-Venus trine gives you just that touch of dignity and class, which makes a difference between mediocrity and greatness, says Ganesha.

October 16: The moon's last quarter makes it a slightly difficult year in the sense of irritations and vexations and disturbing home conditions.

October 17: Moon-Mercury sextile means opportunities to advance in your chosen field of activity. This is a money year. Many of you will be fusing work and play.

October 18: Moon square Venus trine Jupiter means children, romance, hobbies, get-togethers and group activities. Be happy.

October 19: Mars conjunction can lead to world fame, riches, goodness and greatness. You will have money Friends and well-wishers stand by you.

October 20: The sun square Uranus does signify tensions and tribulations but the final result will decide your horoscope. Be ready for stress and the unexpected

October 21: Moon sextile Uranus-Neptune leads to organisational ability, imaginative brilliance and consequent success New work can be launched.

Owing to pressure on space, Gillian Wright and Ruskin Bond's columns could not be carried this week— Editor

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ● MONDAY ● TUESDAY ● WEDNESDAY ● THURSDAY ● FRIDAY ● SATURDAY ● SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — **DOMESTIC**

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
				0850	1 3
				1050	4, 7
				1150	daily
				1610	1 3 5 7
PF-705	0730	2, 4 6 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1 3	IC 722	1250	1 3 5 7
[illegible]					
IC-771	0800	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
[illegible]					
IC-544	1115	2, 7	IC 543	1035	2, 7
IC 769	1615	2, 4, 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
VF-106	1000	4 6	VF-105	0950	4, 6
VF-106	1745	1	VF-105	1710	1
[illegible]					
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
D2-102	0920	daily	D2-101	0850	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI-308	1730	5
9W-212	1945	daily	9W-211	1910	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI-309	1930	6	IC-274	1850	daily
AI-681	2330	1			
[illegible]					
IC-283	0700	daily	S2-025	0810	1 2, 3 4 5
S2-026	0850	1, 2 3, 4 5	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI-682	0925	1
IC-812	1700	1, 3 5	4S-806	1130	1, 2, 3 4, 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S-805	1720	1 2, 3, 4, 5 6	S2-005	1855	1 2, 3, 4 5 7
			IC-811	2055	1, 3, 5
S2-006	1955	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	M9-301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC-264	2210	daily
PF-737	0730	3, 5	D2-181	1640	1 3 4, 5, 6 7
D2-181	1155	1 3, 4 5, 6, 7	IC-702	1630	1, 4, 6, 7
4S-816	1205	2, 4, 6	4S-815	1635	1, 2, 3
4S-812	1205	1, 3, 5	4S-811	1635	2, 4 6
IC-701	1240	1, 4, 6 7	PF-738	1740	3, 5
IC-257	1140	2, 4	IC-257	1520	2, 4
IC-703	0610	1 3 4, 5, 7	IC-704	0920	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF-706	1510	2, 4, 6, 7
PF-705	0730	2, 4, 6 7	IC-230	1620	daily
PF-735	0730	1	4S-811	1635	2, 4, 6
4S-816/811	1205	2 4, 6	4S-812/815	1635	1 3, 5
4S-812	1205	1, 3 5	PF-736	1730	1
IC-229	1310	daily	PF-738	1740	3, 5
[illegible]					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
HYDERABAD					
IC-777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1000	4 6	VF 105	0950	4 6
VF 106	1745	1	VF 105	1710	1
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JORHAT					
IC 213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
LILABARI					
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 765	1720	daily	D2 171	1125	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2-172	1720	1 3 4, 5 6, 7	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC-285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC-249	1430	2 4 7	IC-249	1835	2 4 7
SIMALUGU					
PF 705	0730	2 4, 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6, 7
SILCHAR					
IC-255	0800	3 5, 7	IC 256	1250	3, 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC-254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC-213	1130	7	IC-213	1535	7
IC-213	0910	3	IC-213	1315	3
TEZU					
PF-737	0730	3, 5	PF 738	1740	3, 5
VARANASI					
S2-016	1555	1, 3 5	S2-015	1015	1, 3, 5
[illegible]					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC-541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1

INTERNATIONAL

[illegible]					
KL-876	0345	7	KL-875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
KB-105	0850	2 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2, 4 5, 7	TG-313	1240	1 3 6
TG-314	1355	1 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI-308	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2, 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2, 3 6, 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 2, 3, 5, 6	IC-724	1520	1 2 3, 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1 2, 3 5, 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5, 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1, 5	BG-095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
RA 214	1615	1 4	RA-213	1715	1, 4
IC 747	0820	2 4 6	IC-748	1610	2 4 6
[illegible]					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA-143	1450	3, 7
[illegible]					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	
[illegible]					
KB 106	1105		KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325				
[illegible]					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
[illegible]					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	
[illegible]					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309		

AI ● Air India **BA** ● British Airways **BG** ● Biman Bangladesh Airlines **D2** ● Damania Airways **IC** ● Indian Airlines **KB** ● Druk-Air **KL** ● Royal Dutch Airlines **LZ** ● Balkan Airlines **M9** ● ModiLuft **PF** ● Vayudoot **RA** ● Royal Nepal Airlines **RJ** ● Royal Jordanian Airlines **RO** ● Tarom Air Transport **S2** ● Sahara India Airlines **SQ** ● Singapore Airlines **SU** ● Aeroflot **4S** ● East West Airlines **TG** ● Thai Airways International **9W** ● Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure		Howrah	Time	Dn
Up	Time			
2311	19 15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	6-45	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7-35	3006
3003	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13-00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya-Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues, Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs, Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon, Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon, Tues Thurs, Fri & Sun	10-45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun, Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23-30	**Jodhpur Express**	4-40	2308
2019	6-20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri-Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat, Arr Tues, Wed & Sat	11-35	3074
3045	22-00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday, Arr Friday	12 25	3046
5049	23-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11-35	5050
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon, Wed & Fri	4-30	5048
3009	20-30	**Deen Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9-30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21-00	**Kathgodam Express**	11-55	3020
3021	16-05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	6 30	3032
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri, Sat & Sun, Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7 55	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon, Tues & Wed, Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7-55	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4-30	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	7 55	1182
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gaur Express**	5-15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-30	3134
3103	18-25	**Rhagirathi (Laipala) Express**	10-25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues, Thurs & Sat	4-25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure		Howrah	Arrival	
Up	Time		Time	Dn
6003	20-30	**Madras Mail**	6-55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20-40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14-05	**Coromandel (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20-55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22-15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8-30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	11-05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10-45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
—	14-05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	–
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22-35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
—	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-52 for in-coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203496-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

EXTRACT

The Barren Woman of BALRAMGAON

The water in the drain in front of the small temple of Shiva was normally a dismal muddy brown, but today it was a bright cheerful purple The dog stretched out on the temple platform had scarlet and yellow patches added to the brown and white the gods had given him The temple platform itself was stained with green and scarlet It was Holi in the village of Balramgaon The Yadavs who dominated the village had just finished singing a *phaag*, or special Holi song, in honour of Shiva and were now moving on to their next destination, the house of the primary school teacher

The men chattered excitedly to each other as they walked away One young man whose hair had been stained even blacker than usual said, "Now we've got to sing a *phaag* of Krishna, after all that's what Holi is about, Braj, the home of Lord Krishna "

Another wearing a cotton cap with 'Happy Holi' embroidered on it laughed and said, "Come on, yes, let's celebrate Krishna He stole the clothes of the milkmaids while they were bathing at Brindavan Let's celebrate that "

An old man with the yellow stain on his white beard did not approve of that remark Wagging his finger he said, "We Yadavs don't want anything like that on Holi We don't get drunk and run off into the fields with other men's women That's work for the Bhangis and Chamars "

"More's the pity," the young man replied

The ragged group walked on past empty houses with *charpoys* turned up on the verandahs No one was going to laze on them today Children wearing just tattered underpants, their faces smeared with an assortment of colours, ran about with plastic plungers fixed in bottles of noxious-looking coloured liquid and water pistols shaped like fishes, spraying anyone who did not manage to get out of their range Two old farmers hobbled along with the help of long bamboo staves Only the cows and sleek black buffaloes tethered in front of the houses were unmoved by the excitement of the festival

The school master's brick house plastered with pale brown mud stood in a small grove Two tall neem trees provided shade for a small courtyard Yellow oleanders were in flower, so were red cannas and purple bougainvillaea Holi was a season for flowers, specially red flowers that were used to make the colouring smeared everywhere The school master stood on the verandah to greet the *phaag* party He embraced each man three times saying, "Holi greetings," and then asked them to sit down Sweet pastries known as *gujias* and salty snacks were produced Cigarettes, *bidis* and matches were passed around on a metal tray The *phaag* party sat under the thatched eaves of the verandah They were divided into two groups Chote Lal Yadav, who had seen more than 80 Holis, put his hands on the shoulders of two men and lowered himself down gingerly Everyone looked towards him He raised his arm, pointed at the opposite group and started singing,

"My snake-lord is sleeping, Krishna, run away from here
My snake-lord's a killer, Krishna, go there and he will bite

My snake-lord is sleeping here
Sweet child, run from Kali's lair
Hah, hah, hah, hah!"

The refrain was taken up by the rest of his group, singing at the top of their voices to make themselves heard above the compulsive beat of the drums, the frenzied shaking of particularly loud tambourines, and the frenetic clashing of cymbals

BY MARK TULLY

Extracted from The Heart of India by Mark Tully; Viking [Penguin India]; Rs 300

Then the other group repeated the refrain, leaning forward and pointing agressively at their opponents to give the impression at least that they were singing even louder Chote Lal Yadav's jaw sagged as he sat, silently waiting for the chance to come back at them When it came he led his group in singing,

"Said child Krishna, go and wake him, it's him I've come to nail
I am going to kill your snake-lord, and play within his lair"

When the first song was over, Ram Lakhan Yadav, a man of about 30 who had been sitting at the back, taking no part in the *phaag*, rose and picked his way through the singers towards the gap between the two groups where the percussionists were sitting He was carrying a pair of cymbals

Chote l al Yadav said, "*Arre bhai*, sit down, we don't need any more cymbals, two is quite enough If you also come in now we won't be able to make ourselves heard above all the banging and clashing"

A young man said agressively, "Go away from here Ram Lakhan Holi is the season for cutting the crop and where is your crop? Don't you know how to plough? Something wrong with the seed? Didn't you water the field? What's the problem? People like you bring us bad luck We'll have poor crops this year if you play Holi with us Wait until your house produces some children before trying to play those cymbals"

Ram Lakhan pulled the young man to his feet and punched him in the face Before a full-scale fight could develop the singers were on their feet pinning back the arms of the two men Ram Lakhan was frog-marched off the verandah and given a parting kick to see him on his way

In the small inner courtyard of the house next to Ram Lakhan's his wife was standing against the wall watching women pressing the pastry for *gujias* into moulds, and frying *papadums* and *kachoris* A child darted to the pile of freshly cooked *gujias* and stuffed one into his mouth His young mother caught him up in her arms, hugged him and said, "What will we do if you go on like that The men will be very angry if there are not enough *gujias* for everyone who comes to the house today They will smack you if I tell them what the problem is"

There was a tussle going on in another corner between one of the brothers of the house and his younger sister-in-law She was trying to prevent him pouring a pot of coloured water over her, but she let go of the pot for one moment to prevent the border of her sari slipping off her head, and found herself drenched with yellow dye

Ram Lakhan's wife thought, "I have no brother-in-law to play Holi with, no children to hug I look like all those women here I've got the same gold nosepin, the same bangles, the same silver anklets, I wear the red *sindoor* of a married woman in my hair, but really I'm nothing like them because I have no children and there's no family in our house"

Rani and Sima, two of the younger wives of the family came over to her Rani asked, "Why don't you have any colour on your face or your sari? Doesn't anyone play Holi with you?"

Sima giggled and said, "Nobody plays Holi with a barren woman It brings bad luck"



Ram Lakhan's wife stared silently at the ground

Sima poked her in the ribs and asked, "Have you been sitting under our mango trees? They should be flowering now But they aren't, and people say that if a barren woman sits in a mango grove the trees won't flower"

Both laughed like the schoolchildren they still were really and Rani said, "Come on, we are wasting our time, her mouth is closed as tight as her womb"

Rani Lakhan's wife walked round the edge of the courtyard, her head turned towards the wall, until she reached the front door No one noticed her going. It was as if she had never come to play Holi with her neighbours

The Yadavs of Balramgaon paid calls on each other until late that night Ram Lakhan wondered whether he should call on the man who had insulted him It was said to be particularly important at Holi to go to the homes of people you were not on speaking terms with, but he couldn't face the possibility of another insult, so he stayed inside his room. When his wife came to the door and announced that food had been cooked he said, "How can I eat food when all day I have had to eat the insults of my own *biradari*? You eat, I'm not coming out."

Ram Lakhan's wife went back to the corner of the courtyard where she had her kitchen and tried to eat a little herself, but she too had no appetite She did not have the energy to wash the pans in which the vegetables had been cooked She just squatted against the wall, looking up at the cloudless night sky bright with the fullmoon and countless stars and thinking of her own noisy family home where a new child had always just arrived and her great grandparents seemed set to live for ever What a stark contrast to this silent lonely house where only she and Ram Lakhan lived The family she had married into had a tradition of dying young and Ram Lakhan had been an only child

The silence was broken by a shout from her husband's room "Come here you I want to talk to you"

She put her sari over her hair, stood up, walked slowly across the courtyard, and stood in the doorway. Her husband shouted, "Come," but did not get up He ordered her brusquely to squat on the floor at the end of the *charpoy* on which he was lying

Turning on his side and looking towards the wall Ram Lakhan said in a surly voice, "Because of you my Holi has been terrible Everyone else is joking about red colour for a woman's monthly blood, fertility, Krishna and the milkmaids, and I've had to eat insults about your infertility I've had to eat blows too, and I've been kicked up the backside They wouldn't even let me take part in *phaag* in case I brought bad luck on their crops"

His wife said, "Do you think mine has been any better? Do you think I haven't eaten insults? The youngest two wives next door, just children, they insulted me as though I was some old hag, some servant they could behave with as badly as they liked. Now I come home only to be insulted by you"

"What do you mean? It's my right to speak to you like that Now not only don't I get any respect in the village, I

ON FESTIVE OCCASION

Silk Saree



Indian Silk House

COLLEGE STREET MARKET CALCUTTA



don't even get it at home. My own wife answers me back. Am I a man or just a pair of pyjamas? I am not going to endure another Holi like this one Either you produce a child this year or I will send you back home and take another woman "

Rani started to sob quietly, "Don't start crying again You always try that one and then you turn my mind, and I am lost This time I really mean it There must be something you can do "

"I'm crying because it's so sad We live much better than most others in this village You know how to speak to me so well at night, whereas other women tell me how rough their men are sometimes, but still it's no good because we can't produce children "

Ram Lakhan was still easily moved by his wife Perhaps because of their loneliness they had come very close together She was certainly not just a cook and housekeeper She still excited him too Her severe features dominated by a patrician nose appeared forbidding, but he knew the tenderness and then the lust which could overtake them As a child she had carried brass pots of water on her head every day Balancing them had given her a lithe hip movement which could still arouse Ram Lakhan when he watched her walking

He sat up, swung his feet over the end of the *charpoy* and started to undo her hair It flowed down her back — shining and black. He ran his fingers through it and said, "I don't want to lose you I know that you are much better than any other man's wife in this village I really do love you, but we can't go on like this Something has to be done "

His wife scrambled up onto the *charpoy* pulled him down beside her saying, "This is the only way to produce babies."

After making love the couple lay on their backs looking up at the fan wobbling hazardously on its stem as it stirred the warm night air. Rani said lazily, "I've heard that it's not always the woman who is infertile It can be the man, and then there are some medicines to help with that I have been to the family planning clinic and they say there is no reason why I can't have children Perhaps it would be a good idea if you went to see a doctor?"

"But you know there's nothing wrong with me I've just shown you again that there's no shortage of seed in me. The doctors don't know everything. It's obvious that it's you who are barren "

Rani, realising that there was no point in trying to persuade him any further turned on her side saying, "Well then, all that's left is praying to the gods for the gift of children."

The gods did not oblige, but the pressure on Ram Lakhan was relaxed The Pradhan didn't like quarrels among the Yadavs because they threatened to divide his *biradari* which was the source of his political strength Unless the Yadavs all voted together he would not be re-elected so he had called Ram Lakhan and Hoshiar Singh to his house He said to Ram Lakhan, "Fights sometimes happen in every *biradari* but why did you have to have a fight on Holi of all days?"

Ram Lakhan replied, "He insulted me He said I couldn't join the *phaag* because I was childless and that would bring bad luck on everyone He was obscene too, making lewd remarks about my not knowing how to sow my seed "

"Is that true?" the Pradhan asked Hoshiar Singh

"Well I only meant it as a joke Everyone makes jokes about that sort of thing in Holi There was no need for his brain to get so hot He should have been able to take it "

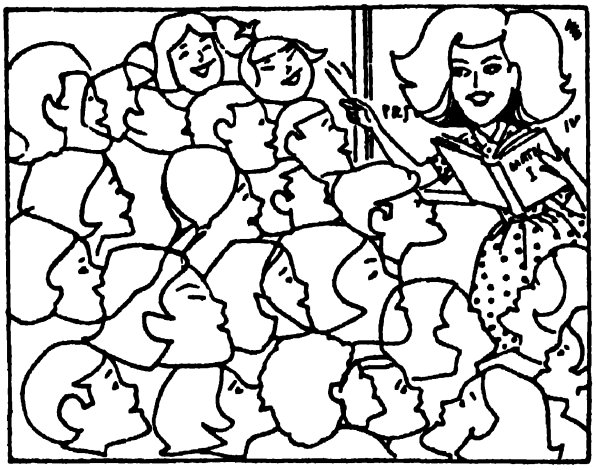
"No man should be asked to tolerate insults to his wife whether she is barren or not In the old days I would have called a meeting of the *panchayat* and asked them to impose *hookah pani bund* on you to teach you how to behave and what jokes are proper and what are not proper Now unfortunately the rules are softer If we are to hold the *biradari* together we can't be too strict I suggest that you apologise and let it be known in the village that you were in the wrong "

Hoshiar singh folded his hands and said, "All right Pradhanji, I have nothing against Ram Lakhan I don't know why I lost my head Perhaps it was the *bhang* I have to admit that I had drunk a glass and that was wrong too "

The Pradhan laughed and said, "All right, we will overlook that too this time Young men will be young men. Now embrace Ram Lakhan, and let's hear no more about it "

So Ram Lakhan's honour was restored and he was able to rejoin the group of Yadavs who had gathered at the Pradhan's house every evening to discuss everything from village gossip to national politics The elders still passed a *hookah* around, the younger men smoked *bidis* or cigarettes There was no liquor, the Pradhan strongly disapproved of that, because drinking also led to quarrels ■

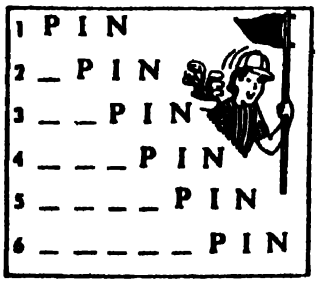
JUNIOR WHIRL ~ HAL KAUFMAN



SUM CLASS! Our artist claims to have included faces of 22 children in this math class drawing. How many do you see?

BIRD CALLS! Add letters indicated to those of words, shuffle letters and find names of birds. 1. BORN + I 2. NEW + R 3. CHIN + F 4. GLEE + A 5. HONE + R

1 Robin 2 Wren 3 Finch 4 Eagle 5 Heron



SIMPLY PICK UP ON PIN WORDS

SEE a pin, pick it up, the saying goes. Let's see if you can pick up on the six PINS stepped off progressively as components of words above.

Definitions of words are as follows:

1. Golf pole marking hole (PIN — in place)
2. Buzz word in public relations.
3. Remove, as a medal or brooch
4. Variety of apple
5. Term applied to U-shaped curve or turn
6. It keeps the wheel from coming off

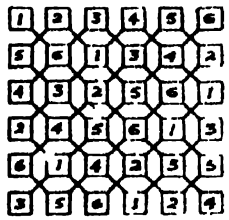
1 Pin 2 Spin 3 Unpin 4 Pippin 5 Hairpin 6 Linchpin

HIGH HO! Thirty-six numbers from 1 to 6 are connected by diagonal lines, below. You are challenged to score the highest possible total among these numbers in keeping with the requirement that no two numbers added are on the same diagonal line.

That is, if you count 6, at top right, you may not use 4, diagonally below, or any other number on that diagonal.

Upon reaching your best total, let someone else try.

Score with 4 – Top row across, 5 Bottom 4 Bottom 3 Bottom row, plus 1 at top



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

DIFFERENCES: 1. Bear is missing. 2. Neckline is lower. 3. Bottle is missing. 4. Picture is missing. 5. Chair is lower. 6. Spoon is missing.

FUNSPOT



PICK PLAY! Climb that tree, pick those apples. Apply these colors neatly by number: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh, 6—Lt. green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Dk. green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

ABSENTIA

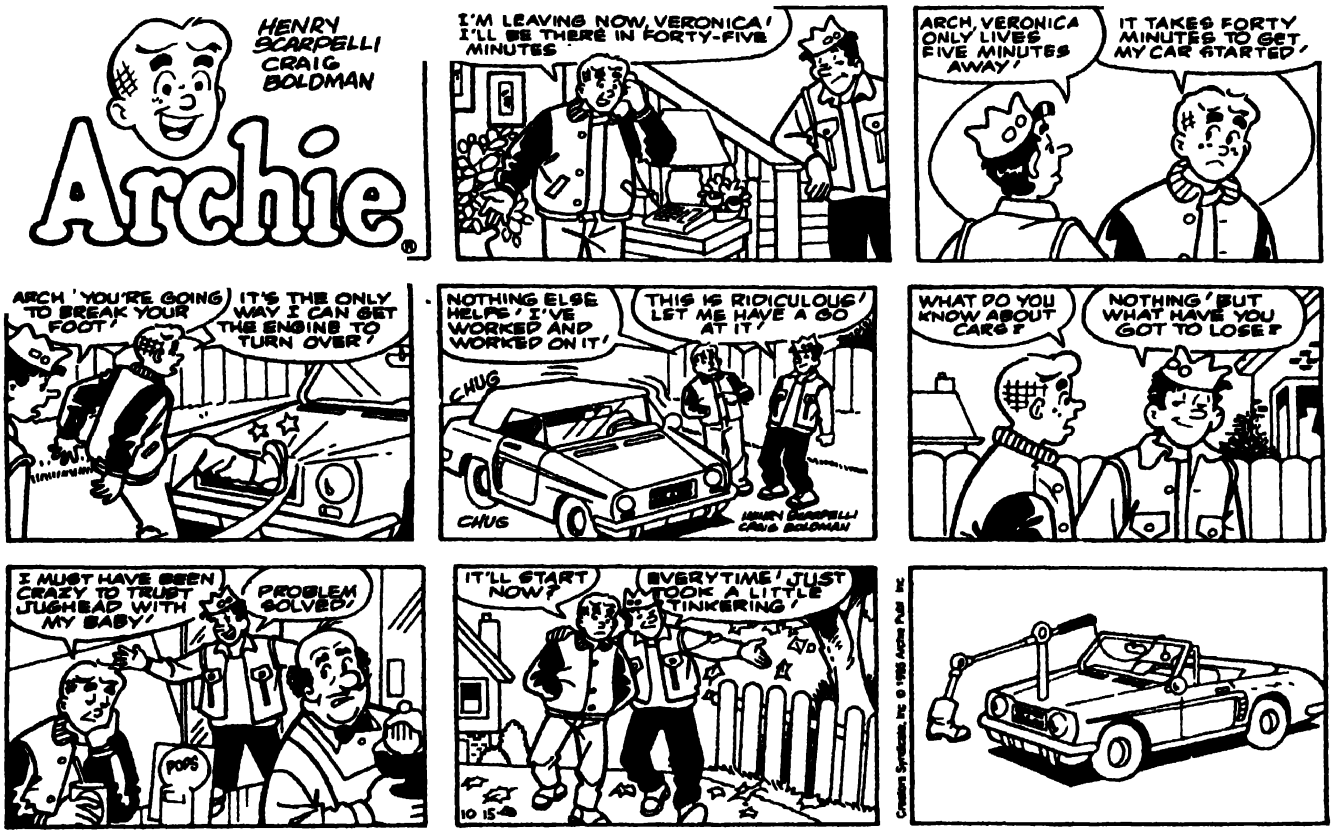
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

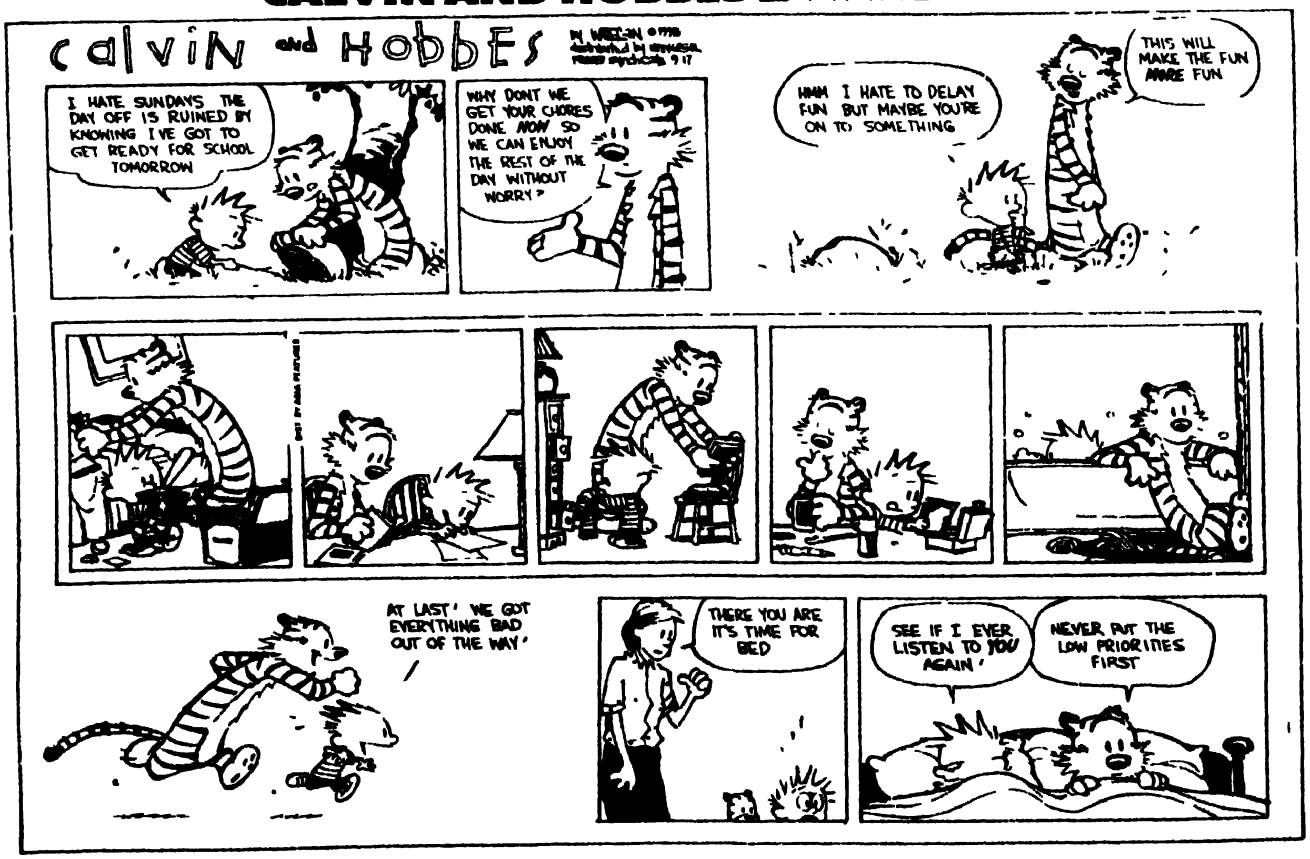
Possible lowcore: Sane, bale.

COMICS

ARCHIE



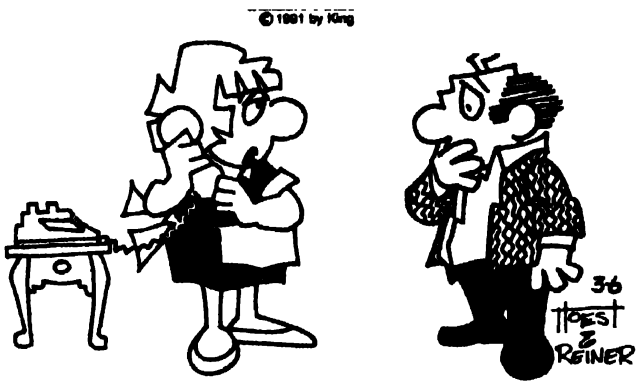
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS



"HOW MANY IN THE SILENT MAJORITY? HOW MANY MARRIED MEN ARE THERE?"



"SOMETHING ABOUT A TAX AUDIT."

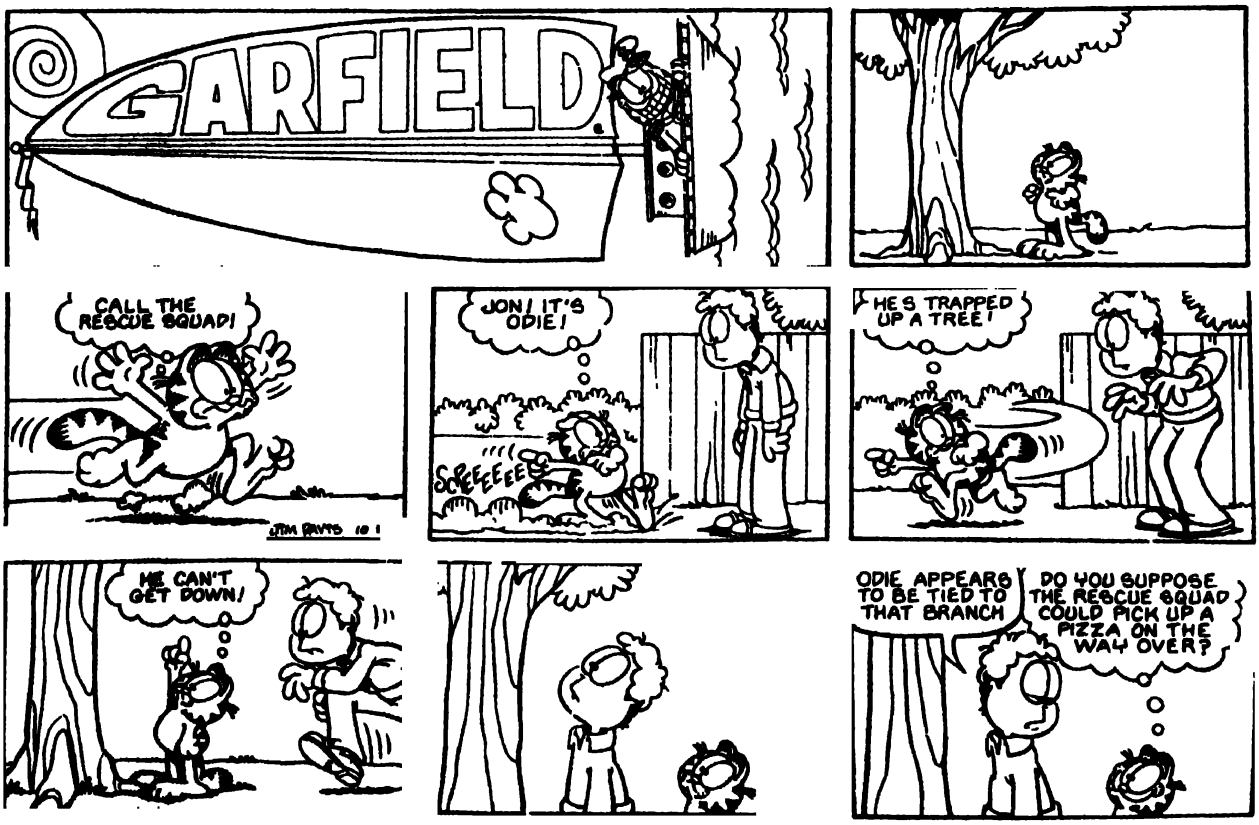


"OUR KITCHEN STOVE BURNED UP YESTERDAY. IT WAS THE BEST THING LORETTA'S EVER COOKED."



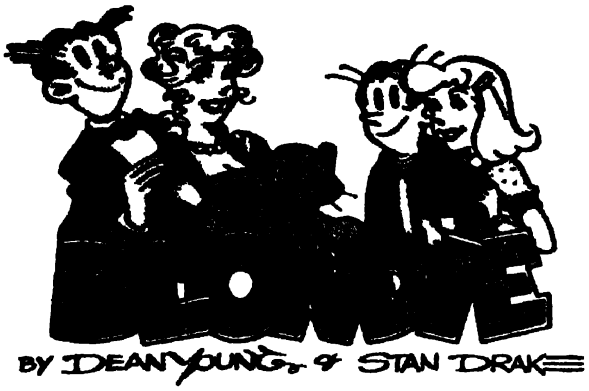
"IT'S A NORTH DAKOTA CHABLIS. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY IT WAS SO CHEAP."

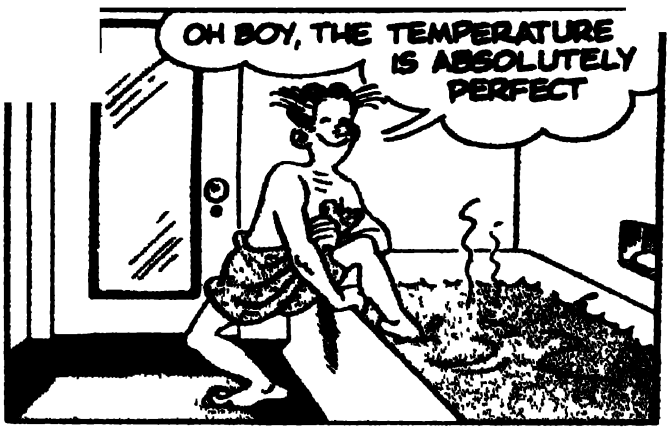
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

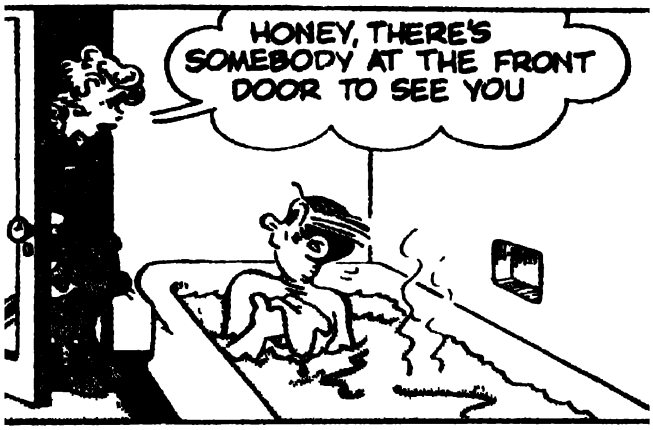


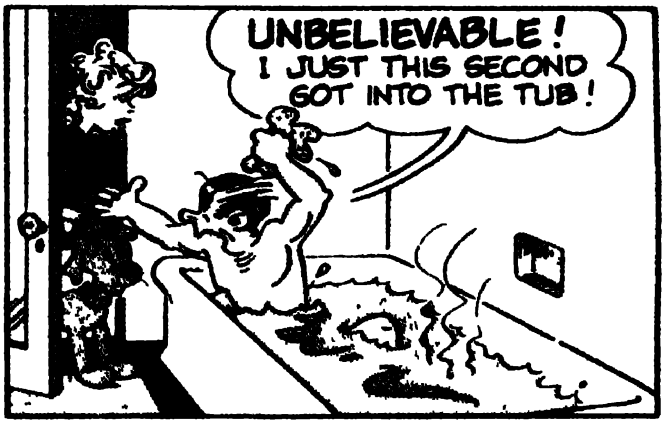
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP







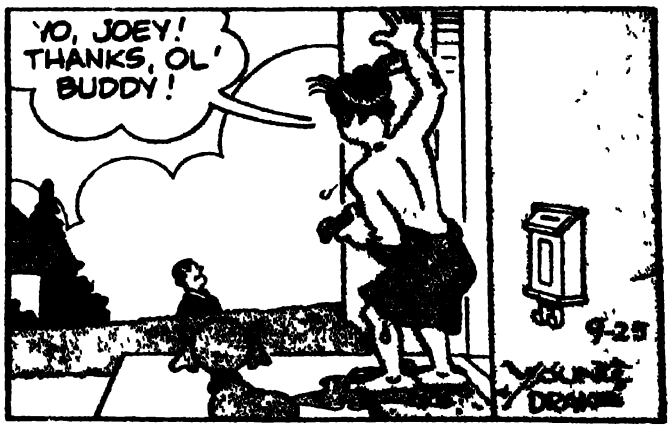








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Merchandise shown here selected from the Autumn Winter '95 collection
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POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



O Banerjee

The Pavement Dweller

Resting his head
On a broken bit of brick
He lays his body down
On the grubby sidewalk,
The filth-coated skin
Scorns the dust-laden
heat
Of summer
And winter sees him
Resplendent
In a tattered coat
Mended with a hundred
patches
Daring to defy
The frighteningly frigid
fingers
With a Buddha-like
stoicism,
Living in demeaning
depravity
He scorns
He defies
Rising to the stature
Of a human-superman
With me
And my window
As his witnesses

Basabi De

Konark

By the rolling sea I
crouch, broken and
petrified,
languishing in the sands
of time, mocked and
corroded
by the marine wind

Mass of casurina
invades me, and
wounds my vanity
under the lunar deluge I
close my eyes and look
inwards.
Once I scaled the
firmament high, with
golden-hoofed
horses in flux and flight,
when my meditating
god in
his Apollonine grab,
played the lyre to the
cascading aria,
playfully oblivious of
the carousing couples
chasing
each other by my gilded
pillars

Now all is an illusion, all
is rock of sombre gray
My god is fallen, his
colours faded, and the
lofty lovers but carven
imagery, and me —
a broken spirit eternally
condemned to human
glare

Jashobanta Panda

Being a Woman

Being a woman
means
living with a gash
in body
and mind
the bodily one
bleeds each month
the one in the mind
continually
at every violence
to womankind
The bodily gash
is a bloody gate
for every visitation
of love or hate
they enter the same way
foe or mate
not love
but woman should be
blind
For,
what is love
and what desire
what is tenderness
and what is fire
What cherishes, protects
and holds
and what destroys with
passion cold
Does a man's organ
know this
or does his mind?

A woman only knows
that somewhere he
binds her
She cannot transcend
the gash that defines her

Radha Arun

MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

So what if she lost the Ford Supermodel title. India's Mehar Bhasin has bagged the Revlon ad, picking up from Claudia Schiffer and Cindy Crawford and how!

They are the supermodels of today — they who have launched a thousand new looks adding fame to the names they sell. With a little something else, they have what is presence.

Joining this elite club of supermodels is Mehar Bhasin — poised to become Revlon's first girl from India. She takes over from Claudia Schiffer, Veronica Webb and Cindy Crawford in the US, all three being the real upper crust of 'salesgirls'.

If the Miss India crown proved elusive for Mehar, she also missed the Ford Supermodel contest by a hair's breadth. And worse, her winning the Ford contest was supposed to be a walkover, actually, and she still had the title snatched from under her squiline nose.

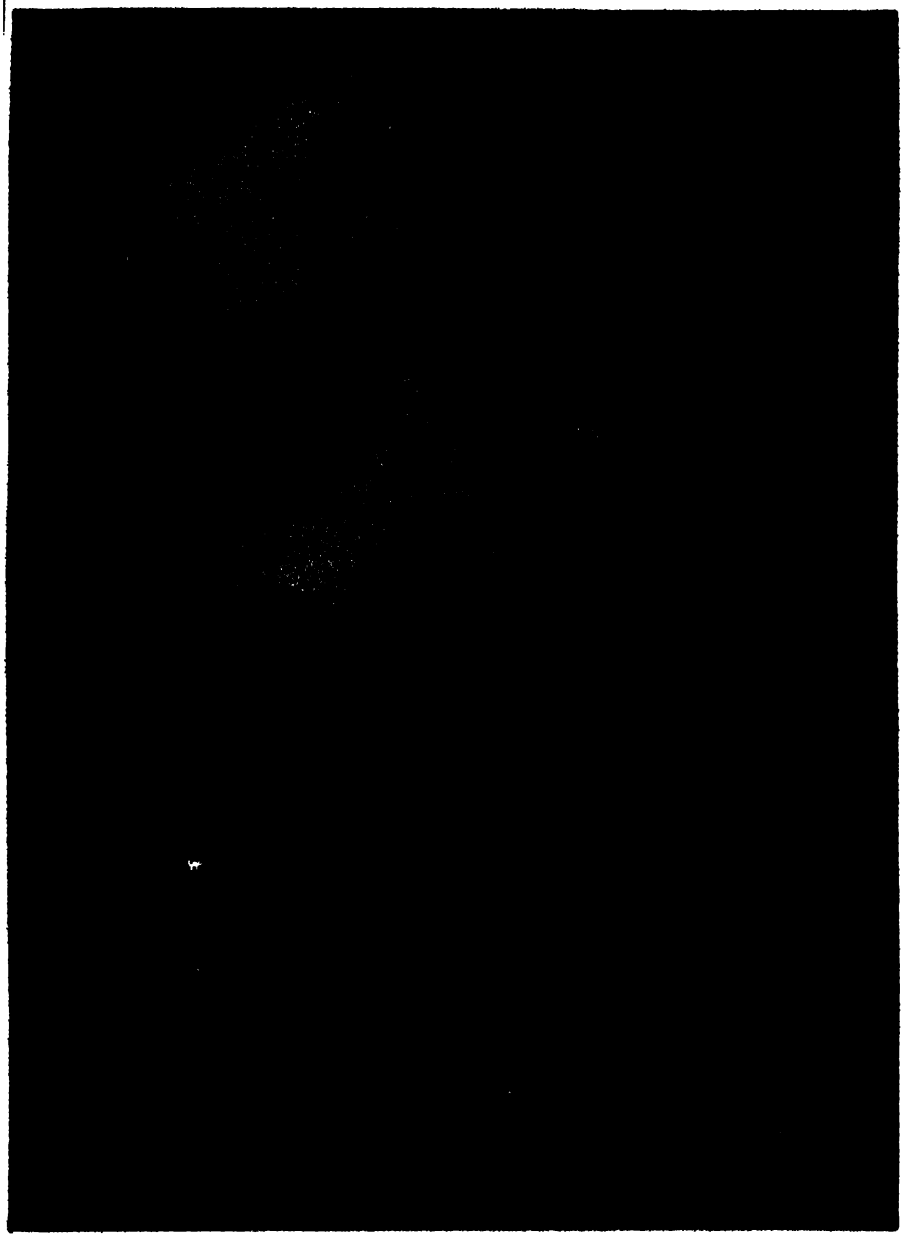
The same nose has not upped everyone. Who cares about the pointless whim the 'Miss Beautiful Hair 1993' has the contract of a lifetime? And it's not for the nose or the hair only; it's for other basic features as well.

Modi-Revlon is more than willing to confer superstar status on her (a development over which she is absolutely "thrilled") judging by the number of top Indian models who had vied for the slot.

Mehar will [illegible] full range of [illegible] perfumes, [illegible] and haircare [illegible] in India.

Currently, [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

PRITI MANKOTIA, *Femina Miss India 1995 first runner-up, leaves for Sun City this week for the month long runup to the Miss World contest. Standing at 5'8" and still managing to look petite, this 20-year-old will soon be modelling her tresses in 'Sunsilk' advertisements. Completely devoid of an attitude that sits prettily on other models, her participation in the Miss India contest was "unplanned and just happened". Come November 18 and this monosyllabic queen will try to inherit the crown from Aishwarya Rai*



Rakesh Sahi

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Freedom.
What is your greatest fear?
Handicap.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mother
What do you dislike most in others?
Hypocrisy

What is your most precious possession?

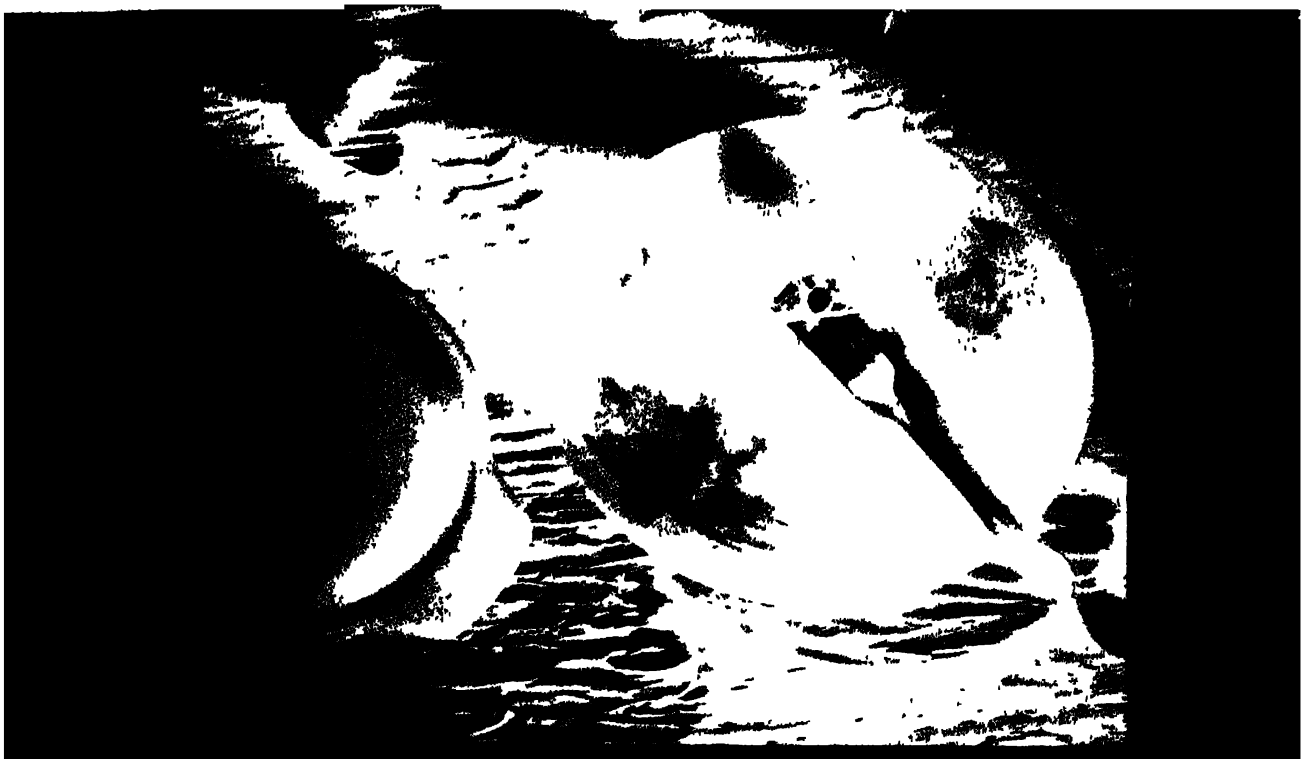
My morals

What do you dislike most in yourself?
Being lazy.
What is your most precious possession?
My morals
What objects do you always carry?
My diary
What makes you most depressed?
Illness
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
Nothing
What is your favourite word?
Possible

What is your favourite word?

Possible

What is your favourite journey?
Cruise
What is your favourite dream?
Prosperity
What is your nightmare?
Midnight flights
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Too difficult to say.
What is your source of sustenance?
My work.
On what occasions do you lie?
Never
What is your greatest regret?
None
What has been your happiest moment?
When my kid brother was born.
What brings tears to your eyes?
Onions.
How do you relax?
Music and workouts.
What do you envy most in others?
Nothing. Envy gets you nowhere.
How would you like to be remembered?
As a nice human being.
How would you like to die?
A natural death.



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22 OCTOBER 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

The Art of Rekha

■ It is Bollywood's loss that it has not been able to exploit an actress as versatile as Rekha, trapping her in cliched roles like the other woman, the vamp, the *tawaif* or the *sindoor* bedecked obliging *bahu* ('Star Plus', September 10)

The directors who dared to cast her in offbeat films like *Umrao Jaan*, *Khubsoorat*, *Jhooti* and *Utsav* managed to glean impeccable performances from her

The so-called parallel cinema is also much to blame for not having made use of this star Relying on a handful of actresses like Shabana Azmi, Smita Patil, Deepti Naval and others who arguably best fit deglamorised roles, Rekha got ignored She was best admired as the hero's brainless plaything

It took Basu Bhattacharya, Mira Nair and a couple of other directors to prove she is just not a star, she is an actress, too
Manoj Kumar Jain,
Shyamnagar (W B)

■ Each has his own way of expressing his thoughts Basu Bhattacharya loves to go back to the same old story of a man-woman relationship And Mani Ratnam likes to play up current problems on celluloid The latter earns the wrath of a section of cinegoers who blast his residence Let us see how the audience receives this bold theme of Basu Bhattacharya
Sourav Ghosh Chowdhury,
Calcutta



Rekha: Rediscovered

■ Rekha is, perhaps, Bollywood's first actress to preach what fitness is all about *a la* Jane Fonda It is remarkable how this obese actress managed to slim and trim herself with her famous workouts
Sunil Banerjee,
Kankurgachi (W B)

■ The cover story left readers unsatiated We turned the pages to read more on Rekha, but there was nothing more
Vinay Asawa,
Calcutta

■ Rekha, even in her forties, can give the new bare-all, dare-all brigade of tinsel town nymphets a run for their money No can ever beat her She is fabulous
Arta Mishra,
Cuttack

■ *Aastha* is sure going to create ripples for it deals with a subject which never fails to arouse human interest
Shome Mukherjee,
Calcutta

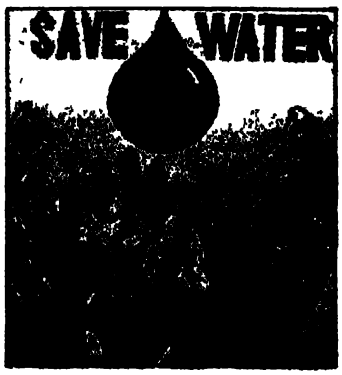
■ In your list of other films dealing with man-woman relationship, you missed Satyajit Ray's *Piku* which depicted an upper-middle class housewife's infidelity

Without breaking social and family bonds, the lady just fell apart from her family, from within This was very aesthetically portrayed as black colour spread across Piku's sketch pad

The bold scenes caused many eyebrows to be raised as they shocked middle-class morality, but cinema is also a reflection of contemporary society
Samrat Datta,
Champahati (W B)

Jayanta Mahapatra will be abroad for a while. Readers may please send their poems to him after the third week of November.

INSIDE



PAGE 4

IT IS time we realised the harm five-star tourism is doing to our environment and culture The solution could lie in the promotion of eco-friendly tourism

PAGE 26

Despite its jet-setting lifestyle, Hollywood has many star couples who swear by fidelity

SECTIONS

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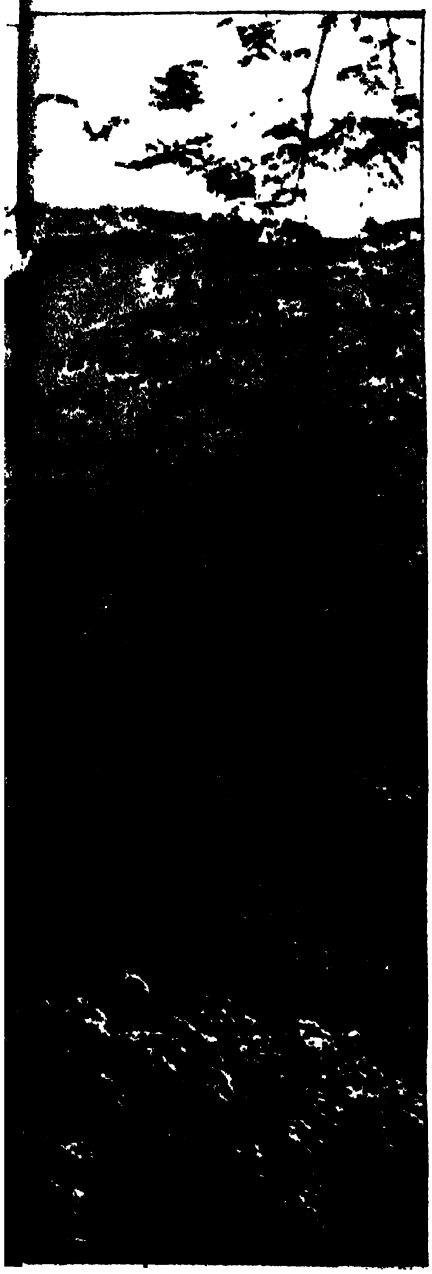
COVER STORY

The Greening of Tourism

A logo at a hotel announces its commitment to the cause of the environment







Recent economic policies may spell boomtime for the Indian tourism industry, but also ominously point to immense environmental destruction.
***Seema Paul** says the only way out is eco-tourism*

THIS IS A TRUE STORY AND OMINOUS FOR THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN India. It happened in Goa, one of the most sought-after destinations for foreign tourists arriving in India for nearly two decades now.

Goans have long bemoaned the proliferation of prostitution as a result of tourism, but even they were not prepared for the shock that awaited them.

A man who assumed different identities, but was popularly known as a priest and called 'Father John', was found to be running a child prostitution ring. A large number of photographs of nude girls and boys were recovered from him and he admitted supplying these little children to foreign tourists. Though he was arrested and put behind bars, he procured bail soon enough Goan social activists are currently campaigning for his rearrest and sterner sentence.

This was just the tip of the iceberg as it became apparent when a few foreign nationals were arrested in a European capital a little later with similar pictures. Says Roland Martins of the Jagrut Goenkaranchi Fouz (Vigilant Goans Army), who has long protested against the promotion of unbridled tourism in his state "There are definite indications that international sex trade barons are eyeing Goa as their next target for sex tourism after Thailand."

Nearly everyone is familiar with the degradation that tourism has wrought on our once pristine hills Though by no means the only cause for the destruction of Himalayan ecology, the infrastructure erected by the tourism industry as well as the behaviour of tourists themselves have contributed to this scenario.

Whether it is Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Mussoorie, Shimla, Ooty or any other popular hill station, hotels have mushroomed without regard to the local ecology, architecture or even the carrying capacity of these towns. Hordes of tourists, who descended on them during summer months, placed huge pressures on their scarce local resources. Consequently, the areas witnessed rapid loss of greenery and proliferation of wastes.

However, as the majority of tourists were Indians, the cultural impact on the local populace was fortunately not too devastating.

But the search for mega-dollars in the wake of IMF loans and the World Bank-dictated reforms programme has generated a greater desire to woo the foreign tourist

Setting a target of five million visitors for 1997, the Government of India has given the tourism industry a number of concessions and incentives Not only has the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act (MRTP) been lifted in relation to hotels, multinationals have now been allowed majority share holding (51 per cent) in Indian hotels, with full repatriation benefits

The 'no construction' limit on beach areas has also been reduced from 500 metres to 200 metres country-wide In



Pool luxury, while public taps run dry

addition, the open-skies policy being pursued by the government promises to ring in a new era of comfort and luxury travel for the foreign tourist

Through all this, the real target is supposed to be the high-spending foreign tourist, also called the top-of-the-line tourist, who is expected to bring in mega-bucks and also supposedly cause less damage to the environment!

The incentives combined with the fast changing economic environment in the country has caused the trickle of foreign tourists to turn into a stream and this may soon become a flood and bring with it all the evils of a quick-fix culture

Evidence of tourism bringing in its trail prostitution has also come from Kerala, where massage parlours near the Kovalam beach are reported to be fast turning into dens of prostitution

The immediate reaction of the tourism industry to these charges would be to deny the link But as a Goan social activist, Fiona Dias, states this has happened rather insidiously Women, in fact, were the first to be targeted With jobs always in short supply in the state and with education levels among the highest in the country, many Goan women preferred to settle for low-paying hotel jobs as receptionists and housekeepers

Quite often they were kept on temporary posts, she states, and then offered the bait of a permanent job if they 'entertained' guests! The media projection of Goa by travel and tourism trade has also played a role and Fiona says, the impact has been so bad that whenever she comes to the North, she finds men knocking at her door after dark "When I confront them, they shamefacedly retort, 'but I thought you are from Goa!'"

Goa is not an isolated example of the cultural onslaught that uninhibited foreign tourism can have on India Pushkar in Rajasthan is fast turning into a haven for drug pedlars and so is Hampi in Karnataka, the capital of the Old Vijaynagar empire, down South

And this is only the beginning

To counter the emerging threat to children, the international campaign to End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ESCAT) has declared its intentions of starting a chapter in India by the year-end. But, as Martins states, a more concerted effort is required on the part of Indian government itself. Foreign tourists coming to India, he says, ought to be handed a list of do's and don'ts at the airport as most foreign countries have been doing for years And sexual mischief ought to be one of the prominent don'ts

The cultural impact of tourism can also take on other less dramatic, but as serious, forms as prostitution Although the revenue brought in by tourism can be used for the restoration of monuments and sanctuaries, in reality quite often the impact of tourism has been the reverse

Take the example of Taj Mahal, which is probably the top tourist-spinner for the country

Almost 10,000 tourists crowd the mausoleum every Friday and 7,500 on weekdays and the effect on the atmosphere has often been cited as one of the probable causes for the monument's decay

There has also been talk of putting a limit on the number of people who should be allowed into the monument at any given time (the carrying capacity concept), but it has not come about, partly as a result of the travel trade's opposition to the idea

Similarly, the impact of the vibrations caused by aircraft during landings and takeoffs on the Khajuraho temples, a major tourist destination again, has been cause for concern, but the travel trade has not even paid lip service to it, forget doing something about it Says Shobita Punja, who was helping the Madhya Pradesh government in drafting a tourism policy some time ago, "The tourism industry must have earned so much out of the village of Khajuraho, but it has put back nothing into the area for the people's benefit It was after a great deal of coaxing that they spent money for building a toilet at the site "

There are several other serious social and ecological concerns related to increase in tourism, specially the five-star variety The travel trade and its proponents contend that foreign tourists bring in dollars which add to the national revenue Besides, in their opinion, increased tourism results in the creation of important infrastructure for the people

Both are without doubt true, but the question that needs to be asked here is. Who receives the money?

In the case of Khajuraho, for example, Punja points out, the village has six five-star hotels and a golf course,

but for the people there is neither a hospital nor a high school!

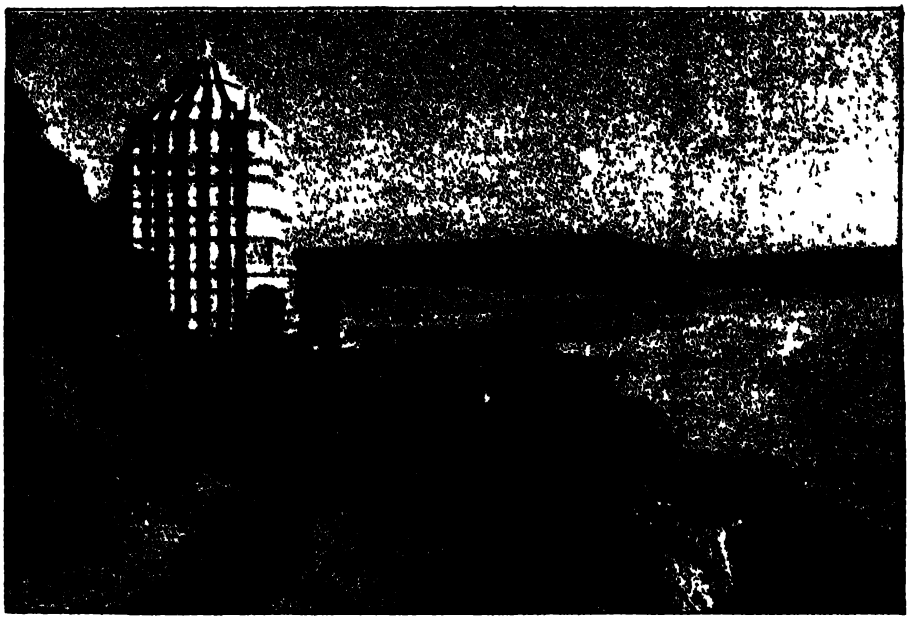
The only infrastructure that tourism created was a road, which it needed for its own survival.

International tourism in any case suffers from the inherent problem that most of the holiday costs for destinations are paid in advance to the airlines and to hotel chain owners, none of whom may be Indian. Although no study has been done for India, the South Pacific People's Foundation of Canada in 1987 estimated that of the money generated by tourism in the Pacific Islands, only 25 to 30 per cent stayed in the islands The rest went to the multinational companies which owned and controlled the industry

Although a large portion of tourism in India was hitherto locally controlled, there is an increasing trend of five-star hotels seeking foreign tie-ups and partnerships The foreign partners are allowed to take 51 per cent of the profits outside the country



Goa: The foreign hand



An upcoming beach resort in Kunkeshwar, Maharashtra

Even for the limited money that does come into India from the travel trade, the question once again needs to be asked is. Who benefits? While the local people may often be displaced when land has to be acquired to build a five-star hotel or a golf course, as has happened time and again in Goa, the jobs that are created hardly ever go to the locals

Take the example of five-star hotels in any place outside the metros and big cities One finds that those in top jobs are not the locals In fact, it is mostly menial jobs or those like waiters that fall in their share.

While it is true locals do not have the required qualifications or skills for top positions, this brings little solace to the people who had to give away their land resource and endowments like fresh water, natural greenery and white sand that go with it for the hotels, casinos and golf courses

Many, on the other hand, believe that it matters little who get the jobs as long as the total cake of jobs is increasing This argument fits in well with the trickle-down economic model that the country is pursuing, but which, even the renowned votary of reforms, Nani Palkhivala, concedes, has so far not been able to improve the plight of the poor.

What is needed in its place is a bottoms-up approach, where policies attempt to meet the needs of the poorest people first!

It is along this concept that the tourism model also needs to change, so that the poor get a stake in its proposed growth, rather than being asked to make sacrifices for it The way to do it, suggests well-known Bombay-based environmentalist, Bittu Sahgal, could be to devise moderately priced structures instead of five-star hotels, where locals can be readily absorbed after short training

As a ministry of environment appointed committee for devising wildlife tourism guidelines, of which Sahgal was a member, stated in its report in 1994, "It would be self-defeating to try and compete with, or out-do, industrial nations by offering 'plastic' and sanitised five-star luxuries to their citizens Not merely will we damage our environment, but we will almost certainly lose what little respect we still enjoy in the world community for caring so little about our own heritage"

Besides the fact that five-star hotels hardly ever employ locals, there are several other reasons why environmentalists distavour them As Normal Alvarez of the Goa Foundation states, "Five-star hotels look beautiful to many people If all the resources of a family are lavished on a single daughter to the exclusion of others, she may look beautiful indeed But this is only because the rest have to appear in tatters Behind every five-star resort are tales of injustice, often to the community at large"

In a place like Goa where fresh water is a very scarce commodity, often huge quantities of water are diverted to five-stars for general washing, swimming pools and air conditioning equipment, and to nurture green lawns and ornamental and exotic trees

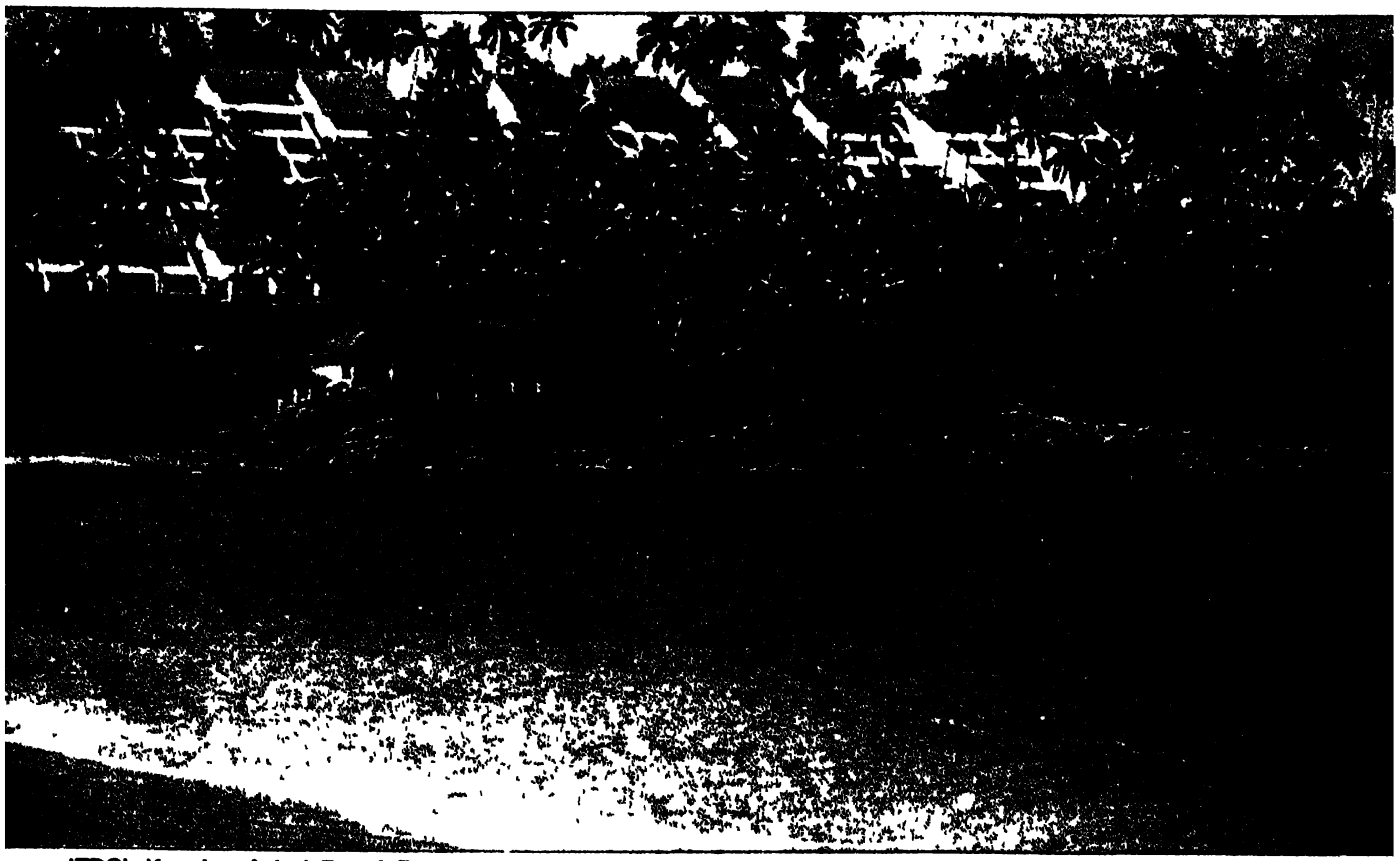
which are inappropriate to the sandy stretches As a result, people in villages have often to contend with a trickle in their public taps

At the same time, five-star resorts have attempted by every conceivable means to prevent public access to the beaches "The local inhabitants," said Alvarez, "have always considered beaches part of their environment and commons. Effective common area includes the trees and vegetation upto 200 metres people on picnics usually retire to these areas once the sandy stretch is too hot for walking Five-star hotels, however, have time and again raised barb wire fencing and kept security guards to dissuade ordinary villagers from moving around the area "

The example of Thailand is available close at hand to prove what uninhibited tourism can bring in its trail Not only has tourism there become synonymous with sex industry, the beaches have become unclean and unattractive and in places like Bangkok, one gets a strong feeling that a whole culture and heritage has been reduced to a mere appendage of the tourism industry, rather than being a living and vibrant entity



Five-star luxury at the foot of the hills



ITDC's Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort

Of course, all this has not happened in isolation -- probably it never does — and it was an entire package of economic liberalisation and foreign influences that brought this about But tourism played a definite role in it

Partly as a result of the recognition of the failings of the traditional tourism industry, the votaries for reform have coined a new catch phrase eco-tourism

According to the London-based Panos Institute, "In its purest sense, eco-tourism is an industry which claims to make a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to create jobs, and conserving wildlife and vegetation It claims to be responsible tourism which is ecologically and culturally sensitive "

Of course, eco-tourism is as much open to abuse, and worldwide experience shows that traditional tourism often tries to camouflage itself under the garb of eco-tourism

In Costa Rica, the haven for nature lovers, developers were swift in taking advantage of the fashionable terminology to build resorts only with the aim of filling their own coffers! .

But if India can conceive policies that would try to seriously implement

eco-tourism in its truest sense, the people, the government and the environment can all be the beneficiaries

Eco-tourism does not only require that we replace the emphasis on five-star tourism with small scale and sometimes family businesses, facilities and infrastructure that are simpler and less expensive than those of mass tourism We also have to give up policies that woo tourists who are not coming to India for a different cultural experience, but to enjoy all the comforts they can get at home in an ethnic setting

It would mean saying 'no' to casinos which can have a negative social and cultural impact as well as to golf courses that are known to be extremely damaging to the environment

It would mean saying 'yes' to the genuine nature-loving tourist — one who wishes to see India's heritage sites, which would again include restricted sight-seeing to preserve them Thus the key words governing healthy tourism or eco-tourism would be caution and greater caution

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Tourism has come in for a lot of flak, but it can actually be a positive force in supporting the environment, argues ***Samita Bhatia***

Some months ago, a group of mountain lovers got into a bitter fight over a picturesque and untouched hill spot One lot insisted that a place as beautiful as that little village in Himachal Pradesh ought to remain a secret shared only by an environment-friendly few The other half held that if there were not enough people to appreciate it, the breath-taking beauty of the locale might as well not be there

The heated discussion captures the essence of a debate that shows few signs of petering out On the one side of the divide are those who feel that ecology takes precedence over tourism And on the other side are those who are convinced that tourism is as important and that ecology can always be its end-product

That tourism is an industry that can easily form the backbone of a country's economy cannot be denied Investment decisions of international governments and private enterprises are today inclined towards shovelling billions of dollars into tourist and transport facilities, building hotels and airports, sprucing up infrastructure — all to lure the well-heeled outsider

In the Indian scenario, too, government funds towards tourism enhancement plans include the development of infrastructural facilities such as improvement of roads and landscaping, construction of visitors' centres, library-cum-museums, conversion of otherwise neglected properties into heritage hotels, improving telecommunications, water supply and electrification facilities, and above all, the development of the souvenir industry

As India continues in its efforts of tourism promotion, overall development will get a boost and the industry will be looked upon as a means to create new sources of wealth

As the ripples of the travel boom widen, the search for new destinations will lead to the opening up and the 'development' of the off-the-beaten-track destinations Which will, in turn, see the mushrooming of hotels and the creation of a huge ancillary requirement A new flight into this very destination will generate hundreds of jobs for the local population

According to Ashok Pahwa, director general, tourism, GOI, the job co-efficient in the tourism sector is much higher than many other sectors of the economy The 1992-93 GOI estimates project that for every million rupees of



Polluting the environment?

investment in the tourism sector, as many as 52 people get employment Says Pahwa, "The latest economic indicators too continue to suggest high returns from tourism For every Rs 1 million invested in the hotel sector, 89 jobs are generated in the hotel segment along with another 47 in tourism related fields "

Obviously, an investment in the tourism industry leads to the creation of demand for other goods and services resulting in increased production and employment opportunities in other sectors

In the transport sector, communications, air services, handicraft and handloom, construction and manufacturing are the natural fall-out Obviously, the multiplier effect of job creation in the tourism sector is very high

The need of the hour is, admittedly, a labour-intensive and employment-oriented strategy which can tackle both urban and rural unemployment A strategy that involves a fuller utilisation of available resources, promoting rural industrialisation through industries that can flourish in rural areas In this context, the tourism industry assumes significance as it can flourish in rural areas utilising local resources and manpower

And tourism proves, yet again, to be the quickest earner of revenue with fast returns on investment

Tourism is also being looked upon globally as a powerful engine of prosperity A dollar of tourist revenue at home, after all, is worth the same as a dollar from products sold abroad, as tourism industry observers point out It is very easy export, they say and one where the market comes to you

But the environmentalist lobbies of the country beg to differ — and how! "As a country, are we in a position to determine whether the impact of an additional beach resort could be any worse than the impact of an additional dam or factory?

"When on the one hand we are setting up pharmaceuticals, fertiliser and power projects without even beginning to assess the environmental hazards they may unleash, why look upon tourism development as the unnecessary evil?" asks G Raveendran, deputy director general, tourism, GOI

He further argues " Is there any industry in the world that doesn't pollute our environment or ecology? There is a definite effect of industries and the chemicals they spew into the

environment Tourism is the least of the pollutants "

Industry observers comment that smaller industrial projects are not considered as high-profile as a beach resort to be set up For example, by the Hilton group in Goa While the former roll in — environmental hazards and all — the latter comes at the receiving end of opposition from the environmentalists' lobby

According to Hans J Bredt, general manager, The Leela Beach, Goa, though the property employs 900 locals, he has, however, met a stumbling block in the general laid-back attitude that the Goans revel in

Besides providing employment, hotels have proved to be the supporter of the local handicraft, folk arts and culture of the state What some might label as 'fads' are actually geared towards the support of the local handicraft of the region and in showcasing them to international travellers

Premier hotels in the states have bangle sellers, puppeteers, *mehndi-walis* and other craftspersons marking their presence in the hotels while local handicraft are exhibited in their lobbies and dancers thread their way in between tables at their speciality restaurants

"A lot of work that is currently going on on the environmental front is feeding the real lack of real understanding that currently exists in India on environmental topics," says Raveendran "While the criticism may be true to an extent it is also totally false "

Industry observers concur that in the Indian scenario tourism must have an environmental face, for the country cannot run headlong into revenue generation without considering the impact on the ecology "But an expansion and growth in tourism is certainly possible in a responsible manner that to the best extent reduces the impact on the environment," says Kavin Sethi, director, corporate communications, Asia Pacific, Lufthansa The German aircarrier is known worldwide for its adherence to environmental concerns

On the one hand, one drives through the metros with their fair share of garbage dumps, sewage and atmospheric pollution and then wonders why there has been no concerted effort to preserve and even beautify the surroundings "On the other hand, if we can earn some foreign exchange for the country by setting up responsible projects — and there are responsible projects around the world — then why not?" Sethi counters

He cites the classic example of Sri Lanka and Seychelles where tourism and the growth of tourism has peacefully co-existed with the environmental needs of the destination

'Greening tourism' is, admittedly, even today a relatively new phenomenon worldwide, so it is only natural that India is only just catching on So far, greening is being confined largely to a few, more aware hotel chains that are going whole hog on recycling of waste, evolving environment programmes and promoting energy conservation

The larger issue of spoiling the environment is 'destination management' which is not so much to do with individual players in the game Hotel chains like the Taj, the Oberois or Welcomgroup are not into destination management as yet The individuals are not looking after Goa, Jodhpur or Agra *per se*, which is essentially a state subject "In some destinations some unscrupulous individuals may get into an unholy nexus with the town planners and have, perhaps, been known to go on a rampage on the landscape Take the contour of a Mussoorie hill, for example Even local administrations are yet not fully alive to the needs of environment, for a larger world-view is yet to peter down to them," says Navin Berry, promoter, South Asia Travel & Tourism Exchange (SATTE), publisher and industry observer for over two decades "A lot of the 'rape of the environment' is happening through default," Berry observes

And as this issue is coming alive, both among the entrepreneurs and within the government, a younger breed is stepping forward, more aware and alive to the needs of environment

Today, the Patnitop Development Authority, for example, is so rigid in its stance that even government organisations are not allowed to start construction in the Jammu resort Even locations for essential services like a telephone exchange are not available to the authorities The administration area of Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh is another example where the Army has achieved marvels in the cantonment area

The administration today is very alive to the needs of the environment and that is the crux of the matter

Berry states, "If you have a more aware town planner, hotel or resort developer, tourism can be the single largest positive force in retaining our environment " The recent India launch of the magazine, *Green Hotelier*, a quarterly publication dealing with environmental issues facing the international hotel and tourism industry is proof of the concern that the hotel industry shares on the environment front, Berry adds

Monuments which are a part of our environment and heritage can be given a fresh lease of life by private enterprise But do we have the resources to maintain them with the government's budgeting getting restricted to priority areas like education and safe drinking water? "There

DID YOU KNOW...

☛...that today 212 million people around the world are employed in travel and tourism, a business that earns US$ 3.4 trillion annually? Last year, the number of international air passengers stood a 339.6 million, and the number was expected to increase by a 100 million by 1998.

☛A decade from now the numbers employed in the world travel industry will touch an impressive 338 million people and the revenue generated by the global industry will have scaled US$ 7.2 trillion.

☛The estimates of foreign exchange earnings from tourism in the year 1994-95 touched Rs 7,366 crore, a growth of 13.2 per cent over the previous year.

☛According to Ashok Pahwa, DG, Tourism, Government of India, it is estimated that during the current year foreign exchange earnings from tourism will touch Rs 10,000 crore. The position of tourism in terms of gross foreign exchange earnings is No. 3 and in terms of nett foreign exchange earnings is No. 2.

☛Latest figures indicate that in 1994-95, 18.4 million people were employed directly or indirectly in the tourism industry. And the multiplier effect of employment in the industry saw an additional 2,396 million jobs created. The share of tourism in invisible earnings is 25.4 per cent.

is a resource crunch and in this scenario, to expect the government to pump in crores of rupees into the maintenance of these monuments, will be asking for too much

"Given the right directions, parameters and management, tourism is the preserver and restorer of these sites of national importance," emphasises Berry The Taj Mahal is a classic example

Though this wonder of the world attracts tourists by the hordes there is little development around But with the private sector now involved, says Berry, the country will soon see the developing of new tourist facilities in the area "A hotel site has been marked out and on the anvil is an amusement park at Shilpagram, a kilometre away from the monument, a holiday resort eight kilometres from the Taj and the construction of a ropeway from the Red Fort to Itmad-ud-Daullah across the Yamuna," says Berry

There are few reasons that dictate that such tourism must be perceived as a negative force Large scale resorts and even theme parks that adhere to the needs of the natural environment can actually contain damage to the environment while channelising multitudes of travellers through these tourism tunnels

Tented accommodation in forested areas, camping sites, adventure sports like trekking, river rafting will all provide tourists the back-to-nature holiday experience Industry observers state that if the grouse against such tourism activity is that trekkers and adventure sport lovers pollute the natural environs, it can be countered with imposition of hefty fines, which is a practice worldwide

If the 'carrying capacities of destinations' can be worked out and adhered to, then there is no way that tourism cannot be viewed as an enhancing force and a positive supporter of the environment

Then, there are the vast tracks of land that practically have no development Some environmentalists believe that these are best left alone and shrubbery allowed to grow wild While all that may stand to reason, it is important not to forget that wilderness in the middle of cities is not feasible Cities and towns must develop these green lungs

A golf course is an ideal way of developing this Large land resources lie barren with the owners not being able to eke out anything from them

"But this, too, has spawned opposition from environmentalists who are under the misconception that golf, a sport long associated with fresh air,



A traditional welcome for visitors



The Oberoi overlooking the Delhi golf course

acres of green grass and elegant tree-lined fairways, is not environment friendly," says Rishi Narain, golf enthusiast

Environmentalists in India, specially those in Goa where the protests are the loudest, claim that to build golf courses, developers cut down trees, destroy the natural habitat of small animals and birds, contaminate drinking water with chemical fertilisers, displace villagers from their homes and waste precious water resources

But golf courses are normally charted on barren land, and the Pune Club is a classic example of how barren areas in Indian metros can be converted into densely wooded lungs which can also be commercially sustainable through golf "The course was built on a 100-acre site which was barren and

supported a dozen sickly trees at best When the area was annexed to the Pune Club, 50,000 trees were planted throughout the course The survival rate of the trees was 80 per cent," claims Narain

And just consider the value of a tree as calculated by the Basant Lok Jagriti Association, says Narain A tree that lives for 50 years generates Rs 5 3 lakh worth of oxygen, recycles Rs 6 4 lakh worth of fertility and soil erosion control, creates Rs 10 5 lakh worth of air pollution control and Rs 5 3 lakh worth of shelter for animals and birds "So a golf course contributes crores to the economy even before the first shot is even teed off"

Worldwide, the industry has invested millions of dollars, conserved untold litres of water, by irrigating golf courses with reclaimed waste water

In the barren and dry environs of Kutch, the environmental lobbies are up against a golf course which could help put this remote and unknown area on the domestic and international tourist map Development of the barren stretches and employment to the impoverished locals would be the natural fallout

A golfer is a high spending tourist, spending US$ 200 and more per day —four to five times more than an average tourist

Antibodies—in this case environmental lobbies—are not always sufficiently informed about the ground realities And it is unfair to conclusively establish that tourism is the villian in the environmental degradation

For those who love nature (and the comforts of civilisation), tent holidays seem to be the answer, feels ***Shameem Akthar***



Tent holidays for budget travellers

A starlit sky, waves lapping a few kilometres off your tent With only a handful of humanity around to lull you into a sense of security No sound except the dry rattle of palm leaves and the wind's soft tap on your tent flap A dream holiday on a shoestring budget

In order to tap the market of a fast burgeoning brigade of backpackers, who want to enjoy the outdoors without sacrificing the luxuries of civilisation, the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) had, in 1991, launched its tent holidays, a brainchild of its former director, Devrath Mehta

And the number of spots where these are offered has been steadily increasing and the MTDC is planning to introduce 'luxury tents' for the higher income bracket who are only too willing to pay any amount for more comforts

This also soothes the conscience of state planners who are not unaware of the fact that development, in the guise of more tourist facilities, will corrode the fragile eco-systems in the 'pure, untrodden areas' promised in the brochures And by limiting construction activity to tent fixtures, common toilets, electricity connection (for the fans and lights in the tents), thatched restaurants with benches from roughly-hewn wood, the MTDC is also overcoming the legal hurdle, a Supreme Court ruling, which prevents permanent constructions within a specified limit of the sea

Ecology seems to have become the buzzword that emanates even from

the unlikely mouths of policy planners. In fact, the state government's tourism policy, released this year, is replete with words that vow to be 'environmentally friendly' And the policy avers that the 'state will continue to fund facilities in the nature of camping grounds, tent resorts, mud huts, caravans and other unconventional and environmentally friendly ventures

In addition, the state may invest in remote areas where private sector initiative is not readily forthcoming, because it is necessary to put up minimum facilities at ecologically or culturally outstanding sites

This piously caring tone is scrupulously maintained throughout the 30-odd pages of the policy "The preservation of the fragile ecological balance is the first priority of the state government Only after thoroughly studying the environmental impact of tourism projects will they be permitted in ecologically sensitive areas Additional responsibility will be fixed on investors to ensure that norms with regard to solid waste, sewerage, sullage, plantation of trees, drawing of ground water and observing architectural guidelines are adhered to While clearing projects it will be ensured that more greenery is provided in the selected areas without hampering traditional access of local population "

But the anti-tourist pack of ecologists are unimpressed For, those like Winin Pereira, author of several books, including *Tending the Earth*, tent holidays constitute an intrusion, even if only minimal, on a self-contained eco-system Even the diversion of food to feed the ever-hungry horde of tourists amounts to eco-pilferage He argues that the "suction of vegetables, fruits, meat and fish by these hyperconsumers results in higher prices or even total loss of food for the local people "



Tent resorts Environmentally friendly

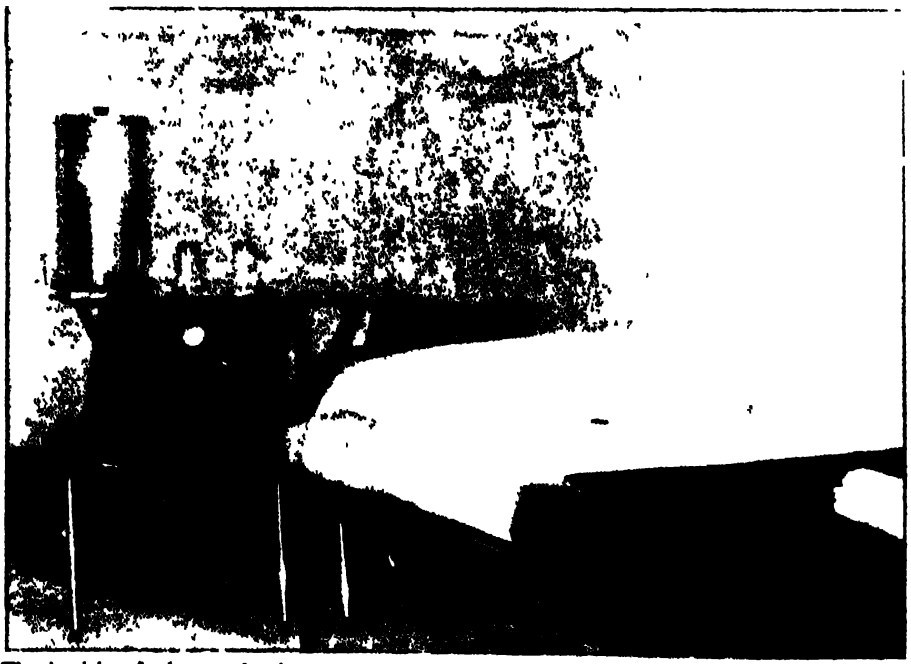
While this debate has just taken off here, the MTDC continues with its expansion plans for tent holidays particularly since its tourist infrastructure is still not 'developed' to absorb the increasing horde of budget travellers And those who want to get off from the concrete jungles into natural ones are increasing And this does not just mean those who fraternise at trekkers' clubs which sprout wherever civilisation smothers off nature

While the trekkers prefer to rough it out with just a tent and a sleeping bag which may be hired at just Rs 20 (after paying a deposit of Rs 3 200) the comfort seekers like to pretend that they are roughing it out in a four seater tent that may be rented at Rs 200 per night The latter come with beds and, of course, the attendant comforts of electricity - lights and fans

At present tent holidays are offered at limited spots Ganapatipule, Harihareshwar, Karla Kihim, Dapoli and Bordi The sun kissed beach and lush green resort of Ganapatipule attracts pilgrims eager for a *darshan* of the 400 year Swayambhoo Ganpati Vijay Chavan, an MTDC official, reveals that, starting November Bordi, will play host to teams of eco-tourists whom the MTDC plans to educate

As part of its policy to develop eco tourism the department plans to invite Bombay University lecturers to act as guide to tourists who will be explained the wonders of marine, botanical and zoological wonders in this area, famous for its delicious chicoos and tribal Warli art

Most other spots where tent holidays are offered are beach resorts like Kihim "woods brimming with wild flowers, rare butterflies, and birds" And, as the brochures promise, most are "unspoilt and isolated' How long they will remain so, even with only tent dwellers to mar the seascape, remains to be seen ■



The inside of a luxury tent

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

A FACE IN THE DARK

It may give you some idea of rural humour if I begin this tale with an anecdote that concerns me I was walking alone through a village at night when I met an old man carrying a lantern I found, to my surprise, that the man was blind "Old man," I asked, "if you cannot see, why do you carry a lantern?"

"I carry this," he replied, "so that fools do not stumble against me in the dark "

This incident has only a slight connection with the story that follows, but I think it provides the right sort of tone and setting

Mr Oliver, an Anglo-Indian teacher, was returning to his school late one night, on the outskirts of the hill station of Shimla The school was conducted for Indian families and the boys wore blazers, caps and ties

Life magazine, in a feature on India, had once called this school the 'Eton of the East' Mr Oliver had been teaching in the school for several years (He is no longer there) The Shimla bazar, with its cinemas and restaurants, was about two miles from the school, and Mr Oliver, a bachelor, usually strolled into the town in the evening returning after dark, when he would take a short cut through a pine forest

When there was a strong wind, the pine trees sad, eerie sounds kept most people to the main road But Mr Oliver was not a nervous or imaginative man He carried a torch and, on the night I write of, its pale gleam — the batteries were running down - - moving fitfully over the narrow forest path When its flickering light fell on the figure of a boy, who was sitting alone on a rock, Mr Oliver stopped Boys were not supposed to be out of school after seven pm, and it was now well past nine

"What are you doing out here, boy?" asked Mr Oliver sharply, moving closer so that he could recognise the miscreant But even as he approached the boy, Mr Oliver sensed that something was wrong The boy appeared to be crying His head hung down, he held his face in his hands, and his body shook convulsively It was a strange, soundless weeping, and Mr Oliver felt distinctly uneasy

"Well — what's the matter?" he asked, his anger giving way to concern "What are you crying for?" The boy would not answer or look up His body continued to be racked with silent sobbing "Come on, boy, you shouldn't be out here at this hour Tell me the trouble Look up!"

The boy looked up He took his hands from his face and looked up at his teacher The light from Mr Oliver's torch fell on the boy's face — if you could call it a face

He had no eyes, ears, nose or mouth It was just a round smooth head — with a school cap on top of it

And that's where the story should end — as indeed it has, for several people who have had similar experiences and dropped dead of inexplicable heart attacks But for Mr Oliver it did not end there

The torch fell from his trembling hand He turned and scrambled down the path, running blindly towards the trees and calling for help He was still running towards the school buildings when he saw a lantern swinging in the middle of the path

Mr Oliver had never before been so pleased to see the night-watchman He stumbled up the watchman, gasping for breath and speaking incoherently "What is it, *Sahib*?" asked the watchman "Has there been an accident? Why are you running?"

"I saw something — something horrible — a boy weeping in the forest — and he had no face!"

"No face, *Sahib*?"

"No eyes, nose, mouth nothing."

"Do you mean it was like this, *Sahib*?" asked the watchman, and raised the lamp to his own face The watchman had no eyes, no ears, no features at all — not even an eyebrow! The wind blew the lamp out, and Mr Oliver had his first heart attack

(Sanctuary Features)



The torch fell from his trembling hand. He turned and scrambled down the path, running blindly towards the trees and calling for help. He was still running towards the school buildings when he saw a lantern swinging in the middle of the path. Mr Oliver had never before been so pleased to see the night-watchman

INNER EYE — Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21—April 20



Ganesha says time for loans, funds, investments, capital formation, buying, selling and shopping, thanks to the new moon on October 24 Passion and power will be hotly pursued You may please expect news from a distant place, thanks to Mars Get your travel-kit ready

Taurus

April 21 May 20



October 25-28 is definitely action time Clashes too, are more than possible, so also are the gains Matters about partnerships, be they personal or professional, will come to a head It is decision time for sure Like the Ariens, you too will be in for loans and funds

Gemini

May 21 June 20



Marriage, links, associations, collaborations, travel, tours, the next 60 days do propel you towards them Human relationships will be predominant Geminis will also have a chance to do a job-switch, or get a promotion in the same firm

Cancer

June 21 July 20



Good taste, good fortune, bargains and discounts, good appearances, all help to make you comfortable, prosperous and happy because of a wonderful Mercury and Jupiter placing Your creativity and ingenuity will carry all before it Travel foretold

Leo

July 21—August 21



The focus shifts to office, house, property, children, research, education, renovation and decoration which will continue at least till the end of January, 1996, or even February Promotion and gains are possible Travel on the cards So get ready for it

Virgo

August 22—September 22



Use all the media of communication and transport, example fax, jet, respectively to grab what you want In tests and exams, you should make it Also, the right time to take a crash course in whatever interests you A fast forward time so to say Keep your options open

Libra

September 23—October 22



The name of the game is money and family Please expect visitors and relatives to be with you or invite you to be with them Deeds and documents will be signed, sealed and delivered within just 60 days Rentals, taxes, loans, insurance, income from various sources are possible

Scorpio

October 23—November 22



Not cynicism but joy, not suspicion but open acceptance, is the right attiude to have Colleagues will back you up, friends will be with you, dear ones will love you and children and grandchildren give delight Venus in your sign will help you to love and be cherished Money comes in

Sagittarius

November 23– December 20



Moon-Jupiter conjunction in your sign assures money, buying and selling, knowledge, religious rites, charity, good relationships, affairs of the heart and plenty of action A trip is on the cards in the next 15 days Secret deals and negotiations are probable for you

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



You will be a winner Use your considerable talent for organisation and practicality to advantage, is the astro tip Let friends and wellwishers support you fully Children, romance, good money, grandchildren and a touch of romance make it a jovous week

Aquarius

January 20—February 18



A new high in status and prestige will be yours, because of the new moon's placing in your 10th angle This is the right time to take the initiative, start a project shortly, use all your resources in what you want October 22-26 will be truly outstanding despite irritations, says Ganesha

Pisces

February 19—March 20



You will be sounding the morning bugle call for soldiers, as your enthusiasm will be boundless and your devotion, matchless Journey, ceremony, publicity, form a happy trio of aces for you The right time to steal the thunder of your foes and rivals Romance is on the cards this week

BIRTHDAYS

October 22: Moon-Mercury conjunction, says Ganesha, assures fun, friendship and finances. Travel and news will lead to gains and joy. Romance foretold.

October 24: [illegible] results in happy coincidences and [illegible] surprises. But the home situation and the [illegible] in-laws could hurt you badly.

October 25: The new moon of October 24 finds you ready to [illegible] love, industry, factory, marriage, [illegible] and so on.

[illegible] news, messages, ideas, exciting [illegible] information, waiting for triumph and joy. Teachers and writers do well.

October 26: Moon-Mars conjunction enthusiasm, struggle and final[illegible]. Your[illegible] will be pretty high and that should be a matter of pride for you.

October 27: Moon-Jupiter conjunction makes you famous and popular. Be generous and tolerant. Many Scorpios will be making plans for the future.

October 28: Venus, symbolising love, arts, [illegible] luxuries, is in fine placing with Neptune, planet of inspiration and imagination. The result will be unalloyed happiness.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	**Time**	**Days**	**Flt No**	**Time**	**Days**
■ AGARTALA					
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 7	IC 742	0850	1, 3
			IC 742	1050	4 7
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
■ AHMEDABAD					
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2-028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
■ AIZAWL					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
■ BAGDOGRA					
PF 735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1 3 5 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 3 5 6 7
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 181	1600	daily
■ BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
■ BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
■ BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
AI 681	2330	1			
■ DELHI					
IC 263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9 303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	4S 806	1115	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S-805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	2005	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	2045	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9-301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
■ DIBRUGARH					
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4, 6
IC 701	1240	1, 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
■ DIMAPUR					
IC-257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
■ GOA					
S2 026/021	0850	1 2 3 4, 6	S2 022/005	2005	1 2 3 4 5
■ GUWAHATI					
IC 703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7

FLIGHTS

■ AIRBAN					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	**Time**	**Days**	**Flt No**	**Time**	**Days**
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC-230	1620	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S 811	1635	2 4, 6
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S-812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC-229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
■ HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
■ IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3, 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
■ JAIPUR					
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
■ JORHAT					
IC 213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
■ LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
■ MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
D2 172	1640	daily	D2 171	1155	daily
IC 765	1720	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
■ NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
■ PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 812	1700	1, 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
■ PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
■ RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
■ SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
■ TEZPUR					
IC 213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC-213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
■ TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
■ VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
■ VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
■ ZERO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 738	1730	1

INTERNATIONAL

■ AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]					
KB-105	0850	2, 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2, 4, 5 7	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
TG-314	1355	1 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2, 4, 5 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1625	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5, 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2, 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
[illegible]					
BG-092	0850	4, 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2, 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2, 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 3, 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 3 5, 6
BG-094	1905	1, 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1, 5	BG 095	2020	1, 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KATHMANDU					
RA 214	1015	1 4	RA-213	1715	1, 4
IC 747	0920	2, 4 6	IC-748	1610	2 4, 6
LONDON					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA 143	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU-538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARO					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2, 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ-415	2345	2 5	SQ-416	2230	2 5
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

AI Air India ● **BA** British Airways ● **BG** Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● **D2** Damania Airways ● **D5** NEPC Airlines ● **IC** Indian Airlines ● **KB** Druk-Air ● **KL** Royal Dutch Airlines ● **LZ** Balkan Airlines ● **M9** ModiLuft ● **PF** Vayudoot ● **RA** Royal Nepal Airlines ● **RJ** Royal Jordanian Airlines ● **RO** Tarom Air Transport ● **S2** Sahara India Airlines ● **SQ** Singapore Airlines ● **SU** Aeroflot ● **4S** East West Airlines ● **TG** Thai Airways International ● **9W** Jet Airways ● **VF** VIF Airways Limited

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6 45	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 35	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed, Fri & Sat Arr Mon, Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri-Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	22 00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	3046
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	6-30	3032
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7 55	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed, Arr Fri, Sat & Sun	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 30	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express** Thursday only	7 55	1182
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6-35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7-15	3112
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gaur Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	3104
5085	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20-40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11-20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003		**Falaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon, Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21-40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Naraj	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16-40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	
	11-05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
-	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22-35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
—	14-05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6513

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203540-52 for in-coming trains, 2203535 44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203400-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 136 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535 37

HUMOUR

MY GUZZLING GANESH

Did all this happen after all?

"Can you get me some milk?" It was a small, plaintive voice that broke into my consciousness as I sat staring at a blank piece of paper searching for inspiration, as I do on most days I looked suspiciously at the Ganesh who has been sitting patiently on my desk, quill in hand, for years It was a small Ganesh, somewhat weather-beaten, with a chip on its shoulder

"Oh, Gosh!" I exclaimed, "So, it's true after all "

"What's true?" said the voice with a touch of pique, while my Ganesh continued staring at me with his usual unconcerned expression

"About Ganeshes all over the world taking to milk, I thought it was all capillary action "

"Capillary action!" The voice snorted, "I'll capillary action them Let's see them feed milk to Kali or Brahma, if they can But I don't go in for strong stuff Milk is good enough for me "

"Mind you," he added as an afterthought, "I could be wronging the old man But you must admit some of his creations seem to have been influenced by liquids other than milk Take me, for example "

"I I don't know if there's any fresh milk around the house," I said, doubtfully, "Will milk powder do?"

"Only if the water is well boiled and it doesn't form lumps I hate lumps What brand is it?"

I mentioned the name of a well-known brand which had been claiming to be better than the real thing

"Ha! Vegetable powder would be more like it If that's the kind of muck you have around the house, I may as well go back No, I want proper milk, but toned, not cream I have to watch my figure "

Fortunately, there was a bit of liquid milk in the fridge I placed it before the idol, feeling rather silly

"Will this do?" I asked humbly

"You are an idiot It is cold and has no sugar Would you have it yourself? But don't put sugar, get some sugar-free or saccharine Calories, you know "

"I'm sorry " I sympathised, hoping it would minimise both my lapse and his calories I prepared the milk as ordered and brought it back

"I hope you'll find it all right " I said, as ingratiating as possible "And this time I've brought it in a bone china cup " The cup was the sole survivor from a set of four I had received as a wedding present when I was rather more popular with my in-laws It was reserved for honoured guests I thought I should draw his attention to it

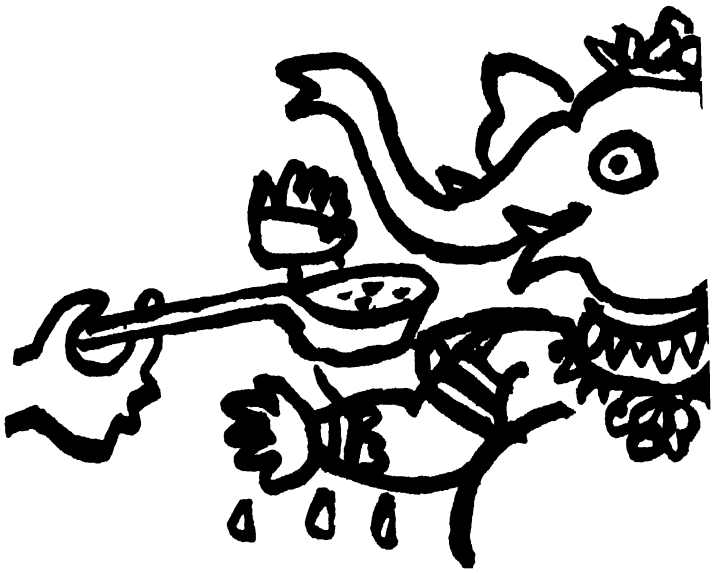
"Don't just stand there," said the voice irritably, "Feed it to me Haven't you been reading th newspapers? I must be fed with a spoon Preferably, a silver spoon "

I confessed I was fresh out of silver spoons

"I suppose I'll have to make do with stainless steel Or are you one of those who think plastic is chic?"

I denied the charge Vehemently

"Good," said the voice, then added peevishly, "Do you know they've even started making plastic idols? Insult, I tell you I bet you can't get a plastic Ganesh to drink milk It must be terribly upsetting to be made of poly-something-or-other Why can't you fellows stick to clay or marble?"



To cover my confusion, I got hold of a table spoon and shoved it, dripping with milk, under the idol's snout There was a slurp and it disappeared

"Ugh!" complained the voice "You call that milk? It is the cheapest stuff I've tasted in years!"

"Really," I said with some asperity, "I'll have you know, it's from Mother Dairy and costs nine bucks a litre "

"They're conning you Why don't you throw them out?"

"Actually, it used to cost seven bucks, a couple of months ago and they wanted to raise it to eight, but the government felt it was too expensive, threw them out and took over So now it costs nine Don't ask me," I added defensively, "I'm in the dark about the dialectics of milk "

I deposited a second spoonful which was imbibed more slowly

"You know," said the voice, with a note of concern, "I smell a rat "

"You've been sitting on one for years," I pointed out, 'Poor thing, it must be squashed I'm not surprised it smells "

"I meant in the milk Besides, my mount is not a rat it's a mouse and a divine one at that If you had a computer brain like I do you'd know rats are creatures that spread plague — as in Surat — while a mouse is attached "

"Spare me," I interrupted, "I don't want a lesson in zoology or computers If you smell a rat in the milk,

it is quite normal Sometimes, you can even get one in a bottle at no extra charge Anyway, if you don't like the milk, can I offer you something else Like, maybe, a Pepsi "

"God forbid," said the voice, with a swallowing noise as the third spoonful disappeared "If I started drinking Pepsi, they'd probably put me in a commercial And I don't really want to be the choice of the new generation "

"You shouldn't run down the new generation, even if they prefer Pepsi to milk "

"It is not their taste that bothers me, it is their irreverence They seem to think idols drinking milk is a great lark In the old days, it would, at least, have been taken seriously Look at you Didn't even bother to offer a spoonful the other day, when the whole pantheon had milk dribbling down their chins What cheek!"

"I say, I'm sorry about that," I replied, "It just never crossed my mind I thought the entire business had been piloted by Chandraswami With a bit of help from his capillaries "

"Bah! These rum-*bhakt* scientists may have capillaries adorning their noses but I certainly don't Or are you referring to the saffron brigade with cloth wrapped bricks in their heads?"

"Well, I thought it had all been engineered by "

"A mistake Leave thinking to those with superior cranial spaces like mine Just remember You can take milk to an idol, but you cannot make it drink!"

Sudip Mallik

... *It did, if you believe in miracles*

The good Lord was unemployed, and, feeling the blues due to his lack of occupation, decided to visit



India, which he considered his earthly abode

So, it was destination India and the agenda this time was to do something beneficial — and to revv up his following which he felt was not functioning on the rationalists' version of modern economics

The less of God, the more should have been the demand but it had worked on the contrary The demand for the Lord was diminishing Hence, steps had to be taken to boost his demand.

He made his first presence felt to our very own N Rout Rout's countenance remained unchanged at the sight of the Divine Revelation No shock, no surprise, no pleasure The Lord was amazed Was this man His creation? Losing his composure as well as his concentration, the Lord offered Rout three wishes instead of the one wish intended

"The heavens be praised!" said the Lord, seeing Rout smiling for the first time

"What is your first wish?" hoping it would be a spiritual quest

"My first wish is that I have a smiling appearance and am not referred to as Mr Pout "

"Granted," the Lord said

Immediately, the pout vanished.

"My second wish is that all opposition should disappear," Rout said

"Granted," said the Lord

Rout was lost in his thougnts, thinking about his third wish when the innumerable telephone calls started pouring in

"What! Mr Patang Singh has disappeared? and Mr Sinkia too? And Mr Havan? Mr Mar Mohan Singh too?" Rout could not believe it This must be a dream He started laughing strangely, showing his wisdom teeth

The next stop was Mr Whackeray who went about whacking people who did not do as he said After introductions, he offered Whackeray his wish Whackeray immediately summoned Godwani, with whom he truthfully shared his alliance

On seeing Godwani, God felt elated This man remembered his exact birth place and also took much trouble over God's favourite spots Surely, this man would ask for something divine

Mr Whackeray emerged with a glass in his hand and said, "We wish that our alliance wins the 1996 elections Mr Godwani has agreed to become my remote control PM and in turn will rename Mumbai as Thackerstate "

The Lord was taken aback and felt utterly let down However, He promised them the fulfillment of their wish and took their leave He realised that no one thought about Him or the common man In search of a solution, He needed peace and solitude to think

So, the good Lord merged with an idol of Ganesh that was nearby While He was immersed in his ruminations, a kind devotee came and offered Him a spoon of milk Thirsty, not having been offered anything by anyone, the Lord absentmindedly drank the milk The devotee was stunned

He ran helter skelter crying to one and all that a miracle had taken place

It then struck the Lord that He had found the solution Sometimes what you are searching for lies right below your nose So He drank And drank The rest we know Rarely, had God ever got such an overwhelming devotion

Happy, the Lord was about to return to his heavenly abode when he remembered me

He tauntingly asked, "Now do you believe in me?"

"Lord, I have always believed in you but without majority support, if I indulged in too much Godly talk, I would be branded as a Godman And you know, Lord, the state of present godmen — Bandarswami etc To earn a living, I must remain an adman and not strive to become a godman "

"So Lord, can I ask you for something?"

"Go ahead," he said

"Lord! When we die, how do our souls reach you?"

The Lord smiled

"Capillary action Didn't you know?"

"And how do souls return to earth?"

"The souls destined to return to earth reach here through surface tension," said the Lord, roaring with laughter

Mahesh Motwani

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

CROSSING SWORDS

The victor's right to loot is one of the unethical but universal rules of war As a result, all over the world, nations and individuals are struggling to bring back looted treasures from foreign lands If, that is, the treasures can be found One such treasure is a sword which belonged to Guru Gobind Singh and which was taken from Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Toshakhana at Lahore by Lord Dalhousie

The importance to Sikhs of relics of Guru Gobind Singh, who forged them into the Khalsa, is immense In January 1966, six relics of the Guru taken to Scotland by Lord Dalhousie, were returned to India

The scene at Delhi airport was overwhelming, a sea of turbaned Sikhs, defeaning cries of *Jo bole, so nihal!* The Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri himself came to welcome the relics which included two spears and a shield In his speech he said, "This is a very happy day Guru Gobind Singh was one of the founders of our nation "

But not all the relics were returned

We know this from the extensive and bureaucratic records of the East India Company When at 35, Lord Dalhousie came to India as Governor-General after a brilliant career at the Board of Trade, he declared imperiously, "The Sikh nation has called for war and so, by my word, shall they have it with a vengeance " After the defeat of the Sikhs in 1849, he further declared that, "all the property of the [Sikh] state of whatever description and wheresoever found shall be confiscated to the Honourable East India Company "

Now the late Maharaja Ranjit Singh had been a great collector and the Toshakhana of Lahore was fabulously rich and included such pieces as the Koh-i-Noor diamond which still adorns the British crown No less precious to the Sikhs, though were the arms of Guru Gobind Singh

These find mention in the nine-and-a-half miles of records on the shelves of the Oriental and Indian collection of the British Library in London In a letter to the court of directors in London, Dalhousie says that from the Toshakhana he has kept four complete sets of armour, two for Her Majesty and two for the directors and adds, "I have set apart several articles on which I solicit your orders —a set of arms including spear and sword which Sikh traditions assert to have belonged to the Guru Gobind It would not be politic in my opinion to permit any Sikh institution to obtain possession either by gift or by means of sale of these warlike symbols of a warlike faith "

The directors allowed Dalhousie to keep everything except for the sword which, they wrote, ' we want in our museum as a historical relic "

Dalhousie's tone was repugnant to the Sikhs and is so to the retired diplomat Harbans Singh who spent the years of his London posting searching for the sword of the Guru He calls Dalhousie's actions "robbery"

But the question of the whereabouts of the sword remained unresolved In fact, there may be more than one The 91 year-old scholar Nahar Singh has been researching the Indian archives on the subject for more than 60 years—and there are many more records in India than in Britain

He has written a book called the *Two swords of Guru Gobind Singh in England*, and says that there were two swords both of a type in general use during the period but both bearing inscriptions in the Punjabi language in Persian script saying that they belong to Guru Gobind Singh

One sword should have gone to the Queen, and one to the East India Company, but in England there is no record of either Robert Skelton is the retired keeper of the Indian department at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, which was entrusted with the East India Company's collection He says that in 1879 the collection was moved in a hurry, and that the cataloguing done at that time was "fragmentary"

He also says that after the Second World War, when museums were closed and amalgamated, a great number of oriental arms were consigned to stores around London, and that some objects may have been disposed of through sale, specially the kind of objects in the EIC collection, as they were of ethnographical interest and not of special interest to a museum of decorative arts like the V and A

When he was in London, Harbans Singh went back to Dalhousie's great-great-great grandson and to his castle in Scotland to search through his Indian arms for the swords of the Guru in the hope that they may have reached there after all He saw two swords with Persian inscriptions and a book which Lord Dalhousie himself had written was a Granth from the Lahore Toshakhana and which Harbans Singh took to be the Granth in the Guru's own hand

Richard Skelton and a team from the V and A went to examine the arms in the Eighties and found no evidence of those two swords belonging to the Guru In 1990, the Dalhousie family collection was somewhat dispersed when a grand auction of Indian arms and armaments was held which raised £100,000

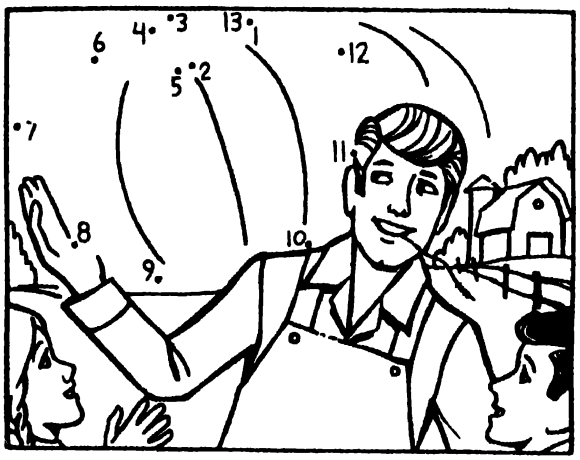
Recently, Stephen Deol, a scholar of Punjabi literature, went to see the Granth seen by Harbans Singh and discovered it to be in fact a 19th century commentary and text of the *Geeta* with illustrations from the life of Krishna

The so-called Granth, then, has no connection with Guru Gobind Singh But the search for his swords continues Baba Virsa Singhji Sahib, who lives on the outskirts of Delhi, and is the main sponsor of the search states, "They should return to the place where they will be respected They shall come back "

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

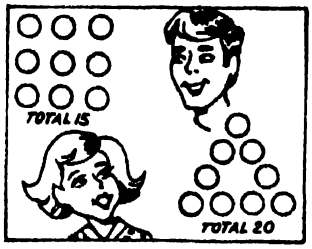
HAL KAUFMAN



TOTE BAG! What is it that the farmer is toting above? To find out, draw connecting lines from 1 to 2, 3, etc

BIT SKIT! If Bixby pays six bits per bit for four bits for his drill, how much change does he get from five bucks? Answer in 60 seconds

Four times six bits ($ 75) is three dollars, so he gets two dollars change



DISPATCH WITS FOR 9-COUNT

EACH of the two posers presented above requires insertion of numbers 1 through 9

That is to say, you are asked to see how quickly you can insert these numbers in a manner that is in keeping with the following results

A That each of the three-number rows of the square – across, down, and two diagonals totals 15

B That each of the four-number sides of the triangle totals 20.

Remember all nine numbers are to be used in each instance

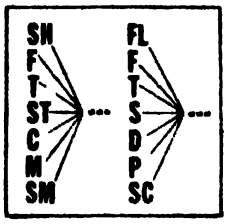
Answers may vary

Possibilities, Square Across 8, 1, 6, 7, 5, 3, 4, 9, 2
Triangle – From top clockwise 9, 4, 2, 9, 1, 8, 3, 7, 5

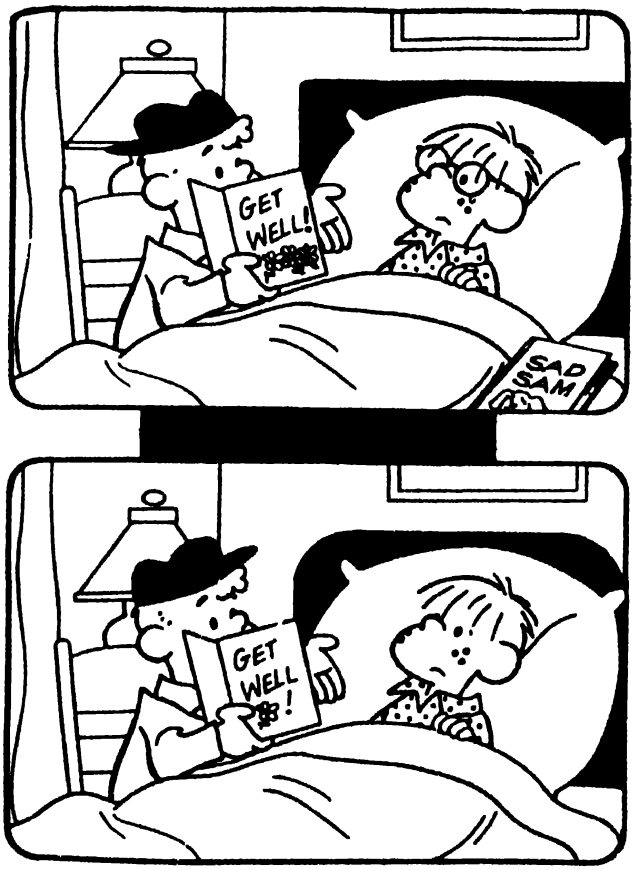
LOOSE ENDS! You are asked to complete seven longer words by the addition of a three-letter words to each of the letter combos provided below Example, in poser below, try 'are' and get share, fare, stare, care, mare — but alas, there is no such word as smare Therefore, try another word

Still another three-letter word is required for the second poser shown All words involved are in common use

We're in all and our wall-empty responsive is (the answer is may be possible



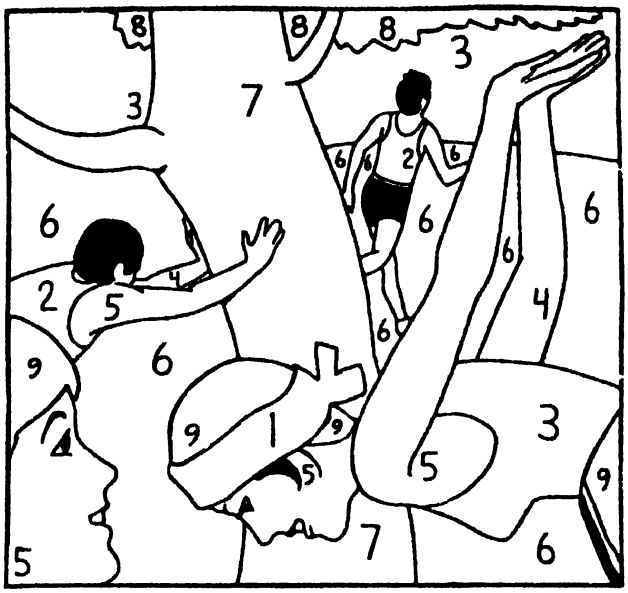
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Shade is smaller 2 Cap is reversed 3 Card s different 4 Headboard is different 5 Glasses are missing 6 Book is missing

FUNSPOT



WARMING UP! S-t-r-e-t-c-h those muscles to run that race Add colors 1—Red. 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown. 8—Dk green 9—Black

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

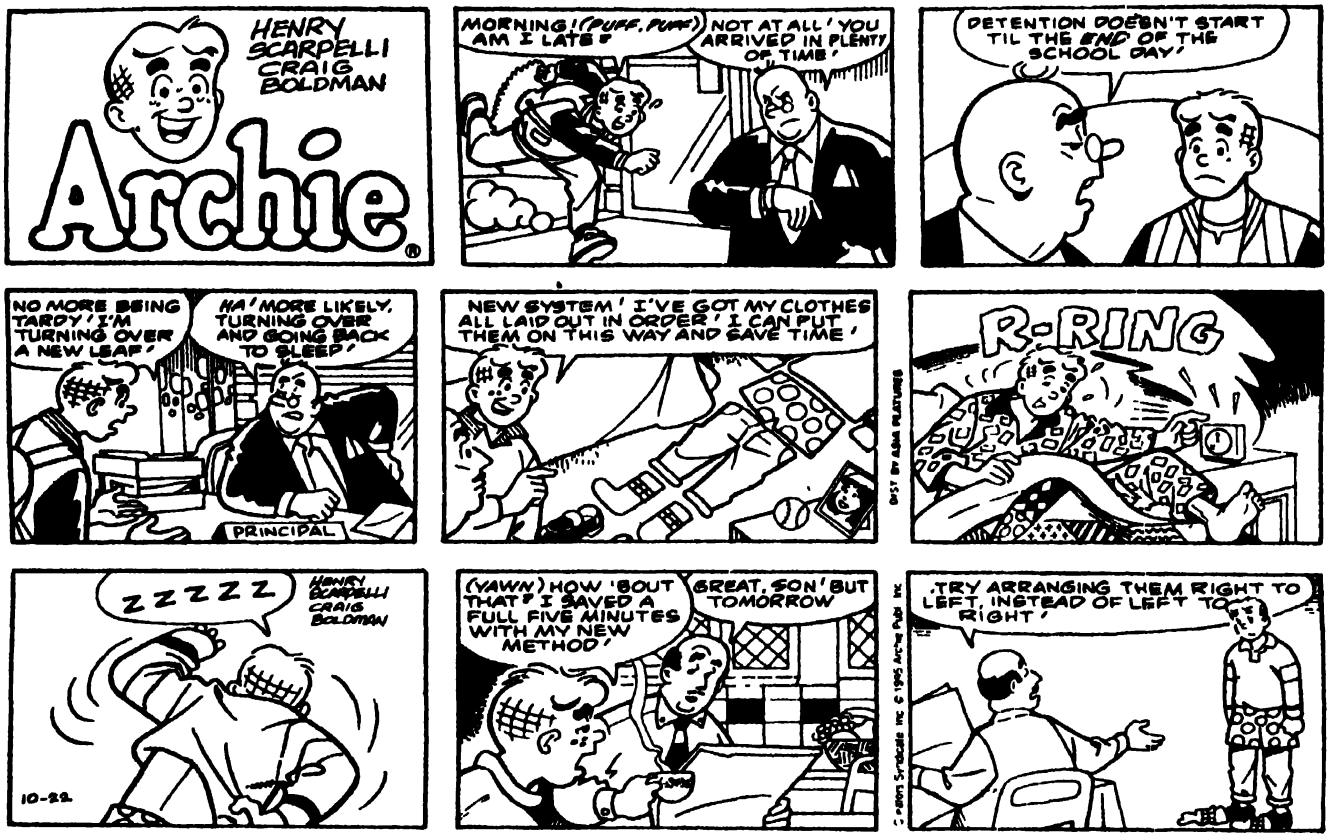
LATCHKEY

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

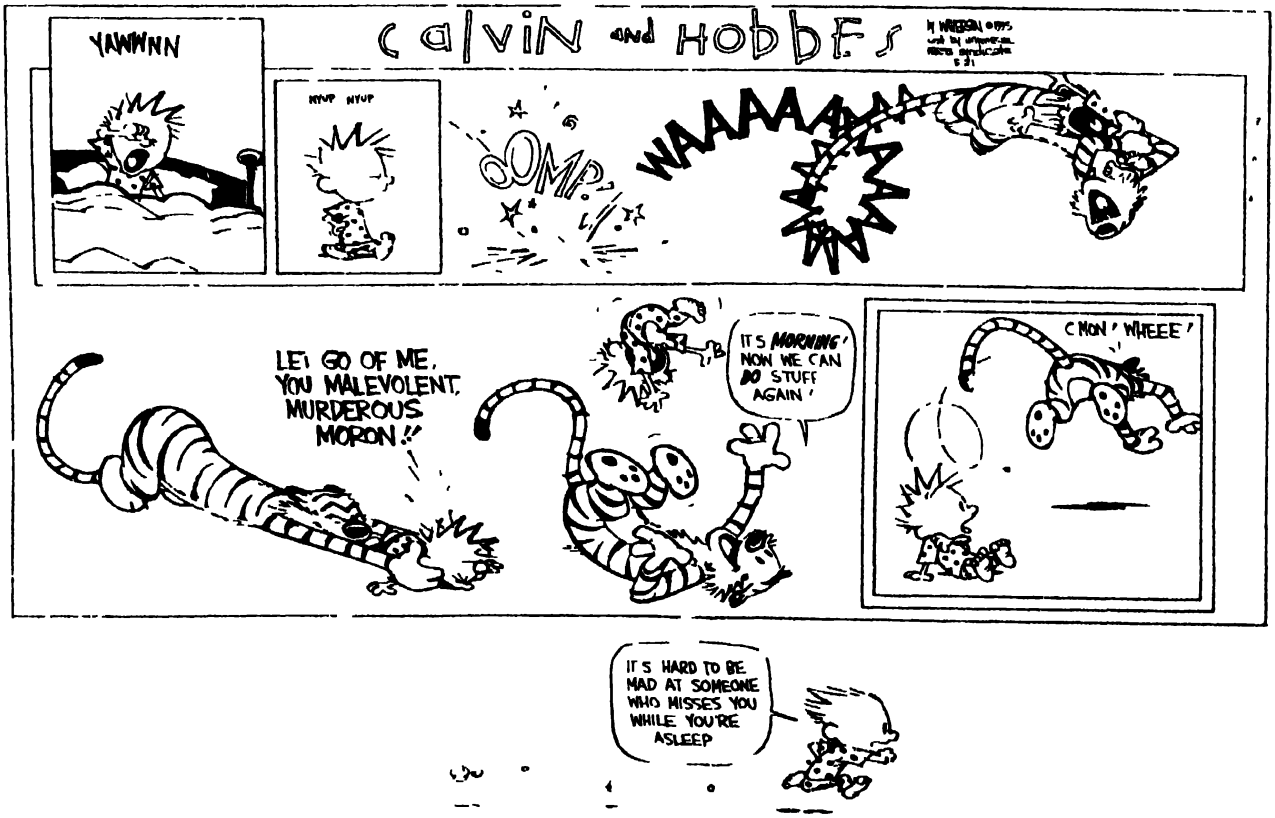
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome They, lack

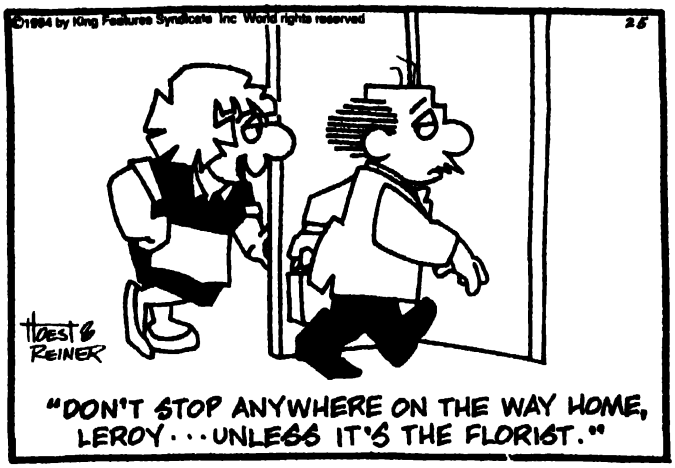
ARCHIE

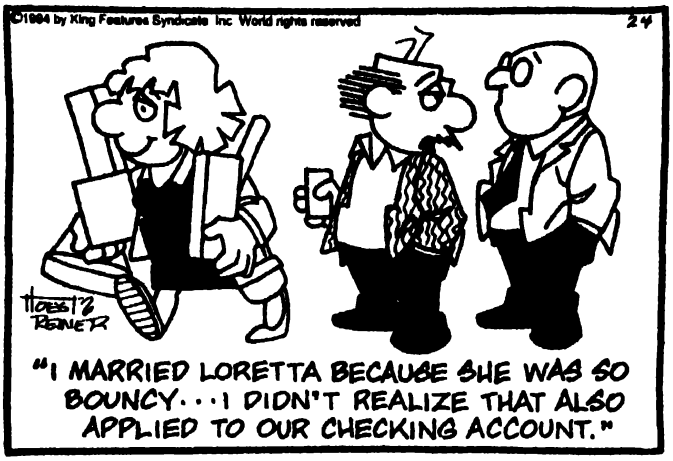


CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON


calvin and Hobbes
YAWWNN
NYUP NYUP
OOMPH
WAAA

THE LOCKHORNS

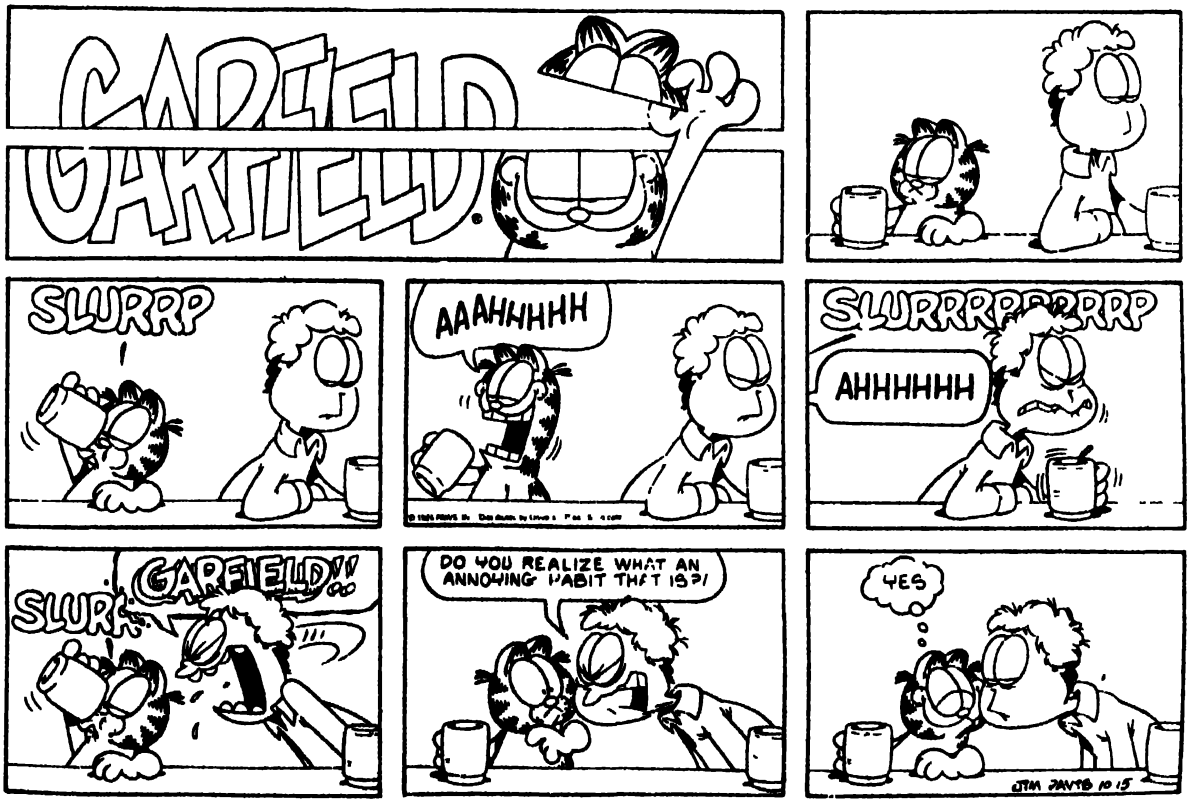




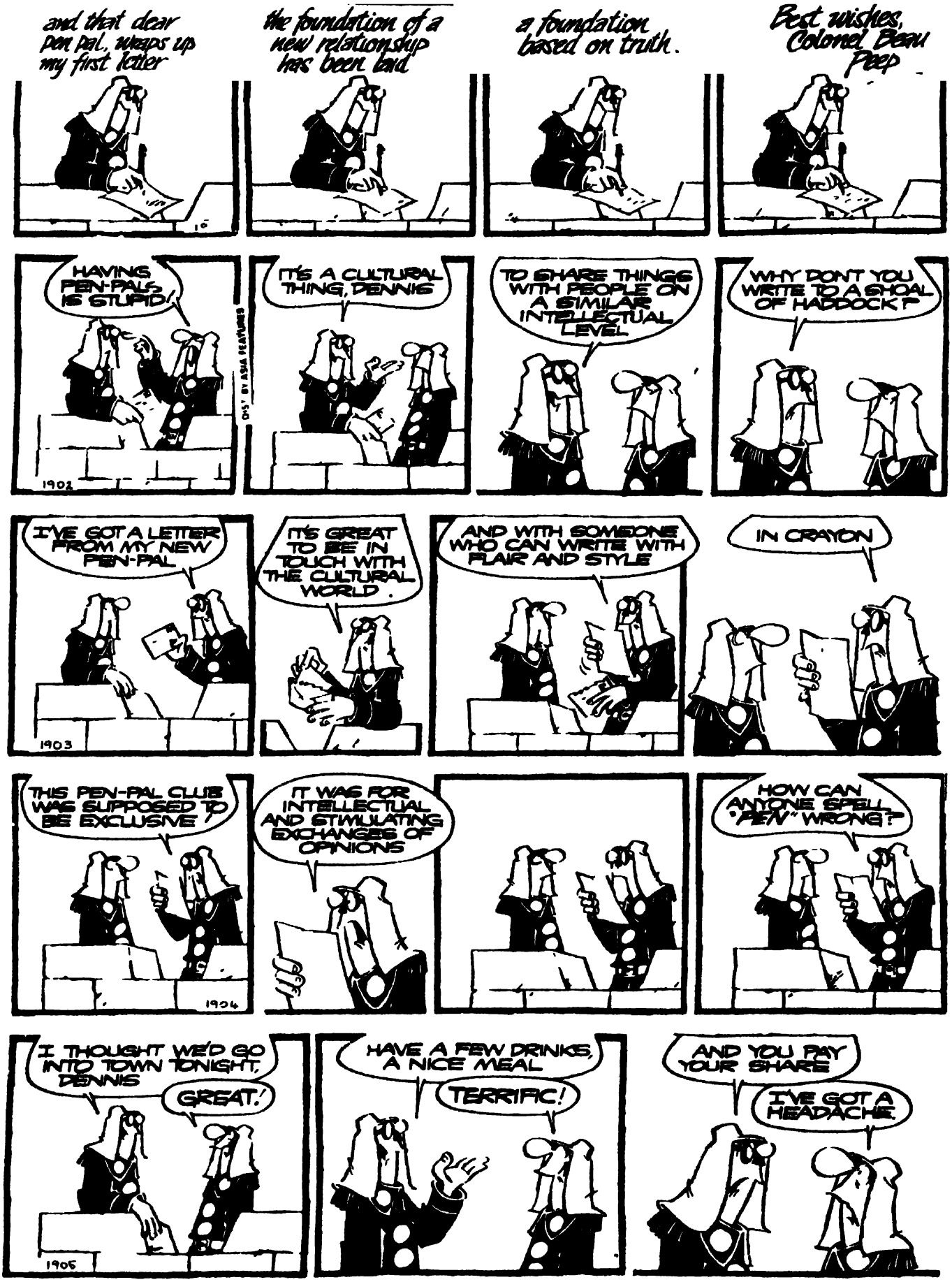


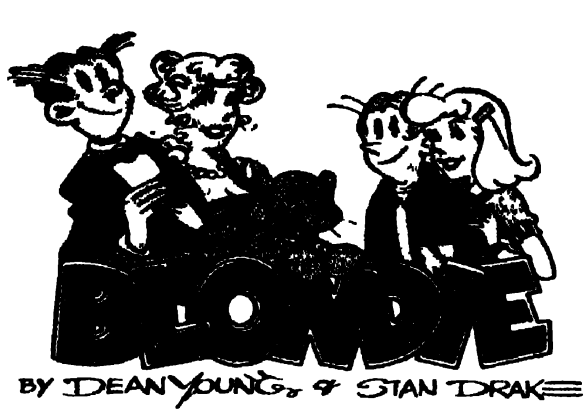


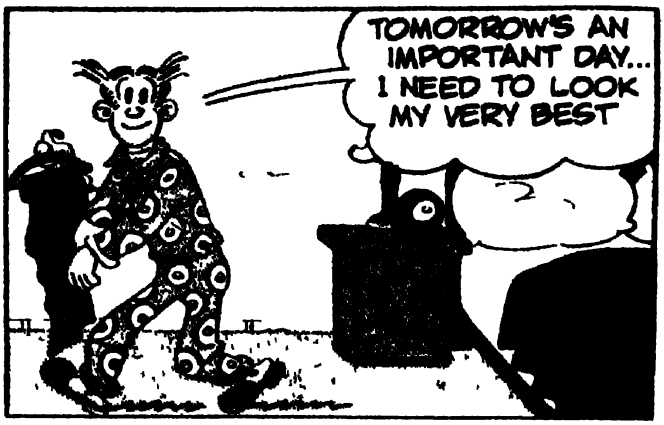
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



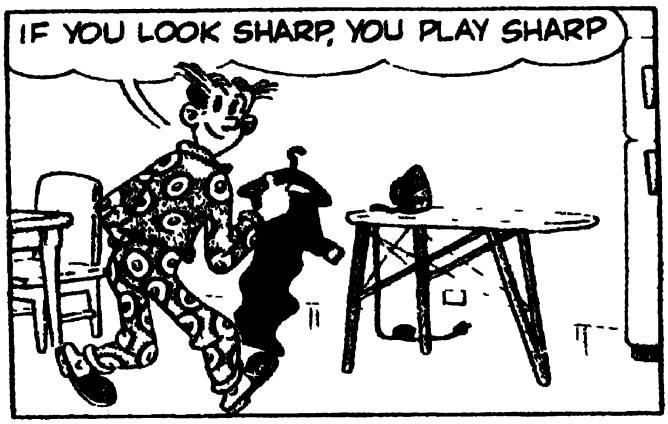
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

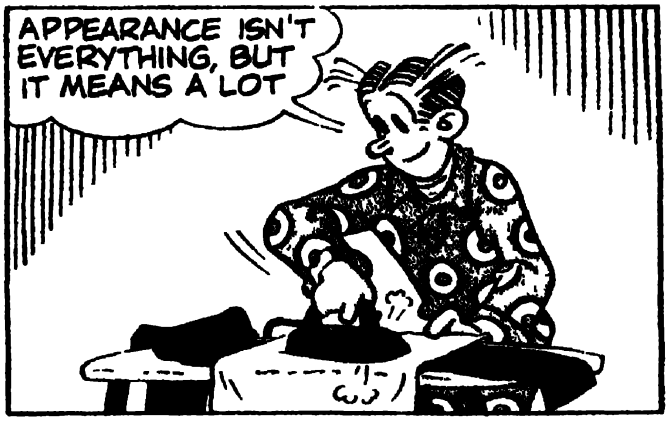


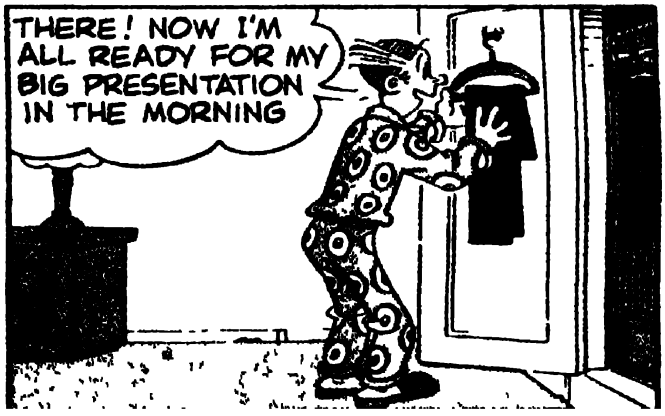


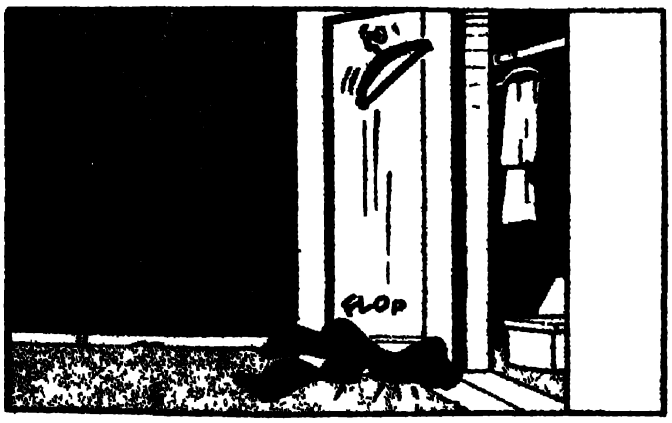




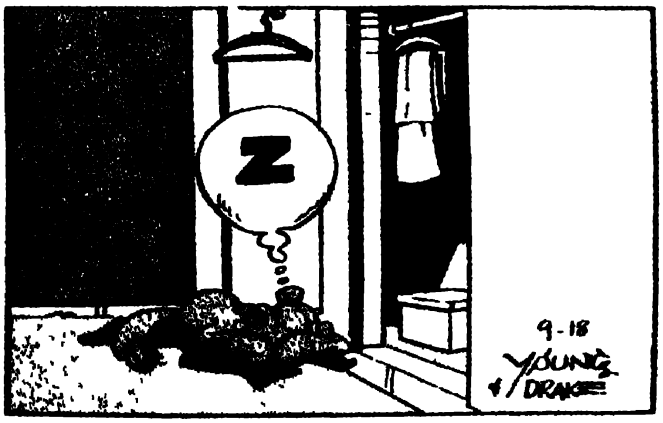








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FOCUS

LOYAL LIVING

For some Hollywood stars fidelity even today means a lot For some, stresses ***Susmita Banerjee***

It does not really take death to part couples. If there is a strong temptation and the right chemistry sizzling, who cares for fidelity?

Hollywood, with its jet-setting, high-wattage lifestyle, has the largest number of 'quickie' divorces, for success seeks its own preferences — the passport to change partners

But there are some in Hollywood who cherish their long-standing relationships and swear by fidelity Lisa and Patrick Swayze are surely Hollywood's most romantic couple, still in love and happy after nearly two decades of gracious togetherness.

Incurably romantic, the tough guy from Texas loves the "idea of being in love" He claims he has been in love only once — with "the most beautiful woman" he has ever seen in his life, his wife He is so enamoured of her that when he does a love scene on camera he always has Lisa in his mind!

Old Pat is so much in love with his wife that not only has he never been unfaithful to her, but also never felt "turned on" by any Hollywood *belle*

His idea of perfect happiness? Spending a few quiet idyllic hours in the company of his dear, dear wife in his San Gabriele mountain ranch with his Arabian horses and peacocks

Ryan O'Neal and Farah Fawcett are also known to share a closely knitted and emotionally scintillating relationship So charmed is



Jacqueline Bisset with Armand Assante in *Napoleon and Josephine*

O'Neal by the beautiful Farah that he has never felt the urge to stray; "not even in my dreams", the actor vows

Such passionate promises of fidelity in an ambience as promiscuous as that of Hollywood are strange For promiscuity is determined more by opportunity than by moral mores. Hollywood could never be scared of beautiful women and handsome men.

The soap opera queen, Joan Collins, tied the knot four times and untied them an equal number of times. Marriage was not something she was destined for. She divorced her second husband-actor Anthony Newly purely on grounds of adultery "I would not even date a man who slept around Absolutely not," she said of her divorce

Beautiful and intelligent and an inspiration to many women, this poor man's Liz Taylor is still in quest of a relationship that will ensure fidelity, loyalty, honesty and honour

Actor Bruce Willis may have been very promiscuous, carefree and wild in his bachelor days — late nights, brawls and binges — but cares for monogamy after marriage Gone was his bohemian lifestyle once he chanced upon Demi Moore, the *Striptease* mega-star It was love at first sight "I wanted to be with this girl *all the time*," he said And he has been with her since 1987 defying all the screaming tabloid headlines that they were to split

The couple have three children and devote their time between their sprawling beach house in Malibu and their moutain getaway in Idaho

Michael and Shakira Caine is another happy-go-lucky couple who are completely devoted to each other Unlike many other Hollywood marriages theirs is a special union of long-term togetherness and love Caine has even admitted that if anyone of them were to flirt with someone else, it would spell murder They are certainly a breed apart.

The giggling blonde, Goldie Hawn, and Kurt Russel, star of *Backdraft*, is one more Hollywood's made-for-each-other couple. Successful on screen and even touted as a shrewd businesswoman, she cherishes her private life and would give anyth-

ing to have a stable marriage, embittered as she is after two unsuccessful wedlocks which drained her of $75,000 (the first marriage) and $ 1.50,000 (the second marriage) by way of 'alimony'.

After eight years of living together with Kurt, Goldie slipped in the $47,000 wedding ring. Theirs is one of those rare Hollywood marriages that are for keeps "If I ever thought my partner [Kurt Russel] was with another woman, I'd be very hurt," she declares.

The stunning Jacqueline Bisset admits she is fiercely possessive and believes in total devotion to the relationship as in now, but does not believe in chaining down her partner.

For her marriage is a commitment, a vow that must be honoured She says, "If I were married, I don't think I'd be unfaithful If I promise something I stick to it."



Patrick Swayze with wife Lisa

Queen of soap Joan Collins escorted by Bill Wiggins

It is a fallacy, believe other Hollywood stars, that being married precludes relationships Shurley MacLaine is the first to vote for this Having had a string of relationships she believes, "People should be allowed to do what they want, married or not." Being married, for her, does not mean shutting herself off from the world (and men) Her romantic obsession has never ended with one partner

Just as Hollywood sells dreams the stars have their dreams, too Some like to dream with one

Others like to dream with many ■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Santiniketan

Midday
the sun broils,
a chorus of birds
alive with Chaurasia's
flute
Santiniketan's green
symphony
rolls on to a horizon of
trees
Acres of fluid gold,
nearby the canal plays
out
a modest baritone,
and sitting on the
threshold
I drink the silence of
green
A salamander glides
Up a tree trunk
leaning on the thatched
roof
Stealthily I roll up
the silence acre by acre
in my vast network
of nerves inside
This stillness
will I take back home
to grow trees,
more trees
along the city-lanes.

Somesh Dasgupta

Clock

9 O'Clock: This morning
I saw a man die
10 O'Clock I walked
away from a dying man
11 O'Clock· I bought the
Morning Herald.
12 O'Clock I read about
Bosnia-Herzegovinia.
Is it noon already? I have
to watch the news on
DD, BBC or is it CNN?
There are real pictures of
war and death.
The starving Somalian
refugees, flies around a
pregnant mother
My lunch is getting cold

The bus is crowded at six.

An almost naked beggar
is still begging for his
lunch,
There was an accident in
our block today,
A 15-year-old
committed suicide.

Dinner is late. So I put on
television to watch a few
more ads.

Haripriya Banerjee

PIN UP

A PRIVATE AFFAIR

It was a starry night with a twin purpose The launch of Rita Bhimani's new book and the presentation of a painting to Kapil Dev



Kapil Dev holds up the painting with Wasim Kapoor as Rita Bhimani smiles her approval

It was an evening to remember No bawdy bash at a local discotheque but a quiet get-together of some very famous but *very* private people

Kapil Dev was there So was the glamorous Moonmoon Sen to grace the launch of Rita Bhimani's book, *The Corporate Peacock New plumes for Public Relations* at her Sunny Park residence on October 7

What's more, an aesthetic treat was in store for Kapil Painter Wasim Kapoor presented him with a painting depicting his link with cricket It was commissioned by Rita herself as a special gift for the star cricketer

In subtle shades of beige and cream, the painting was an apt tribute to the man who has evolved over the years, both in his professional and personal life It spoke of his inner strength and rustic simplicity

Nursing a cold throat throughout the evening, Kapil felt too cloyed by cricket and was more eager to discuss business He said he loved privacy, but it was like asking for the impossible in a city where cricket was synonymous with collective madness

The book which he launched is a titillating interpretation of corporate public relations functions, alternating between the serious and the tongue-in-cheek It has been penned by Rita in her inimitable style after 25 years of practicing, preaching and preening in the profession

Resplendent and comely in a lacy black shiffon, Rita, the quintessential PR lady, felt public relations had to course through the blood in the veins and was not as simple as walking into a shop

Her book tells the reader, moreso CEOs, all about the synergy between corporate communications and business strategy (some useful tips for Kapil perhaps) and offers a delightful subjective glossary (called abecedary) of public relations

The evening that wrapped up well after midnight had helped to bring people together, giving a great boost to a book that went public on that day ■

N.N. RIMZON, *the young sculptor from Kerala, belongs to the generation of artists whose works have been noticed for their novelty and uniqueness. An MA with distinction from the Royal College of Art, London, Rimzon has won several scholarships, the Inlaks for one. He has given form and shape to materials such as wire-mesh, plaster, old packing cases and other poor quality materials because he believes that art does not survive just through the material but through the idea.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
When will and desire come together.
What is your greatest fear?
The politics of tradition.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
Narayana Guru, Gandhiji and Joseph Benys.
What do you dislike most in others?
Heroism with conviction in morality and ethics
What do you dislike most in yourself?
The level of vulnerability and submissiveness
What is your most precious possession?
A collection of books on humanities.
What objects do you always carry?
House key. House is my mother.
What makes you most depressed?
When I realise that I have been cheated or manipulated.
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
I am still investigating it.
What is your favourite word?
Inside.
What is your favourite journey?
A journey to Kerala, specially during the monsoon season. I enjoy the overwhelming presence of nature.
What is your favourite dream?
A new civilisation which is totally built up on the principles of creativity. The creativity becomes the capital of the society where each individual experiences the ultimate substance of democracy and freedom. Life and art once again will be united.
What is your nightmare?
The triumph of December 6 [1992].
What or who is the greatest love of your life?



What is your nightmare?

The triumph of December 6 [1992]

On what occasions do you lie?

When the aspect of privacy is pushed to the level of impossibility

I am sure that it is not my art.
What is your source of sustenance?
My memories, my studies and my dreams.
On what occasions do you lie?
When the aspect of privacy is pushed to the level of impossibility
What is your greatest regret?
Regret reaches me as a cold wind, difficult to catch hold of it.
What has been your happiest moment?
Opening of my first solo show in Delhi in 1991.
What brings tears to your eyes?
Love and affection.
How do you relax?
By reading pulp fiction.
What do you envy most in others?
People who have a sense of humour, and are able to make fun of themselves.
How would you like to be remembered?
As one of the best artists of our times.
How would you like to die?
I do not believe in my death.

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It means being welcomed at thousands of establishments to buy anything from a washing machine to petrol for your car The most powerful Revolving Credit facility which lets you pay only 5% of your Card outstandings Emergency Cash from 24-hour ATMs Exclusive benefits and discounts at over 100 hotels Lost Card protection with Limited Liability Free Personal Accident Insurance upto Rs 5 lakhs And now, CitiPhone Banking - the revolutionary phone banking service available only to Citibank Cardmembers 24 hours a day 7 days a week

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29 OCTOBER 1995

The Telegraph

POSTMORTEM

Author's Shame?

■ An author should primarily be the chronicler of and commentator on society; he should not make his writing a weapon of confrontation or to spew venom ('Stayin' Alive', September 9)

William Shakespeare, George Bernard Shaw, Rabindranath Tagore and Iqbal were not only great masters of literature, but also social scientists whose works were appreciated in every country and in every age

Their purpose of writing was for a noble cause educating society and purging it of its ills

The India-born writer Salman Rushdie and the Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen, perhaps, forgot that the pen was mightier than the sword They should have used their pen for the right purpose, at the right time and for the right cause

Penning a novel merely to kindle confusion and indignation is not the right attitude of an author, that could be interpreted as an easy way out to earn fame and popularity.
Md. Tanweer,
Calcutta



Salman Rushdie: Penning controversy

■ Salman Rushdie is undoubtedly a great writer, but one thing he cannot shun is the limelight and he will pick up any controversial subject to remain there

This time he is in the eye of another storm — *The Moor's Last Sigh* — which hits out at the Shiv Sena supremo, Bal Thackeray

Jayanta Mahapatra will be abroad for a while. Readers may please send their poems to him after the third week of November.

Perhaps his future novel will tilt at Christians?
Shovanlal Bakshi,
Calcutta

■ Our Constitution grants us the freedom to express ourselves in whichever fashion we want Banning of books is nothing but deliberate stifling of freedom of expression in a brutal manner

Bal Thackeray behaves in an insane fashion most of the time, threatening the Pakistani cricket team from playing at the World Cup and that, too, for a reason unconnected with the game.

Such militancy does not speak well of India abroad and is alien to our traditions, too
Nirmalendu Chakraborty,
Cooch Behar

■ I wonder why writers have become so militant in this age A piece of writing can spark off so much hype, hatred, or even a riot
S. Mukherjee,
Calcutta

The photograph of Harold Larwood with his wife published in the Magazine (August 13, 1995) was taken by Subroto Sirkar. The omission is regretted — **Editor**

INSIDE



PAGE 8

ROBERT E LUCAS, the winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize for economics, is the eighth Nobel laureate from the University of Chicago What is so great about this university?

PAGE 26

WHEN ON the wrong side of 30, is stripping the best way to bag roles in Hollywood?

Streep and Eastwood

SECTIONS

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18 RUSKIN BOND
20 GILLIAN WRIGHT
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22 COMICS
26 LIMELIGHT
28 POETRY
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Subrata Chowdhury

FOCUS

OF HUMAN BONDAGE

An Indian doctor finds fulfillment in a small American city by treating AIDS patients which prompts him to write an extraordinary book

Arthur J. Pais *on the man with a mission*

Eighty years ago, Dr Abraham Verghese must have thought Johnson City was his *kamadhenu* — where all his wishes would be fulfilled

Nestled in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, the Tennessee city of 50,000 people, with its balmy weather, low crime rate, and redolent, spicy food such as squirrel stew, and hog brains with scrambled eggs, endeared the 31-year-old infectious disease specialist at the Veterans Administration Hospital

To the Ethiopian-born son of Indian school teachers, Johnson City radiated tranquility, stability and a strong sense of "home"

His life till then had taken him from war-torn Ethiopia to a short stint as an orderly in America, and then to Madras, India, where he studied medicine for five years He had also taken a fellowship in a Boston hospital

"This was a small town in the country," he writes of Johnson City, "a town of clean-living, good country people" Its people would give the shirt off their back, he thought, if you were their friend, even if you treated AIDS patients "After moving from continent to continent without a sense of ever belonging to any one place," he says, "I wanted nothing more than to settle in one peaceful place and be a good doctor," he says He wanted his infant son, Stephen, to have a permanent home, "something I never had"

"Johnson City was going to be my own town Finally, this was my own country"

But his four-year-long quiet life in Johnson City derailed when Gordon, a young man with AIDS returned home to die, after savouring the freedom in a big city Verghese, who had always thought AIDS was clearly a big city phenomenon, began to treat him with a missionary zeal "I thought I got my own chance to justify my expertise, to justify my experience," he says in a sonorous voice made more interesting by a medley of accents dominated by a southern drawl But it was not going to be easy First, he had to struggle with himself to conquer his own fears of AIDS, despite his idealism



He would remember how he had joined fellow students in anti-gay jokes and buffonery in Madras, how he had not known a gay till he had treated AIDS patients during his fellowship in Boston "I would not say I was homophobic," he says, but he had in-depth information on how AIDS affected family ties and the hostilities AIDS patients faced He was further shocked when Rajani, his wife of six years, and mother of his two-year-old son, asked him if he was sexually attracted towards gay men

At the hospital, several nurses wanted to know why he was taking extraordinary interest in his patients, they deserved what they got, said one A pharmacist he had known for long became hostile after Verghese protested the way the pharmacist treated AIDS patients The only infectious disease specialist at the V A. hospital, Verghese soon learned that he was not only a physician to his patients but also a comfort They confided in him for hours, and often he tried — with varying success — to reconcile their estranged parents and relatives with them

In the next four years, he would treat 80 young men with AIDS Like Gordon, they too had felt stifled by Johnson City and had fled to bigger cities The expatriates were now returning home, one by one, bringing the deadly disease with them There were others too Vickie, a factory worker who had to face not only her husband's bisexuality but also her own status as

an HIV positive woman, and Johnson, a very religious Christian patrician who got AIDS through a blood transfusion and tormented himself for unknowingly passing his disease to his wife

How these patients penetrated the quiescent fabric of a conservative rural city, created a continual angst and tension, and how their struggle challenged and touched hundreds of lives led Verghese to write *My Own Country*, published in June The book, first ever to distil a doctor's experiences with AIDS patients, notes of many reconciliations between the patients and their family members, who gradually overcame their terror of the virus On the other hand, many doctors were uncomfortable treating the AIDS patients and left the job to Verghese

Verghese had always longed to be a journalist But his parents mandated a professional course Inspired by Somerset Maugham's novel *Of Human Bondage*, about an idealistic country doctor, Verghese chose a medical career But as he began a journal in Johnson City, which also recorded the strains his all-consuming practice had on Rajani, his wife from India, his passion to publish grew

Rajani often worried that he could be infected by AIDS, a fear he himself carried secretly As a result, he writes, "AIDS became a friend from a different social stratum, a friend I indulged but no longer brought to the house or even discussed with her"

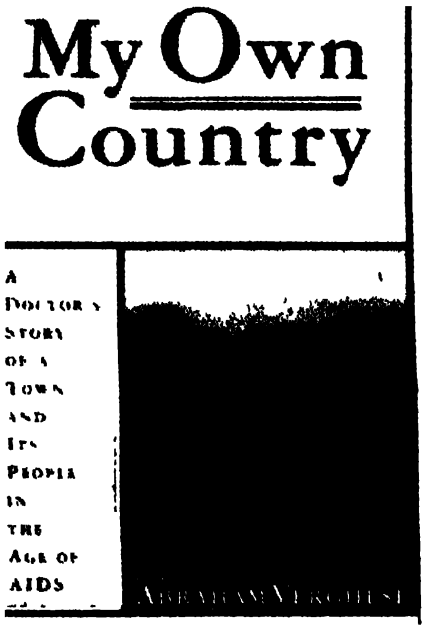
In many ways, Verghese found a bond with his patients "Society considered them alien, and much of their life was spent faking conformity," Verghese says "And in a sense, I was an outsider, too Just as I was labelled a 'resident alien' on my Green Card, society considered these young men 'alien' too

"New immigrants expend a great deal of effort trying to fit in learning the language, losing the accent Gay men and women also became experts at blending in, camouflaging themselves, but at a great cost to their spirit"

Many of his patients had fled to the bigger, more tolerant cities, unable to face the hostility in Johnson City

"My own adaptation (to life in Johnson City) had been voluntary, even joyful, and depended on chameleon-like adaptability" He would be equally at home with Indian doctors, eating curries and listening to Indian music, and donning boots and dancing at local clubs or listening to blues at local restaurants But most of the Indian doctors had no regard for him Naturally He was making far less money than most of them, and had no inclination to go into private practice

"I acted as if money meant less to me than it did them, a childish reflex," he writes "This was, of course, not true I valued money and would not have minded a ton of it But I didn't feel I had to do something different in medicine just for that reason I was every bit as well trained, just as talented I like to think, as the doctors who made 20 times what I made The monetary disparity was not due to their skill or their intrinsic work (even though at



times I think they succumbed to this delusion), it was due to a payment system that placed greater value on procedural specialities than on those without them

"Ah, but in Sweden, I would say when I grew tired of being needled by my speciality, thoracic surgeons and infectious diseases specialist get the same salary And you know what, if the Democrats win the next election"

"This was guaranteed to produce a loud outcry that I delighted in There were no stauncher Republicans than the Indian doctors of Tennessee"

There were many other lessons to be learned in Johnson City His receding forehead generates tension and his swimming eyes burn, his hands often clasp as he recalls his experiences

He wonders how much of relief his patients might have had at finding a foreign-born doctor" To tell their secrets to a Caucasian face that could just as well have belonged to a preacher, a judge or some other archetypal authority figure in their town," he writes, "might have been difficult"

His patients challenged him emotionally too "AIDS pulls you across the threshold of your own upbringing and constraints, primarily because you are dealing with people who are very much of your own age," he writes "They act as mirrors and make you reflect upon questions of your own morality"

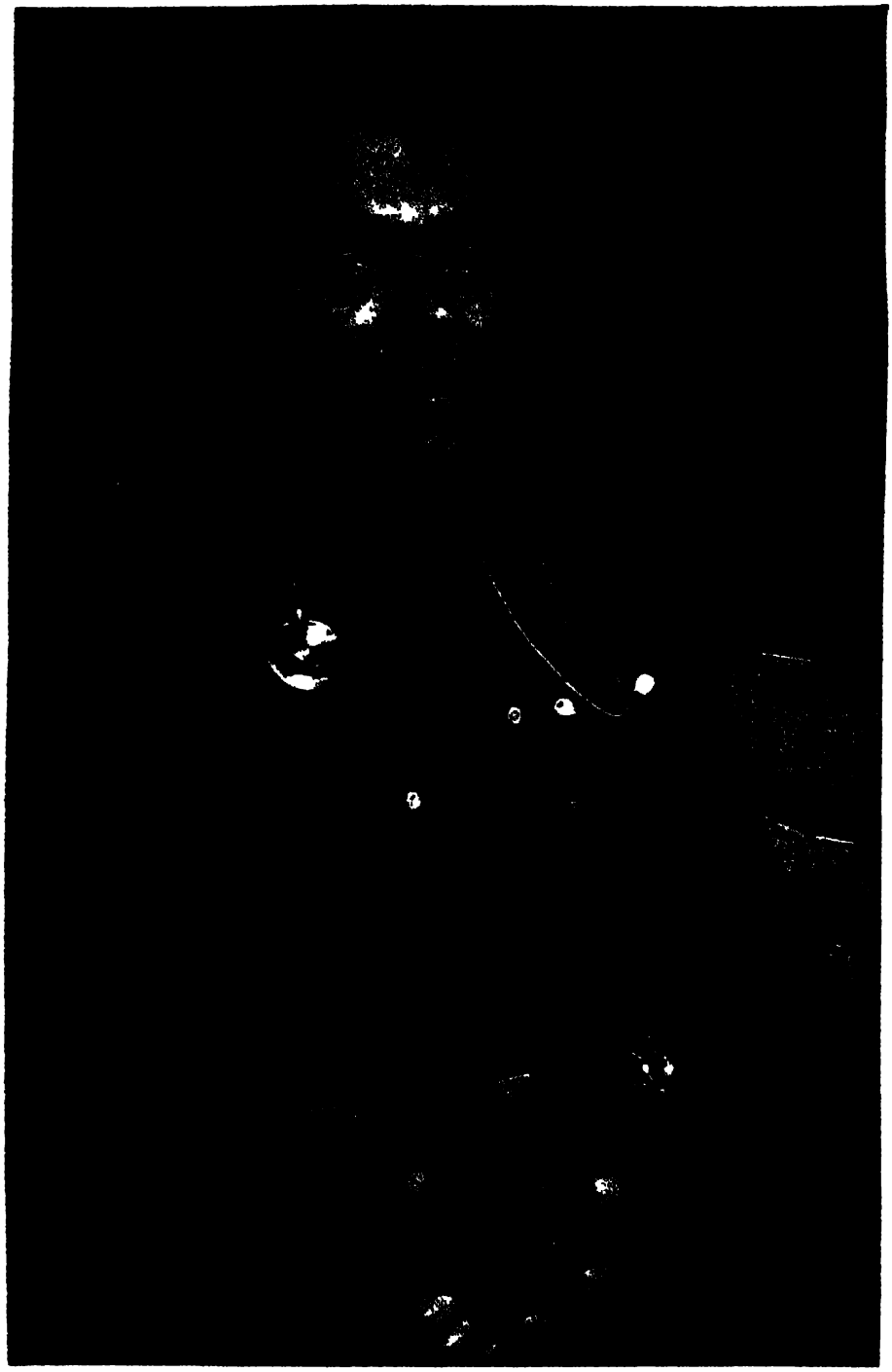
On January 1, 1990, seeking "a cooling-off period" from professional and domestic pressure, Verghese headed for Iowa, with Rajani and their two children, to join an AIDS team at the University of Iowa He also enrolled at the Iowa Writer's Workshop to study writing in earnest "Whatever it is you aspire, you should not wait to do it," he says, adding that apart from getting a Master's degree in writing, he also forged a "mentoring" friendship with the bestselling and acclaimed novelist, John Irving

"As a doctor, I have written many essays that were subsequently published in medical journals," he says, discussing how he began to write "But in 1988, I went to a one-week summer workshop at the University of Iowa and suddenly began to feel like writing was the key to some of my frustrations at work Particularly so with writing fiction

"The one thing that I am limited by in my profession is the boundaries of science I can't reverse death, I can't get into the patients' mind and think their thoughts, I cannot control the universe — instead I am controlled by it With writing, the boundaries are virtually limitless - I can control the universe"

Soon after graduating from the University of Iowa, he sent two of his stories about AIDS to *The New Yorker* which published one of them Then an editor there suggested that he write about his experiences in Johnson City

"The piece (about Johnson City) didn't suit *The New Yorker*," he recalls "Despite the rejection, I was hooked" And so began the book that was bought for a reported $200,000 by Simon & Schuster and whose paperback rights were sold to Vintage for $250,000 For nearly two years, he wrote for three hours a day, getting up at 4 30 in the morning He also worked as the chief of infectious diseases, not in Johnson City but at Texas Health Sci



Abraham Verghese· Battling AIDS

ences Center, El Paso — his own new country

El Paso is less than an hour from the Mexican border and has a large number of Spanish immigrants and illegal workers "The prevailing skin pigment is so close to mine I have a sense of having disappeared," he told a reporter recently

My Own Country was reviewed on the cover of *The New York Times Book Review*; a week later. John Irving's *A Son of the Circus* was reviewed on page one, too *The Times*, which gave the book a 2,500-word-long review, also recommended the book in its weekly notable-books list

"Isn't it a wonderful success story," mused a common friend "The student upstaged the teacher by seven days."

There were a whole lot of praise from doctors and social workers, too

My Own Country is a remarkable testament, noted Gail Goodwin, author of *A Southern Family*

"Dr Verghese writes with a novelist's exacting eye for the memorable character trait and an irresistible narrative drive, even though the story he is telling is not fiction and his poignant characters are — alas — real people Dr Verghese makes it seem possible to get behind the petty borders of our ignorance and fears enter the larger citizenry of the kind and the caring It is an astonishing feat he has performed "

Verghese plans to write a book of short stories about AIDS He still works with AIDS patients, and his wife Rajani, who once said that she had wished the disease had not existed between them at all, seems to have found the means to conquer her own fears

He also addresses doctors about AIDS, has been interviewed for more than two dozen radio stations and over 100 newspapers and magazines during his 10-city tour that must have made him rootless and homeless once again The short stories about AIDS could appear early next year

"And then I want to work on a novel," he says, "that will encourage young people, specially high school students, to become doctors and take up specialities that aren't popular "

One wonders what the Indian doctors in Johson City are thinking of Dr Verghese and his book now Perhaps, some of them have forbidden their children from reading the book, hoping that the children will never treat AIDS patients They and some other doctors may be fearing the novel, the next *Of Human Bondage* even more But Vergnese sounds hopeful when he talks about the second and third generation of Indian Americans. He thinks they will have time and inclination for idealism, unlike many of their parents And he is also glad that his peers in the Indian community have taken notice of him The journal published by AAPI, the powerful organisation of Indian American physicians, recently ran a rave review of Verghese's book

He may even be asked to address the AAPI national convention next year. This year, it was Dr Deepak Chopra's turn "Well, without the help of mega TV personalities like Oprah Winfrey who promoted Dr Chopra's holistic books, Verghese made a name for himself," said an Indian doctor who wants to remain anonymous "His book hasn't made him a millionaire but I am sure it has touched millions of lives." ■

PIN UP

MORE THAN A MODEL

Rachel Reuben has the kind of face that is far from forgotten. And now UTV has chosen her to present Star Movies' Bol Bollywood

Rachel Reuben was the toast of the modelling world long before the profession came into fashion in India

With her fresh, glamorous looks she had that single most important quality needed in a model — memorability And though it is nearly two years now since she last faced the camera as a model — "I cannot even remember which ad I did last" — her face is far from forgotten

Which is perhaps why UTV picked her out to present one of its newest projects for Star Movies, *Bol Bollywood*, a film-based programme beamed thrice a month

To Rachel herself it is an experience — "an embellishment on the side" — though being a TV personality is not on her list of priorities.

She prefers to think that the transition for her is from modelling to ad filmmaking, the ropes of which she is learning from Kunal Kapoor of Adfilmwallahs.

Dressed in a workday outfit of baggy T-shirt and jeans, she seems to have slipped rather well into her new avatar. "I was here editing until five this morning," she says sitting in the midst of what looks like a load of debris in the studio of Adfilmwallahs, face showing no evidence of the late night. "I've never had so little sleep in my life!"

She is certainly not complaining. After all, she longed to see the view from the other side of the camera even when all she was asked to do was preen for it. "I was always out there trying to absorb what was going on around me That was my buzz," she says

Years ago, when she was a student of psychology at St Xavier's College in Bombay, she dreamed of becoming a teacher for the hearing handicapped She did it, too, for two years but then gave it up as the job didn't pay enough to make ends meet and she desperately wanted to be independent So modelling it was "though I never really liked it"

One of the reasons being that she finds it a dumb profession. "Models are simply told what they have to do and they have to deliver accordingly Also, a lot of models discover that they can get by on the basis of their bodies and looks so they don't develop any more than that.

"After all, doors are opened for them just because they are beautiful so their self-development gets arrested But of course, there are a fair amount of models around who aren't dumb at all"

Television, she does not think, requires much more intelligence either, unless one is compering a show, doing a review or something similar "But as a host or an anchorperson there is not much difference from, say, doing a photograph The only real difference is that here you're talking," she says, adding quickly, "But of course, that can make all the difference"

Her own lines for *Bol Bollywood*, she says, are scripted in advance *Bol Bollywood*, which is a half-hour show, comprises film clips, interviews, in-depth stories about various aspects of the film business, the top five films in India and the top five films in Hollywood

In Rachel's own words it is a "fairly complete review of what is happening in the showbusiness for both India and the rest of the Star TV world."

She herself is not much of a Hindi film watcher though she admits it would perhaps have helped if she was "It is a bit embarrassing to anchor a film programme without knowing much about Hindi films," she says, "but then one of the advantages of being in the glamour profession is that I am in the know of who's doing what in the film world."

As for acting, she would rather leave alone that option as she "simply cannot act Even as a model that was my greatest handicap."

In the future she would like to open an exclusive restaurant "which would be a cool place to be in". And it would be right up her street, too, as she loves both eating and cooking.

Marriage, however, does not figure in her plans for the moment at least. "I don't want to get married for the wrong reasons — because I'm insecure about my looks, or bank balance or my society status," she says. "I would do it only if the person inspires me to want to marry."

And when will that be? "I don't know. I'm willing to wait!"



Vaishali Honawar

COVER STORY

NOBEL WORKSHOP

From Milton Friedman to Robert E Lucas, the University of Chicago has produced eight Nobel laureates in economics who have had a phenomenal influence on the subject as well as governments the world over ***Dipankar Bhattacharyya*** *traces the history of the university to see how the American system creates such centres of excellence*

THE GOTHIC CAMPUS ON CHICAGO'S crumbling South Side has a reputation as a dreary place. A recent survey of fun schools placed the University of Chicago last among 300 colleges. Early this month as news that Robert E. Lucas, a Chicago professor, had won the 1995 Nobel Prize for economics filtered into the campus, university president Hugo Sonneshein crowed, "In Chicago, this is how we have fun."

Lucas is the eighth Nobel economics laureate from the university, which has had more winners of the prize than any other university in the world.

His name now figures in a list designed to turn the ivy a shade greener along the East Coast — Milton Friedman (1976), Theodore W. Schultz (1979), George J. Stigler (1982), Merton H. Miller (1990), Ronald H. Coase (1991), Gary S Becker (1992) and Robert W. Fogel (1993).



Robert E. Lucas

Lucas is perhaps the last of the when-not-if Chicago economics Nobels, though others stand a pretty good chance — Eugene Fama for empirical finance, Thomas Sargent for work on learning and monetary policy and Lucas again for growth theory

So what makes Chicago tick?

The president of the Swedish Academy has pointed out that Americans, by and large are so successful (over half the economics Nobels awarded so far have gone to Americans) because they have the benefit of the organisation of American universities which receive large amounts of public money for research, and spend it effectively

Appointments and promotion in these universities are made genuinely on merit, a merit judged exclusively by published research The American vogue for "publish or perish" has been an enormous benefit for the human race

Money and motivation, motivation and money But that is true of the American education system Not enough to explain the University of Chicago's track record What does Chicago have that other American universities lack? Quite simple actually A school of thought A distinct Chicago school took shape in the Fifties The are two central theses : a policy position and a method of studying economics The policy position is the more commonly recognised element of the school and has, over the years, been labelled variously as monetarism, conservatism and sometimes, Friedmanism, after its principal architect, Milton Friedman

Friedman, a student under two great economists Frank Knight and Jacob Viner, at the university in the Thirties, returned to Chicago as a member of the faculty in 1946 A highly regarded technical economist till then, Friedman based his new prophetic role on a piece of economic theory called the Quantity Theory of Money.

He advocated that if a government confined itself to a single means — the growth rate of money supply — there was no need for any other action Inflation would be low and stable, unemployment would settle to its "natural rate" and the economy would grow at a desirable pace

There are two other legs on which the Chicago school stands Both established by Friedman First, a strong defence of *laissez-faire* Second, a closer look at the micro-foundations of the economy

The Nobel committee recognised Friedman's contribution to economics



Inside the campus

in 1976 It has been recognising the contribution of the Chicago school ever since

Lucas, Stigler, Coase, Becker and Fogel have, in their respective areas, either reinforced the Chicago school or used its methodology to arrive at critical insights into economic phenomena

Lucas used rational expectations to buttress Friedman's argument that the inverse relation between unemployment and inflation breaks down once people get over the surprise of changed circumstances Stigler's work on information in price theory argued for less industrial regulation.

Coase came up with a strong argument for reducing the role of the state even in areas where the market mechanism fails

Becker expanded economic analysis to sociology, politics and criminology His theoretical structures are, however, built on individualism and market equilibrium — two very strong Chicago school traits And Fogel, the historian, argued that slavery was an efficient economic system

The string of Nobels to Chicago

faculty is, therefore, regarded by some as endorsement of the school's two main messages "Markets are marvellous" and "Democratic socialism destroys democracy"

But the endorsement has not come without a price "Fascist" is among the many labels Friedman has had to wear

As the King of Sweden handed him his prize, there were riots outside the chamber These were mainly due to the spectacular service Friedman was said to be giving to the then government of Chile

Nobel prizes are fine, but what of the evidence on the ground? After all, a theory and its allied policy stand or fall by its applicability in the real world

And the evidence is overwhelming According to a recent United Nations survey on global investment, 21 countries (including such champions of market economics as India, Vietnam, Egypt, Nicaragua and Uzbekistan) liberalised their ownership rules in the early Nineties Another 16 substantially eased their approval procedures for foreign investments

More than 70 countries are reckoned

CHICAGO LAUREATES

Robert Lucas (1995) Lucas set himself the task of showing how a Phillips curve — the idea that high inflation and low unemployment go hand in hand — can appear even in an economy where markets clear (in other words, where any unemployment is "voluntary"). In 1973 he published "Some International Evidence on Output-Inflation Trade-offs".

The paper concentrated on the distinction between changes in prices overall and changes in the pattern of relative prices. It showed that if firms mistake a rise in overall prices for a rise in the price of the good they produce, they will increase their output. To get this result Lucas had assumed, almost in passing, that expectations are rational. With Lucas's paper New Classical Economics was born.

Robert Fogel (1993): In 1974 Fogel co-authored a book, *Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery* with Stanley J. Engermann. The book argued that slavery, despite its immorality, was a profitable and efficient system. Fogel's conclusion, which caused an uproar at that time, held that slavery languished because of politics, not economics, and that slaves were better treated than historians had thought.

Fogel and Engermann, in a way, pioneered the idea of a "value-free" approach to economic welfare. Fogel and Douglas North, with whom he shared the prize, are the first economic historians to be honoured by the Nobel Committee.

Gary Becker (1992): Becker is the leader of extensions of economic analysis to non-traditional fields He applied economic theory to such thorny subjects as family, racial discrimination and crime and punishment. Becker was able to analyse problems such as the choice between the number and quality of children (quality being the amount spent on each child for health, education and other items)

He predicted that hasty marriages by the very young will be less efficient matches than those reached after extensive search (dating). Becker's *A Treatise on the Family* (1982) had as much impact on sociology as it had in redirecting economists to the study of human capital



Theodore Schultz

Ronald Coase (1991): In 1960 Coase published *The Problem of Social Cost* He argued that, as a rule, no form of government action is required to deal with externalities or public goods There is no need for taxes, subsidies and public production, and so long as property rights already exist, there is no need for energetic policies to shift them around

The article caused a rethink in microeconomics, a rethink that is still on. It spurred the growth of a distinct new branch of the subject called "law and economics". And it converted many more economists to the liberal, anti-interventionist wing of their trade.



Robert Fogel

Merton Miller (1990): All roads in the modern theory of finance lead to 1958 and Franco Modigliani and

to have embarked on major privatisation programmes during the past 10 years In 1985-90 roughly 130 state-owned enterprises were sold every year And by end of the Eighties, on one estimate, global privatisation proceeds summed to nearly $200 billion

From Chicago in the Fifties to India in the Nineties, the school's message has had a tortuous route, needing as it did, political support to popularise it Friedman launched his "counter-revolution" at a time when Keynesian prescriptions on managing the economy had become dogma

Exhilarated at being at the beginning of a new movement, John Maynard Keynes's followers simplified his theory extremely to increase its accessibility to politicians Offered an attractive course of policy (increased government spending and larger deficits), politicians lapped it up without seriously questioning it

The trend was intensified in the Sixties Keynsians gave way to a more liberal view of government, the primary proponent of which was John Kenneth Galbraith The liberal view called for an even greater role of the

Miller There is no escaping the Modigliani-Miller (MM) theory. The MM paper made two distinct breakthroughs

First, it proved that the value of a firm is the same regardless of whether it finances itself with debt or equity The idea is startling it suggests that the corporate treasurer who agonises over how to raise funds is actually wasting his time

Second, the paper established a new economic methodology The article appealed directly to the law of one price, which says that two

entity that economists had regarded as equaliser of prices in competitive markets. There is a cost in time and energy for both buyers and sellers to seek out the best bargain

Stigler's theory, apart from explaining the array of prices one comes across for any commodity, also redefined the role of advertising. Advertising, till then regarded as a necessary evil, proves to be an extremely efficient means of providing the modern consumer much of the information he needs, and is as essential for

the concept of human capital

Schultz is credited with applying modern methodology to issues of underdevelopment

Milton Friedman (1976) An article assessing Friedman's contribution to economics to merit his getting the 1976 prize lists 245 publications, including 26 books No single person has done more to damage the neo-classical synthesis than Friedman In 1968 he showed that if inflation is expected there is no trade-off between inflation and employment as William Phillips's



Milton Friedman



George J. Stigler



Gary S. Becker

similar assets must cost the same. This method of proof has since become the backbone of financial economics.

George Stigler (1982): Stigler, in 1960, looked into the economics of information. Information, according to Stigler, is itself a commodity that is produced and [illegible], not the freely available

competitive firms as for monopolies

Theodore Schultz (1979): Schultz shared the 1979 prize with Arthur Lewis for his work in economic development Schultz focussed on agricultural economics and the nature of poverty in agrarian economies. His work spawned enormous amount of research into

famous curve postulated.

A Phillips curve only appears, and then briefly, when the economy's expectations are upset Once the economy gets over its surprise, Friedman insisted, the Phillips curve breaks down It did. The Seventies added a new word to the economists' vocabulary: Stagflation — high inflation and high unemployment.



Money and motivation, motivation and money. But that is true of the American education system. Not enough to explain the University of Chicago's track record. What does Chicago have that other American universities lack? Quite simple actually. A school of thought. A distinct Chicago school took shape in the Fifties. The are two central theses: a policy position and a method of studying economics

government in the economy, more regulation and a further step away from free markets It helped that John F Kennedy was a student of Galbraith's at Harvard — he took the American government to a new plane of activism

By the Seventies, the cracks began to appear In the mid-Seventies, fuelled by the discontent of the up-market classes and ignited by oil price rises, there was massive reversal of policy fashions in favour of monetarism, the effects of which are with us still today Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher were the high priests Friedman and Freidrich von Hayek, its prophets

By the time Reagan came to power, the new conservative order had reached centre-stage Fed up with weak-kneed liberalism, the people wanted a change In the event, they got Reaganomics — the economics of joy

Reaganomics failed Conservatism did not Across the Atlantic, Thatcher was experimenting with the same chemicals - - monetarism, free markets and lesser role for the state But where Thatcher recognised the cost of the objectives being pursued and was willing to pay them, Reagan denied that the objectives had any costs

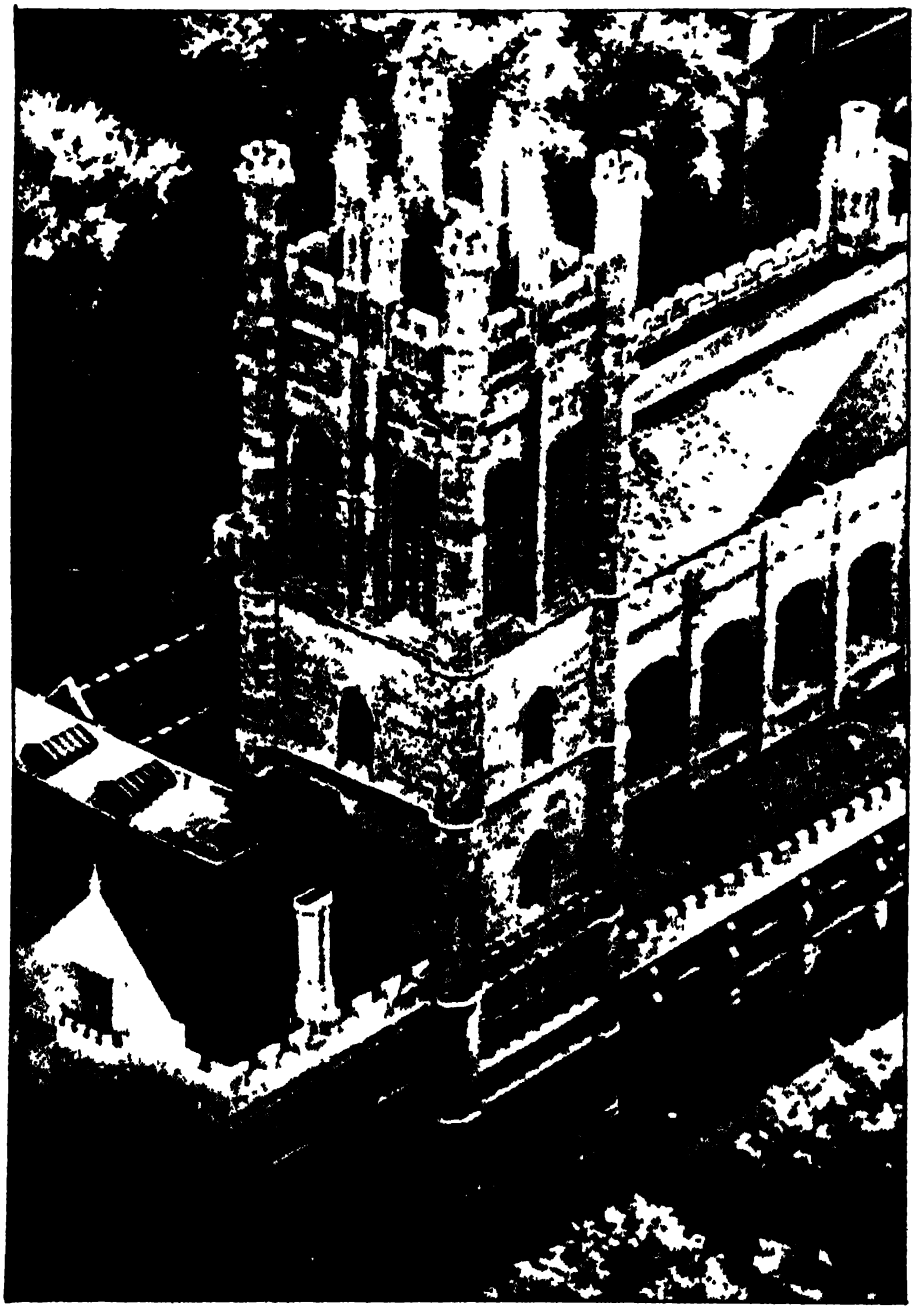
Thatcher's experiments with monetarism yielded mixed results Her panacea, privatisation, caught the world's imagination

Once a school of thought is established,the recruitment of new faculty tends to reinforce its central tendencies This may be due simply to the practice of recruiting scholars sympathetic to the school's views Coase, Miller and Fogel reflect this tendency Each of them did his prize-winning work someplace else

But another force is even stronger. In the last two academic generations, Chicago has offered positions to Paul Samuelson, James Tobin and Robert Solow, and to a still younger group of economists· Robert Barro, Stanley Fischer and Dale Jorgenson Most of the members of this distinguished list declined because they felt they would be immersed in an alien intellectual environment.

Schools emerge in response to scientific need That must mean they serve an important scientific function — to bring together a group of scholars who share a common view of the proper direction of their science. In the Nobel electors' assessment, it would appear, Chicago has fulfilled this role wonderfully. ■

University of Chicago



HUMOUR

USP, WHAT'S THAT?

***Bikram Vohra** on the mind-boggling, tongue-twisting world of ad jargons*

These days I spend a lot of time with people in the wonderful world of advertising listening to their very special language

I have never been so intimidated in my life

I met this lady the other day and she said, "We are doing a market segment study for maximum brand equity assessment after which we shall use our findings for market leverage"

I said, "Oh"

She said, "Then we are going to create dissonance in the end user mind about competitive brands, it has been seen that dissonance is a far more result-oriented approach than USP"

I said, "I was glad to hear that since I never particularly liked USP anyway"

She said, "USP was highly overrated"

I said, "Sod USP"

She said, "Meet Neil Noronha, he's a marketing analyst in consumer in psychographics"

I said, "How nice, how do you feel about USP?" (Never let it be said that Vohra is a quitter)

He said, "USP is now dated and the new marketing synergies were aimed at generating long-lasting product lifecycles"

She said, "He's really good at what he does, Neil has just completed a major campaign on coffee"

"That's nice," I said, saying "That's nice" being about the best defence I could come up with against camouflaging my complete ignorance of what USP stood for.

He said, "We achieved 77 per cent brand penetration through multimedia strategies by aiming at the core target audience"

I said, "That's ni "

Then I stopped myself and said, "What was the message?"

He said, "Anytime is coffee time"

I said, 'Oh,"—that being the second best defence I could come up with I began to feel rather like a sprinter in a long distance marathon, realising he just could not keep up with the longhaulers I mean, you can't keep saying, "That's nice" and "Oh" and expect to compete with people who can straightfacedly say things like, "the psychographics behind the latest user profiles indicate faulty weaning at childhood"

Neil was now talking about above the lines and below the lines and she was looking at him like spaniels look at people, all wet and adoring and Neil was spouting on about test marketing some rubber tubes by the blind testing method and I said, "I do a column called *Between the Lines* but no one paid any attention to me

I said, "It is a pretty nice column, people like it"

They paid no attention

I said, "It even has market leverage"

He was prattling on about the impact of current demographic trends on the urban market

I said, "It's a great column, will someone listen to me already?"

He said, "The print media is fast becoming obsolete as an option for brand distribution, our agency only recommends POP for consumer items"

Abashed, I said, "Oh"

How do you confess you don't know what POP is

By being honest, I guess

"What's POP?" I say

He says, "You don't know what POP is, hey folks listen to this guy, it's so refreshing, he doesn't know what POP is"

People floated towards us

"You don't know what POP is?" said one

"He doesn't, he really doesn't," said another

My wife said, "I don't know him, he is not with me"

And the lady I was talking to in the very beginning said, "Maybe he is one of those anti-POP freaks who goes in for DMS"

I said, "Yes, yes, I love DMS, I am a total DMS man"

Now, what the heck is it? ■



TALKING SHOP

TO AC OR NOT TO AC

Marriages are made or broken by the air-conditioner in the room
***Rumu Raychaudhury** discusses the cold vibes emanating because of it*

Everyone knows in an old marriage the air blows hot and cold But never in their wildest dreams would our forefathers have imagined that the sharing of the sacred marriage bed would be determined by the air-conditioner!

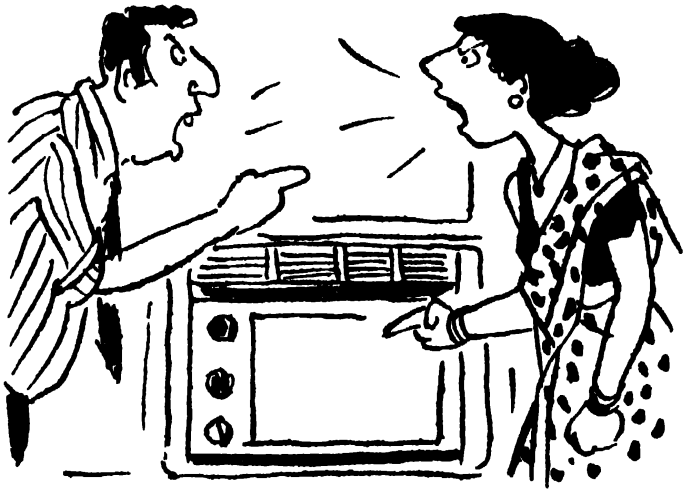
I am yet to meet a couple who agrees to the same temperature in the room, and more and more couples are opting for separate bedrooms, not because of the husband's secretary, but for the chill and comfort of their individual requirement

Some find this unexpected liberty quite pleasant and some do not, but on the whole, I must say the marriage vows should have a few more clauses added to it Not only should the husband and wife stick together through thick and thin, (which is also a bone of contention in the present day and age when the couple reaches middle age to fight the battle of the bulge), they must agree to share the room with the same temperature, to watch the same channel, because these are the issues that seem to disturb the peace in the nest

Let us look at an apparently successful couple who may be in their thirties Boy meets girl, falls in love, and gets married They do not have a decent earning with a yearning for more material pleasures in life So both work hard to build a nice modern home with the amenities they have dreamt of Slowly, they move to a decent flat which may be their own or may be rented

After a long day they both get into bed, discuss their plans for the future, the things they want to buy, the trials and tribulations of the day, and life passes by Eventually, the time comes, when they have acquired their colour TV, VCR, fridge, oven and now, they consider the air-conditioner as well, and buy one

But the problem has already started With age and maturity, each has developed a personality of his own and neither one of the couple wants to give in or adjust to the other's requirements



Before,the pleasure of watching their own colour TV together was a treat, but now the husband's or the wife's personal choice becomes more important When the AC came in the bedroom, the novelty of being able to control the temperature was important, may be the morning chill brought them closer But now, the issue of who likes the room cooler becomes important enough to go and sleep in another room rather than to sleep with the spouse and to feel comfortable in each other's touch

But this is just the outward manifestation of certain feelings which run deep With the onset of age, a distinct personality emerges, the question of individual likes and dislikes has grown stronger It becomes a prestige issue to compromise, and the hairline crack becomes more prominent with every passing day

May be then, this is what life is all about People do not see their nearest ones clearly enough and take them for granted without paying much attention to what is good in the partner and get bugged by even a small mistake Little gestures suddenly expose the frustration, and the dislike, we feel naked and cheated

We buy all the new, exciting material gadgets to fill our void like the children and that wish-fulfilling tree mentioned in a parable The children asked for sweets, along with it came stomach ache They asked for toys they got boredom, bigger and better toys brought even bigger boredom in their wake

One exemplary couple did not realise they had stopped looking at one another It was so nice at the beginning when after dressing up, each one waited for the desire and pride in the other's eye But the time has come when the wife dresses for the other women she will meet and the husband does not bother much, for after all, she is *just* the wife

At this point, if they could rewind their lives like a video tape and look back, try to remember the nice things which attracted each other, the troubles they have shared, the kindness they have shown one another, they may find that their partner is still the lovely person one fell in love with The time and stress may have made them a little tired, but they are the same human beings with just a few changes which, if dealt with compassion and care, can still create a bond of a lifetime and they will not have to face the loneliness of growing old alone in a crowded world ■

INNER EYE ❑ Bejan Daruwalla

Aries

March 21 - April 20



Ganesha says a mixed grill of childbirth, education, research, journey, loans and funds, specially the last four days and afterwards, makes this an interesting week Many Ariens will be pleasantly surprised by the number of things they will be doing at the same time

Taurus

April 21 -May 20



Just the right week for marriage, official engagement, collaborations and partnerships at all levels On the work frontier, your battle cry will be attack and crack There is real danger of misunderstandings and consequent heartburnings

Gemini

May 21- June 20



The moon's first quarter favours artistic pursuits, matters related to romance, travel, children, hobbies and speculation For the unemployed or the underemployed, the next 23 days will be mighty lucky Health safeguards are essential

Cancer

June 21 - July 20



Time to use your creativity to the full Time also to bag a contract, get money, buy a lottery, secure loans, invest and buy/sell to some advantage Many Cancerians will be working overtime the next 55 days in a frantic effort to finish pending work

Leo

July 21 —August 21



Marriage, partnerships, links, ties, in short, any sort of alliance, is what the week is all about, as well as, the next one Venus and Uranus in happy formation, will lead to changes in the home for sure Also, a job needs to be done, and done well, and you are fully aware of it

Virgo

August 22 September 22



Two trends run almost parallel The use of media for spreading the message and the news and secondly, buying, selling, house, property and land It is this movement which will result in contacts and gains It is absolutely necessary for you Travel, too, is on the cards

Libra

September 23 - October 22



Mercury still in your sign helps you to think clearly, go where the gravy is, take mighty fine chances and get work done Sports, children, entertaining, amusements, shares, debentures and good living will entice you We live only once and why not live it up? Exciting week

Scorpio

October 23 - November 22



Venus, love, luxury, money, comforts, vehicles are in excellent formation with Neptune, planet of inspiration and intuition Therefore, time to charm the world into your way of thinking Many of you will be changing course midstream or at least adding a string to your bow

Sagittarius

November 23- December 20



Your dual nature will come out now in this fashion You will be pure and serene like a mustard seed on the point of a needle, at the same time you will be actively engaged in journey, publicity, communication, property, signing of deeds and documents, legal and practical affairs

Capricorn

December 21—January 19



Move fast the first four days and clear away as many debatable points as you can After that, you might get stuck in a groove Ganesha claims this is an important time for finances, buying, selling, shopping and of course family affairs Health safeguards are essential

Aquarius

January 20- February 18



The moon's first quarter in your sign makes you valiant and vivacious Be it work or play, you will grab the goodies with an almighty effort Time also to start a venture, an enterprise, probably in partnership It would be best to avoid too many distractions on the way

Pisces

February 19—March 20



While this week could be expensive, rest assured people will come around and care for you Do expect visitors, foreigners, relatives, friends to visit you or you them. In either case, there will be a meeting point This is a week to eat, meet and enjoy Good for business and for you

B I R T H D A Y S

October 29: Moon-Neptune conjunction favours writers, teachers, entrepreneurs, media persons, industrialists, businessmen, editors and journalists

October 30: Moon sextile Mars-Jupiter leads to phenomenal success in investments, research, manufacturing, banking and investing. Your foresight will take you to the top.

October 31: Venus-Uranus sextile signifies victory after struggle, triumph after battle. Be creative, use your fertile imagination, be not afraid of voicing your opinion

November 1: Moon-Mercury trine does require an extra effort to make real good in life and as long as you are prepared for it, Ganesha says happiness and success will follow.

November 2: Moon trine sun, conjunction Saturn means it is all a question of cultivating the right attitude. Be positive Children give joy.

November 3: Venus-Pluto conjunction means long term benefits regarding money, arts, love and romance, erection of factory, building complex, and so on

November 4: Moon-Mars trine leads to energy, luck, contacts and by using these three wisely and well, you will, obviously, be a smashing success.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ❶ MONDAY ❷ TUESDAY ❸ WEDNESDAY ❹ THURSDAY ❺ FRIDAY ❻ SATURDAY ❼ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS — DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	**Time**	**Days**	**Flt No**	**Time**	**Days**
AGARTALA					
IC-741	0620	1 3 4 7	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 7
IC-743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
S2-026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2-028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
AMAMI					
PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BARODORA					
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1010	1 3 5 6 7	IC 722	1250	1 3 5 6 7
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 181	1600	daily
BANGALORE					
IC-771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 213	1945	daily	AI 106	1730	5
9W 212	1945	daily	9W 211	1910	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 214	1850	daily
AI 681	2330	1			
DELHI					
IC 263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	4S 806	1115	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1155	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	2005	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	2045	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
DIBRUGARH					
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC-701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1710	3 5
DIMAPUR					
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
GOA					
S2-026/021	0850	1 2 3 4 5	S2 022/005	2005	1 2 3 4 5
GUWAHATI					
IC-703	0810	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
HYDERABAD					
IC 771	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
IMPHAL					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
JAIPUR					
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
JORHAT					
IC 213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
MADRAS					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
D2 172	1640	daily	D2 171	1155	daily
IC 765	1720	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
SILCHAR					
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
TEZU					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS — INTERNATIONAL

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	**Time**	**Days**	**Flt No**	**Time**	**Days**
AMMAN					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0345	7	KL-875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
BANGKOK					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 4 5 7	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
TG 314	1355	1 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2 4 5 7
AI-306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	1950	5 7	RO-075	1055	5 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	1200	1	IC-226	1420	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
[illegible]					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
KATHMANDU					
RA 214	1815	1 4	RA-213	1715	1, 4
IC 747	0920	2 4 6	IC 748	1610	2 4 6
LONDON					
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA 143	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARO					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6

AI Air India ● **BA** British Airways ● **BG** Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● **D2** Damania Airways ● **D5** NEPC Airlines ● **IC** Indian Airlines ● **KB** Druk-Air ● **KL** Royal Dutch Airlines ● **LZ** Balkan Airlines ● **M9** Modiluft ● **PF** Vayudoot ● **RA** Royal Nepal Airlines ● **RJ** Royal Jordanian Airlines ● **RO** Tarom Air Transport ● **S2** Sahara India Airlines ● **SQ** Singapore Airlines ● **SU** Aeroflot ● **4S** East West Airlines ● **TG** Thai Airways International ● **9W** Jet Airways ● **VF** VIF Airways Limited

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	6 45	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 35	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
230[illegible]	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2308
2019	6 20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	22 00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	3046
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9-30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21-00	**Kathgodam Express**	11-55	3020
3021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5-00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	6 30	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	7 55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Mon Tues & Wed Arr Fri Sat & Sun	7 55	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4-30	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express** Thursday only	7 55	1182

Sealdah

Up	Time		Time	Dn
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	8-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7-15	3112
5657	8-25	**Kanchenjunga (Lumding) Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11 20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues , Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8035
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express** via Niraj	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 25	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15-10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Sunday only	16 10	--
	11 05	**New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah)** Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
–	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapanam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	-
	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-52 for in-coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203466 3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

WHEN I SAW HER STANDING THERE

When I was at college, I used to spend my summer vacations in Dehra, at my grandmother's place I would leave the plains early in May and return late in July Deoli was a small station about 30 miles from Dehra, it marked the beginning of the heavy jungles of the Indian Terai

The train would reach Deoli at about five in the morning, when the station would be dimly lit with electric bulbs and oil-pumps, and the jungle across the railway tracks would just be visible in the faint light of dawn

Deoli had only one platform, an office for the station-master and a waiting room The platform boasted a tea stall, a fruit vendor, and a few stray dogs, not much else, because the train stopped there for only 10 minutes before rushing on into the forests

Why it stopped at Deoli? I don't know Nothing ever happened there Nobody got off the train and nobody got in There were never any coolies on the platform But the train would halt there a full ten minutes, and then a bell would sound, the guard would blow his whistle, and presently, Deoli would be left behind and forgotten

I used to wonder what happened in Deoli, behind the station walls I always felt sorry for that lonely little platform, and for the place that nobody wanted to visit I decided that one day I would get off the train at Deoli, and spend the day there, just to please the town

I was 18, visiting my grandmother, and the night train stopped at Deoli A girl came down the platform, selling baskets

It was a cold morning and the girl had a shawl thrown across her shoulders Her feet were bare and her clothes were old, but she was a young girl, walking gracefully and with dignity

When she came to my window, she stopped She saw that I was looking at her intently, but at first, she pretended not to notice She had a pale skin, set off by shiny black hair, and dark troubled eyes And then, those eyes, searching and eloquent, met mine

She stood by my window for some time and neither of us said anything But when she moved on, I found myself leaving my seat and going to the carriage door, and stood waiting on the platform, looking the other way I walked across to the tea stall A kettle was boiling over on a small fire, but the owner of the stall was busy serving tea somewhere on the train The girl followed me behind the stall

"Do you want to buy a basket?" she asked "They are very strong, made of the finest cane "

"No," I said, "I don't want a basket "

We stood looking at each other for what seemed a very long time, and she said, "Are you sure, you don't want a basket?"

"All right, give me one," I said, and I took the one on top and gave her a rupee, hardly daring to touch her fingers

I watched her as the platform slipped away. She was alone on the platform and she did not move, but she was looking at me and smiling. I watched her until the signal box came in the way, and then the jungle hid the station, but I could still see her standing there alone....

As she was about to speak, the guard blew his whistle, she said something, but it was lost in the clanging of the bell and the hissing of the engine I had to run back to my compartment



The carriage shuddered and jolted forward

I watched her as the platform slipped away She was alone on the platform and she did not move, but she was looking at me and smiling I watched her until the signal box came in the way, and then the jungle hid the station, but I could still see her standing there alone

I sat up awake for the rest of the journey I could not rid my mind of the picture of the girl's face and her dark, smouldering eyes

But when I reached Dehra, the incident became blurred and distant, for there were other things to occupy my mind It was only when I was making the return journey, two months later, that I remembered the girl

I was looking out for her as the train drew into the station, and I felt an unexpected thrill when I saw her walking up the platform I sprang off the foot-board and waved to her

When she saw me, she smiled She was pleased that I remembered her I was pleased that she remembered me We were both pleased, and it was almost like a meeting of old friends

She did not go down the length of the train selling baskets, but came straight to the tea stall, her dark eyes were suddenly filled with light We said nothing for some time but we couldn't have been more eloquent

I felt the impulse to put her on the train there and then, and take her away with me, I could not bear the thought of having to watch her recede into the distance of Deoli station I took the baskets from her hand and put them down on the ground She put out her hand for one of them, but I caught her hand and held it

"I have to go to Delhi," I said

She nodded "I do not have to go anywhere"

The guard blew his whistle for the train to leave and how I hated the guard for doing that

"I will come again," I said "Will you be there?"

She nodded again, and as she nodded, the bell clanged and the train slid forward I had to wrench my hand away from the girl and run for the moving train

This time I did not forget her She was with me for the remainder of the journey, and for long after All that year she was a bright, living thing And when the college term finished I packed in haste and left for Dehra earlier than usual My grandmother would be pleased at my eagerness to see her

I felt the impulse to put her on the train there and then, and take her away with me; I could not bear the thought of having to watch her recede into the distance of Deoli station. I took the baskets from her hand and put them down on the ground. She put out her hand for one of them, but I caught her hand and held it

I was nervous and anxious as the train drew into Deoli, because I was wondering what I should say to the girl and what I should do I was determined that I wouldn't stand helplessly before her, hardly able to speak or do anything about my feelings

The train came to Deoli, and I looked up and down the platform, but I could not see the girl anyhere

I opened the door and stepped off the footboard I was deeply disappointed and overcome by a sense of foreboding I felt I had to do something, and so I ran up to the station-master and said, "Do you know the girl who used to sell baskets here?"

"No, I don't," said the station-master "and you'd better get on the train if you don't want to be left behind"

But I paced up and down the platform, and stared over the railings at the station yard, all I saw was a mango tree and a dusty road leading into the jungle Where did the road go? The train was moving out of the station, and I had to run up the platform and jump for the door of my compartment Then as the train gathered speed and rushed through the forests I sat brooding in front of the window

What could I do about finding a girl I had seen only twice, who had hardly spoken to me, and about whom I knew nothing — absolutely nothing — but for whom I felt a tenderness and responsibility that I had never felt before?

My grandmother was not pleased with my visit after all, because I didn't stay at her place more than a couple of weeks I felt restless and ill at ease So I took the train back to the plains, to ask further questions of the station-master at Deoli

But at Deoli there was a new station-master The previous man had been transferred to another post within the past week The new man didn't know anything about the girl who sold baskets I found the owner of the tea stall, a small, shrivelled up man, wearing greasy clothes, and asked him if he knew anything about the girl with the baskets

"Yes, there was such a girl here, I remember quite well," he said "But she has stopped coming now"

"Why?" I asked "What happened to her?"

"How should I know? said the man 'She was nothing to me"

And once again I had to run for the train

As Deoli platform receded, I decided that one day I would have to break-journey there, spend a day in the town, make enquiries, and find the girl who had stolen my heart with nothing but a look from her dark, impatient eyes

With this thought I consoled myself throughout my last term in college I went to Dehra again in the summer and when, in the early hours of the morning, the night train drew into Deoli station, I looked up and down the platform for sign of the girl, knowing, I wouldn't find her but hoping just the same

Somehow, I couldn't bring myself to break-journey at Deoli and spend a day there (If it was all fiction or a film, I reflected, I would have got down and cleaned up the mystery and reached a suitable ending for the whole thing) I think I was afraid to do this I was afraid of discovering what really happened to the girl Perhaps, she was no longer in Deoli, perhaps she was married, perhaps she had fallen in

In the last few years I have passed through Deoli many times, and I always look out of the carriage window, half expecting to see the same unchanged face smiling up at me I wonder what happens in Deoli, behind the station walls But I will never break my journey there It may spoil my game I prefer to keep hoping and dreaming, and looking out of the window up and down that lonely platform, waiting for the girl with the baskets

I never break my journey at Deoli, but I pass through as often as I can

(Sanctuary Features)

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

MOONBEAMS AND VENOM

It was Sharadpurnima and I and my companions had all forgotten that Kalidas lived such a very long time ago I sat on the ground, reclining on a cushion so as to see what the poet saw when he wrote of Autumn, *"The moon, the eye's delight, captivates all hearts with aureoles bright, Bringer of Joy, showering beams cool as snowflakes, it consumes the limbs of women pierced by the poisoned arrows of separation from their husbands"*

Yes, something there has definitely been lost in translation But Sharadpurnima doesn't need any translation because it is the same then as now, the same *"cloudless sky inlaid with the moon and countless stars"* The full mon rises broad yellow and then becomes smaller and intensely white Its light gradually floods and transforms the landscape It banishes all formless shadows The bushes in the nearby field which had looked like *Neelgae* were now clearly bushes after all Far denuded hills and a wide lake stood revealed This light does not strain the eyes There's no need for sunblock or dark glasses You became more wakeful the higher the moon climbs By midnight you can read a book in its light

Suddenly there came a cry

"Snake!"

We should have leaped up to help, but somehow we were too relaxed to react Peacocks cried Kalidas wrote, *"The dance-display ended, Love deserts the peacocks"* He was right. By Sharadpurnima they have bred and their young have grown to half the adult size

On the slight breeze came the fragrance of the *harsingar* which Kalidas seems to have known as *sephalika* and which is also identified with *parijaat* — the tree of paradise produced at the churning of the ocean

I have read that at its root lies a pot of *amrit*, from which the moon sips each night as she waxes Then from *purnima* onwards, the moon showers *amrit* on us, and itself gradually wanes The *Vishnu Purana*, though, tells the story of a princess called Parijataka who unwisely fell in love with the sun. He soon deserted her and in despair she took her life and was cremated The *harsingar* grew from her ashes and casts its white and coral flowers in the morning as it cannot bear the sight of the sun This story offers the reason for the tree's Latin name, *arbor-tristis* — the sad tree But in yet another legend, Krishna brought it from heaven, which is why its flowers are used in worship

"Snake! Snake!"

Finally I roused myself, got up and took a torch just in case I walked across the garden to the entrance of the simple house where we had come to watch the moon The lady of the house was standing looking terrified at a flight of steps, half hidden in shrubbery

"I nearly trod on it," she said, her eyes wide with fear "If it hadn't twitched, I would have been done"

I shone my torch into the small patch of darkness near the wall where the snake had removed itself It lay in coils, blue-black with the most beautiful white-yellow bands It twitched again and slowly uncoiled and slid into the bushes I had never seen anything looking so visibly venomous

"Krait!" I cried in joy, thrilled that I had finally seen India's most deadly reptile, whose venom is 10 times as powerful as that of the cobra

My hostess looked even more shaken and was not at all comforted when I assured her that God obviously did not want her to die yet My fellow guests, an urban lot, I admit, poured scorn on my identification, indicating that it was the only snake I knew the name of I was so pleased with the sighting that I didn't reply, as I might have, that at least I was trying to get to know plants and animals and their seasons How else can you appreciate the world where wise men like Kalidas have never drawn any line between man and nature?

A woman from the nearby village came up and affirmed that in her world of nature *"kire bahut hain"* These "worms" hung from arches, crept into houses, crawled on to *charpoys* and were generally a great nuisance However, no one had been bitten lately

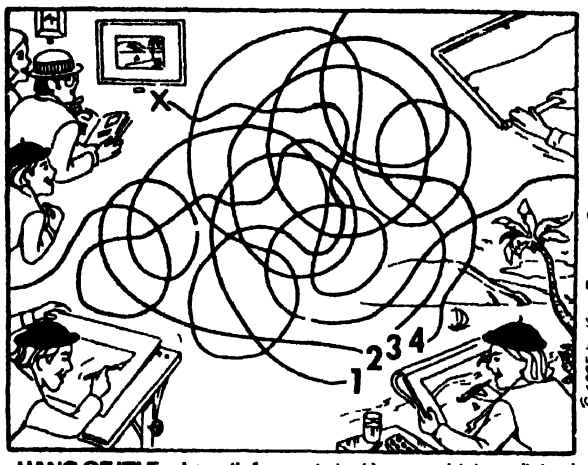
The next morning I consulted some snake books and was very pleased I'd kept quiet and not talked back to my critics as if I knew better than them I was ignorant after all There is, you see, another snake, and a harmless one, the wolf snake, which looks very much like the common krait and likes to live in houses The two can be told apart by their fangs and the hexagonal scales on the krait's back But much as I love nature, I don't think I'd have risked annoying the Sharadpurnima snake by examining its back or the lie of its fangs!

(Sanctuary Features)



'Snake! Snake!' Finally I roused myself, got up and took a torch just in case. I walked across the garden to the entrance of the simple house where we had come to watch the moon

JUNIOR WHIRL HAL KAUFMAN



HANG OF IT! Find a path from artist, at lower right, to wall display, at upper left. Which route leads to goal?

SAY WHAT! What dessert fits every occasion? Pie a la mood. What animal is a messy painter? The splatterpus. What wind won't move a sailboat? A nil wind. What bee deals in counterfeit money? A bum bill bee.

①②③ ○○○
④⑤⑥ ○○○
⑦⑧⑨ ???

PLUS & MINUS BRAINTEASE

TRY this problem in simple arithmetic. You are asked to:

Rearrange positions of numbers 1-9 so that a three-digit amount in the 600's at top will equal three times the amount in the middle, and top row minus middle will result in amount at the bottom.

Each of the nine digits is to be used just once. Simple?

How quickly can you arrive at answer?

Time limit is two minutes.

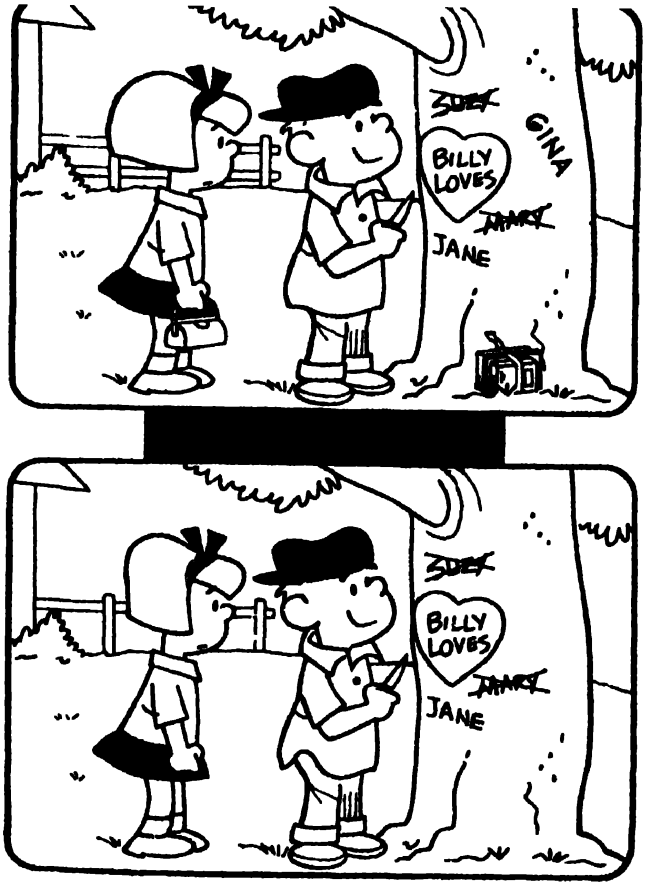
Answer: 657 minus 219 = 438. Will do it.

WELL VERSED!A one-word answer to this classic charade may be deduced from its descriptive verse and/or letters in the crystal ball below. My FIRST is won and never lost reversed 'tis now, take heed. My NEXT reversed is red as wine, or yonder rose, indeed. My WHOLE's so wondrous strange that I must candidly confess. Though you're ingenious, it will be a wonder if you guess.

What word am I?



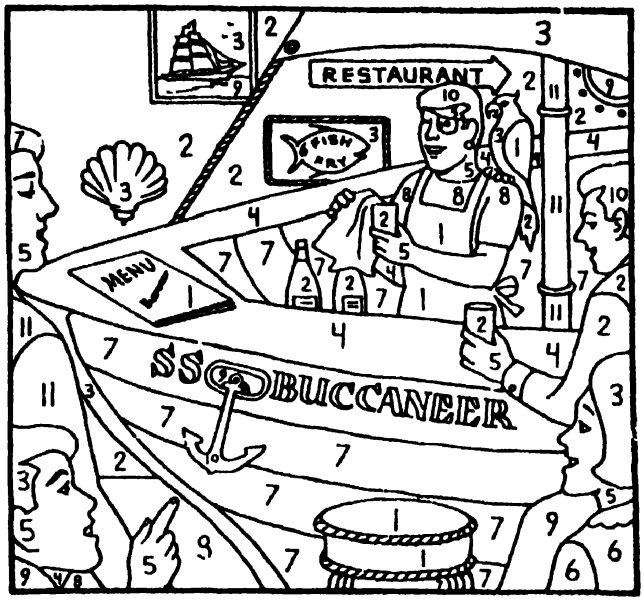
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Difference 1 Hair is different. 2 Rail is missing. 3 Purse is missing. 4 Shirt is different. 5 Name is missing. 6 Books are missing.

FUNSPOT



SHIP AHOY! Ahoy there mate, what's on the menu? Code: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Purple. 9—Dk. blue. 10—Black. 11—Lavender.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

INURBANE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

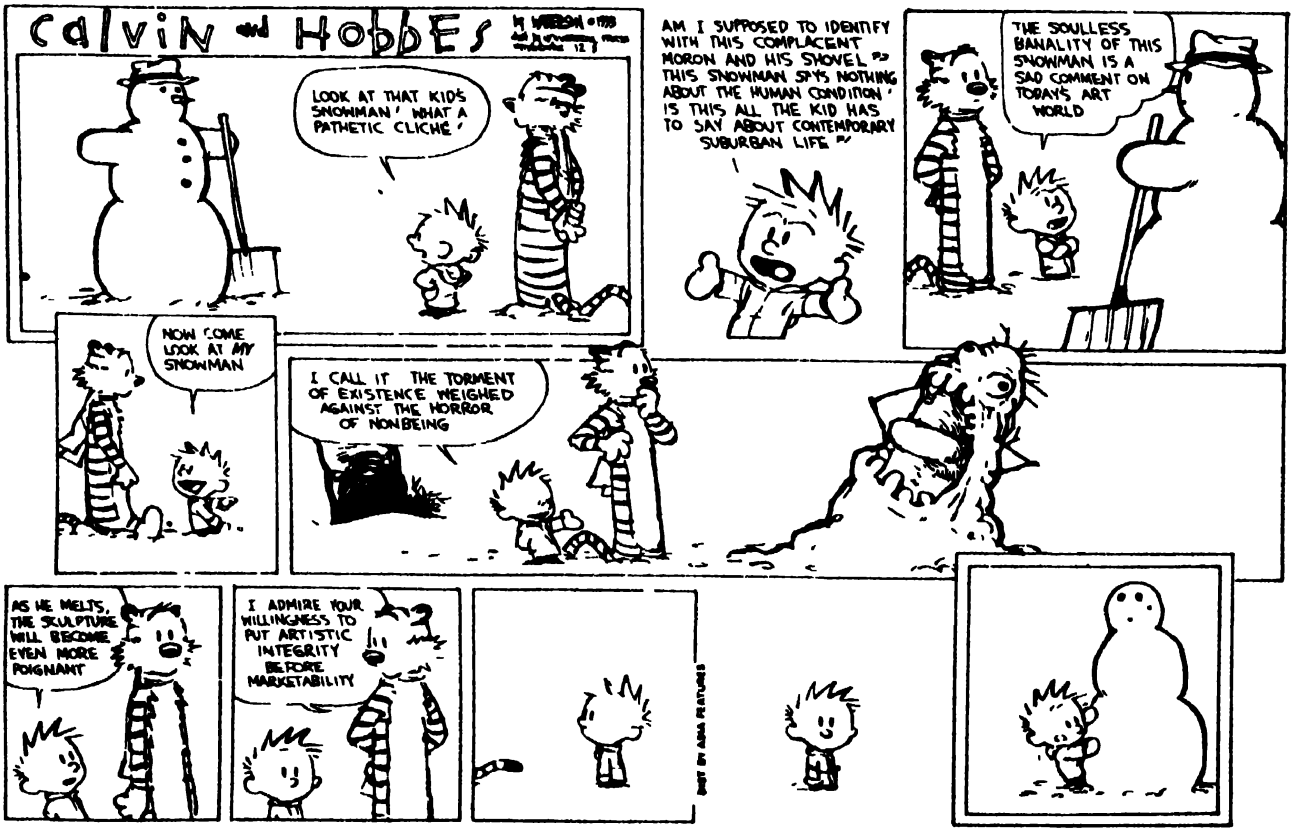
Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible twosome: Ruin, bean.

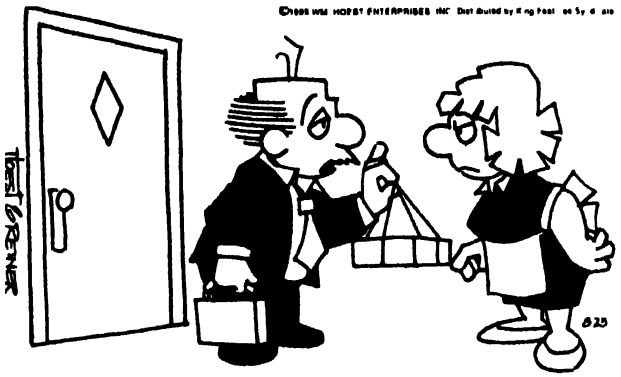
ARCHIE



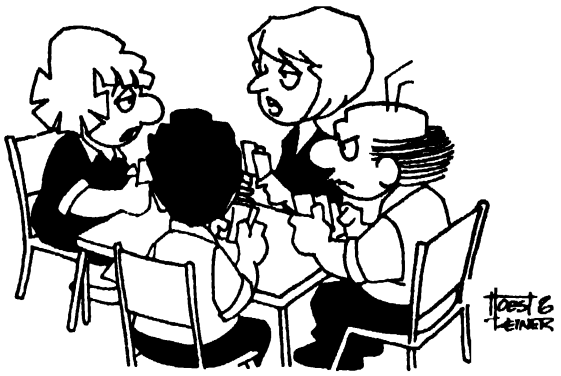
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



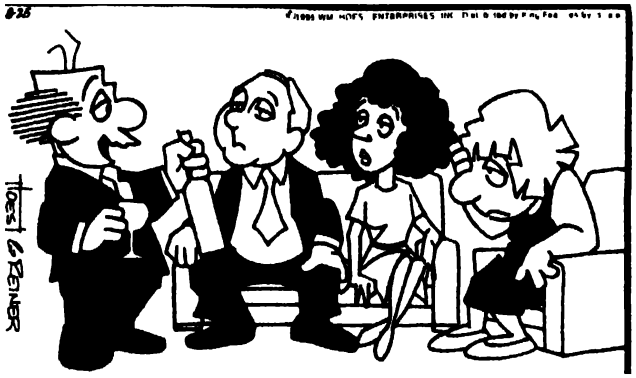
THE LOCKHORNS



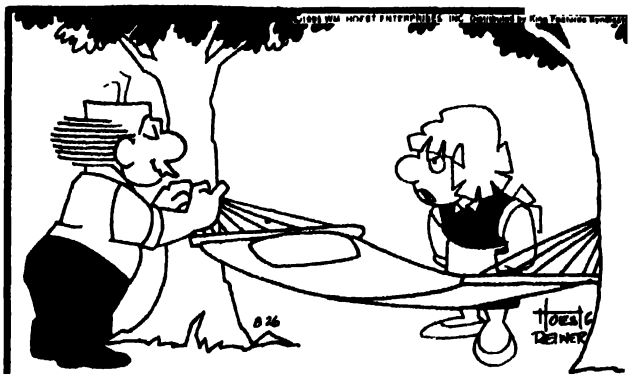
"IN HONOR OF YOUR BROTHER'S VISIT, I PICKED UP A SPONGE CAKE"



"LEROY FEELS IT ISN'T WHETHER YOU WIN OR LOSE, BUT WHO GETS THE BLAME."

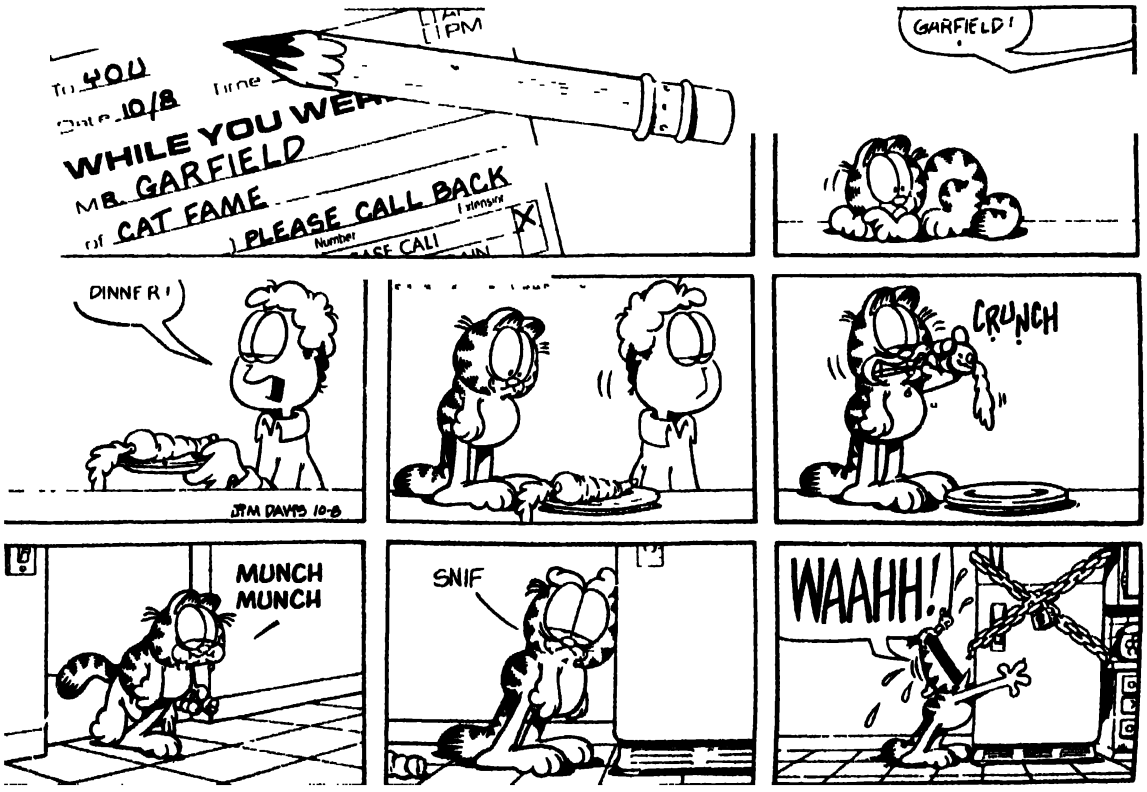


"LORETTA WANTED ME TO IMPROVE MY SPIRITS, SO I BOUGHT A MORE EXPENSIVE WINE"



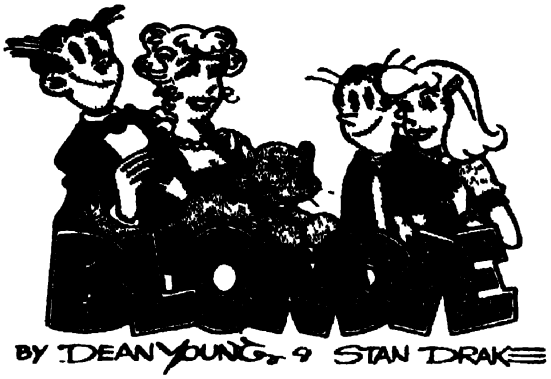
"THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT WHEN I ASKED YOU TO DO SOME YARDWORK, LEROY!"

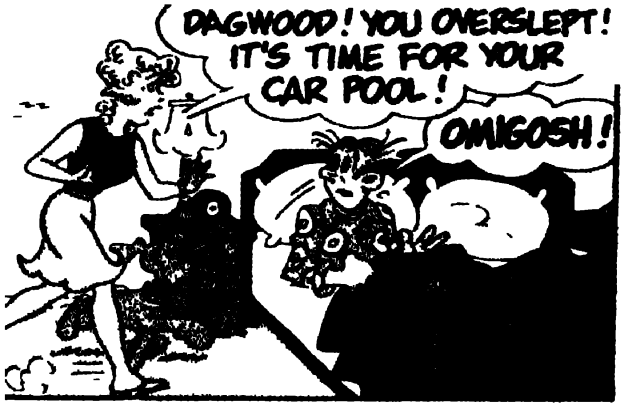
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP




BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


DAGWOOD! YOU OVERSLEPT! IT'S TIME FOR YOUR CAR POOL!
OMIGOSH!

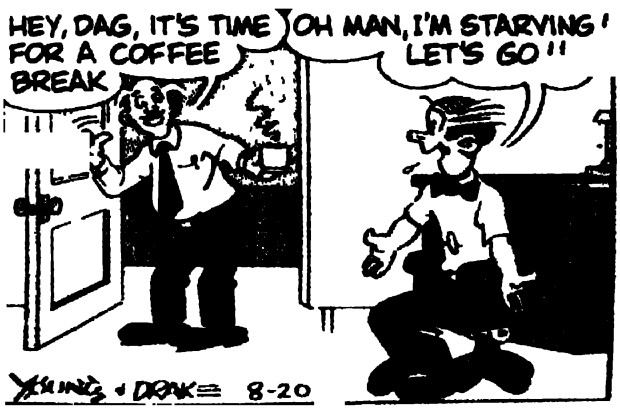

HONK HONK
GULP GULP
MAYBE THESE FRESH DOUGHNUTS WILL HELP KEEP YOUR CAR POOL FROM BEING SO UPSET


AM I FORGIVEN?
WELL, YES, THIS TIME


READY FOR SOME DANISH?
NO THANKS, I'M STUFFED WITH DOUGHNUTS
E. DWITZEL


YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ANY?
POSITIVE! I GORGED MYSELF ON THE WAY IN


EW-W..NO, PLEASE, I CAN'T


HEY, DAG, IT'S TIME FOR A COFFEE BREAK
OH MAN, I'M STARVING! LET'S GO!!
YOUNG & DRAKE 8-20

LIMELIGHT

STREEP TEASE

With romantic roles a rarity for actresses on the wrong side of 30, is Meryl Streep, along with the current crop, stripping for the script or for the role? ***Trina Mukherjee*** *finds out*

Recently the Philippines banned a movie on grounds of 'vulgarity' and 'bad taste' The movie was *The Bridges of Madison County*, starring Clint Eastwood. And the 'offensive' actress was none other than Meryl Streep

The leading lady, who is just short of acquiring *Grande Dame* status by virtue of her Protean screen portrayals, had indignant Filipinas rushing for cover

The controversial scene showed Streep undressing in front of the mirror, scrutinising her body and wondering whether she is still desirable or not

Streep is a fine performer and need not pay obeisance to priggish piffle But did the script merit such exposure? Or was it a sad display of desperation? Romantic roles *are* a rarity for actresses on the wrong side of 30 And Streep is not 30 anymore

Streep, being a versatile actress, has every right to strip, strut or tease, no questions asked But did she end up treading the oft-trodden path in *Madison County*? It would be a pity for the gutsy lady who once dared to be different, now, merely daring to bare

Ironically, her stance is a neat round-up of the success formula-cum-predicament of the Hollywood women of the Nineties Prodigious sex appeal; the sweet flush of youth, a certain elusive quality that passes as 'star presence' And, of course, an inclination, if not the ability, to be an intelligent actress



Meryl Streep. Hit or miss?

The 'real' love goddesses, exuding unfettered sexuality, are a thing of the past Rita Hayworth, the quintessential sex icon of the Forties mesmerised her admirers with her Latin sensuality and ballerina grace

The Fifties saw a skirt-blown Marilyn and the sylphic Brigitte The two of them mastered the art of body language to such an alarming perfection so as to transcreate the definition of feminine sexuality

Liz Taylor added a shade of rust to their white hot sex appeal with her earthy presence and credible performance

The choice, perhaps, was not always between 'meaty' roles and 'carnal' ones It might have been both Marilyn's flair for comedy, Liz's magnetic screen presence and Brigitte's vulnerability spoke along with their erogenous facets

Liz may have hesitated before enacting a call girl in *Butterfly 8* It required less deliberation for Julia Roberts when she agreed to star in *Pretty Woman*

By then, Hollywood was ready for its new female archetypes The lost, pretty woman being wooed by the glamour-weary tycoon was the new fairytale of the Nineties, or, the bold sexually agressive woman of today For Julia, *Pretty Women* was her ticket to stardom and her subsequent image — gullible, docile young thing nextdoor who also dares to react For the likes of Stone or Demi, it was just scratch, snatch and scramble. At this stage of their life and career, the bolder the role the better.

Meryl might have opted to do the 'steamy' scene in *Madison County* because she was "bathed with tears" after she read the script. For her it was "the script, script and the script" that mattered. Not so, Demi Moore or Sharon Stone who had more basic

reasons to opt for similar roles.

Moore, the 'star bitch', whose persona, as observed by one of her critics, "is that she is very much in touch with her own sexuality" had offered more than that in films like *Ghost* or *A Few Good Men* The movie lovers sat up to appreciate her sterling performances as a vulnerable as well as a strong-willed woman who battled super-natural and worldly elements with aplomb

Yet going by the 'Grab 'em when they come, give 'em what they want' rule left her competing for *Basic Instinct* The part finally went to Sharon Stone who gave an excellent display of various parts of her anatomy combined with 'I look sinister' expressions pasted on her face Was it voyeurism or eroticism? No one knows for sure But the movie was a sure success



Sharon Stone: Lady long legs



Demi Moore with Woody Harrelson in *Indecent Proposal*

In similar movies, there was nothing new to expect; sexuality shorn of all enigma or mystery — frothy escapades, phallic humour, dispassionate snogs comprised a soggy but tangy diet for an average moviegoer

However, Demi proved that she is capable of surprises. She gave a high wattage power show when she decided to sleep with Robert Redford for a million in *Indecent Proposal* or maul Michael Douglas in *Disclosure* She plans to do some "great things" as she prepares herself to play the adulteress Hester Prynne in a screen adaptation of the novel, *The Scarlet Letter* But right now, she is all set to streak her way to $12.5 million in the movie, *Striptease*, which has a fantastic storyline of a desperate mom taking on a stripper's job to raise the money to fight a custody battle!

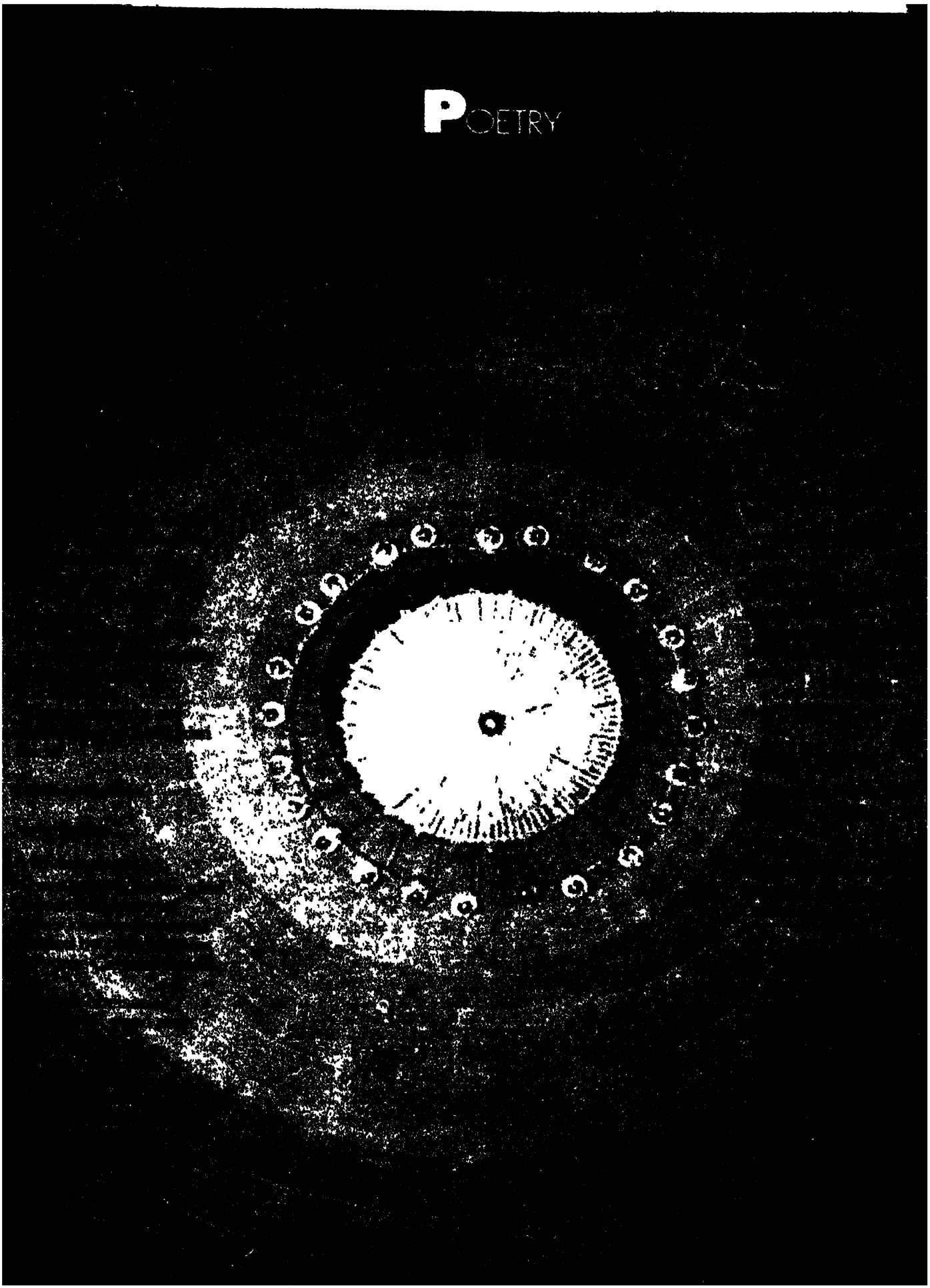
Demi is reaping her share of plum roles while the sun shines brightly and winter is a few autumns away. So did Meryl when she portrayed several interesting women with foreign accents and tragic pasts in memorable films like *The French Lieutenant's Woman, Sophie's Choice, Holocaust, A Cry in the Dark.* This is not to say that a Demi Moore is a Meryl Streep or vice versa But it is merely a reenactment of Jill-goes-up-the-hill-comes-tumbling-after syndrome of tinsel town

Hollywood had always been cruel to older actresses Meryl should know Actresses like Jane Fonda, Jessica Lange or even the bewitching Cher are more heard of than seen on screen Glenn Close has to survive by playing a nasty nyphomaniac, out to devour a happily married man (who else but Michael Douglas) and his happy family in *Fatal Attraction*

Yes, Meryl does know: "I'm aware that most movies are written for women in their twenties and thirties. the ones in their thirties get the richest and most interesting parts. And for women in their forties, it's a hit and miss "

So the lady is willing to play the game by its rules She feels, "as a mother of, now, three young daughters, I don't want *Pretty Woman* to be their idol That's just for titillating 20-year-old men " But going steady at 45, she has had to make her pick of the season when there might not be many *Madison County* may be her way to seduce the mainstream audience They would surely be confronted with a mercurial actress who can still call the shots and strips *only* for the script ■

POETRY



Survival

The baked road of
survival
zigzags through the
jungle of tattered lives
and gets lost in the
horizon.
Animals, dumping their
souls behind,
hurry towards a mirage
in the guise of human
form.

I, a man, have to feign
to be a hard-boiled brute
to drag the hefty cart of
existence
Or I've to accept the fate
of
a rubbish heap in a
bazaar corner
to wait for the municipal
dumper.

Pitu Sharma
Phurailapatam

A Passage To Eternity

Two unmoving lungs
And a pair of open eyes
Which no more
Allow light into them
Are enough to say
Somebody is dead

The soul's silent journey
Is like the flying of a bird
To perch on a twig
Or on a mountain top

The temple's priest
Prepares for the
evening's rites

Black shadows dance
In the dark room of

The departed soul
When the lamps on the
Candelabrum glow
Brighter and brighter

The wailing of the
bereaved widow
Dies out
Amid the deafening
cymbals
And tinkling of temple
bells

Who is then to stop
The go of the World —
God? Or Man?
Or a third Force yet to
come?

Premananda Panda

Like a Blank Signpost

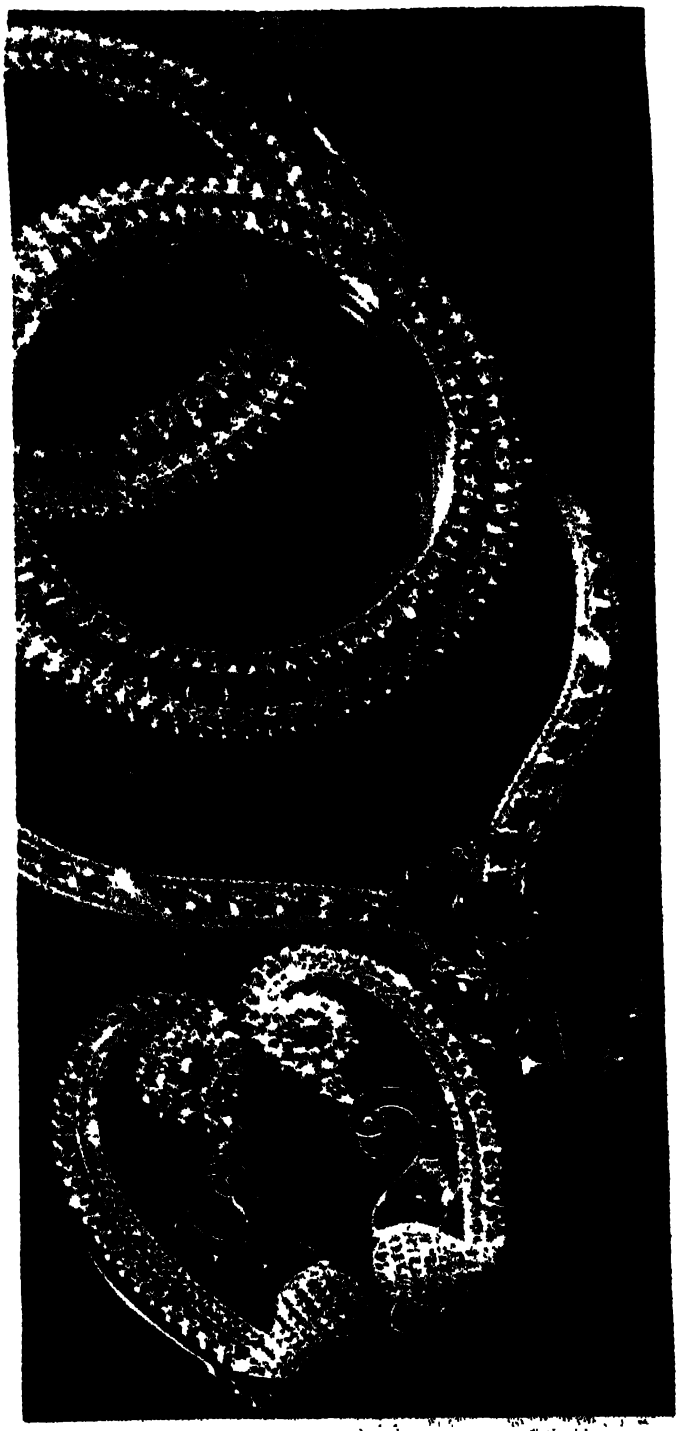
That I had to part
leaving you behind
was very unfortunate
Otherwise by now
I could have coloured at
least one shirt with hot
blood
Otherwise by now
I could have hoisted the
ocean's flag
standing beside the
ocean.
Otherwise by now,
dedicated to all men
Some signposts in
memory would have
carried Sananta's poems.

Sometimes even the
blinds forget their roads.

Drenched in grief
even the days take
circular shapes in time
Everyone commits a
mistake Richness in
existence makes one
forget existence itself
Everyone, but everyone
enters the fire following
a wrong route

That's why it's very
unfortunate
That I had to part
leaving you behind.
Like nameless frames
kept hanging in
someone's dreams
Like a blank signpost

Translated from Assamese by Devabrata Das
Sananta Tanty



A beautiful dream is a joy forever. Beautiful ornaments are a Lady's dream. Come to our world of exquisite ornaments and fly off with your dream.

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VISA

CARD AND MASTER CARD ACCEPTED

HARIPRASAD CHAURASIA, *needs no introduction to the lover of classical or film music, both of whom he has held in thrall for decades. He has played the flute for several Hindi films since the days of Salil Chowdhury who introduced him to the world of film music. A few years back he teamed up with the santoor maestro, Shiv Kumar Sharma, to form the Shiv-Hari duo and scored hits for films like* Chandni, Lamhe *and* Darr.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Music.
What is your greatest fear?
Absence of music.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
Nature's beauty.
What do you dislike most in others?
Unmusicality
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My frankness
What is your most precious possession?
Music
What objects do you always carry?
My musical temperament
What makes you most depressed?
An unmusical environment
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
Nothing

What objects do you always carry?

My musical temperament

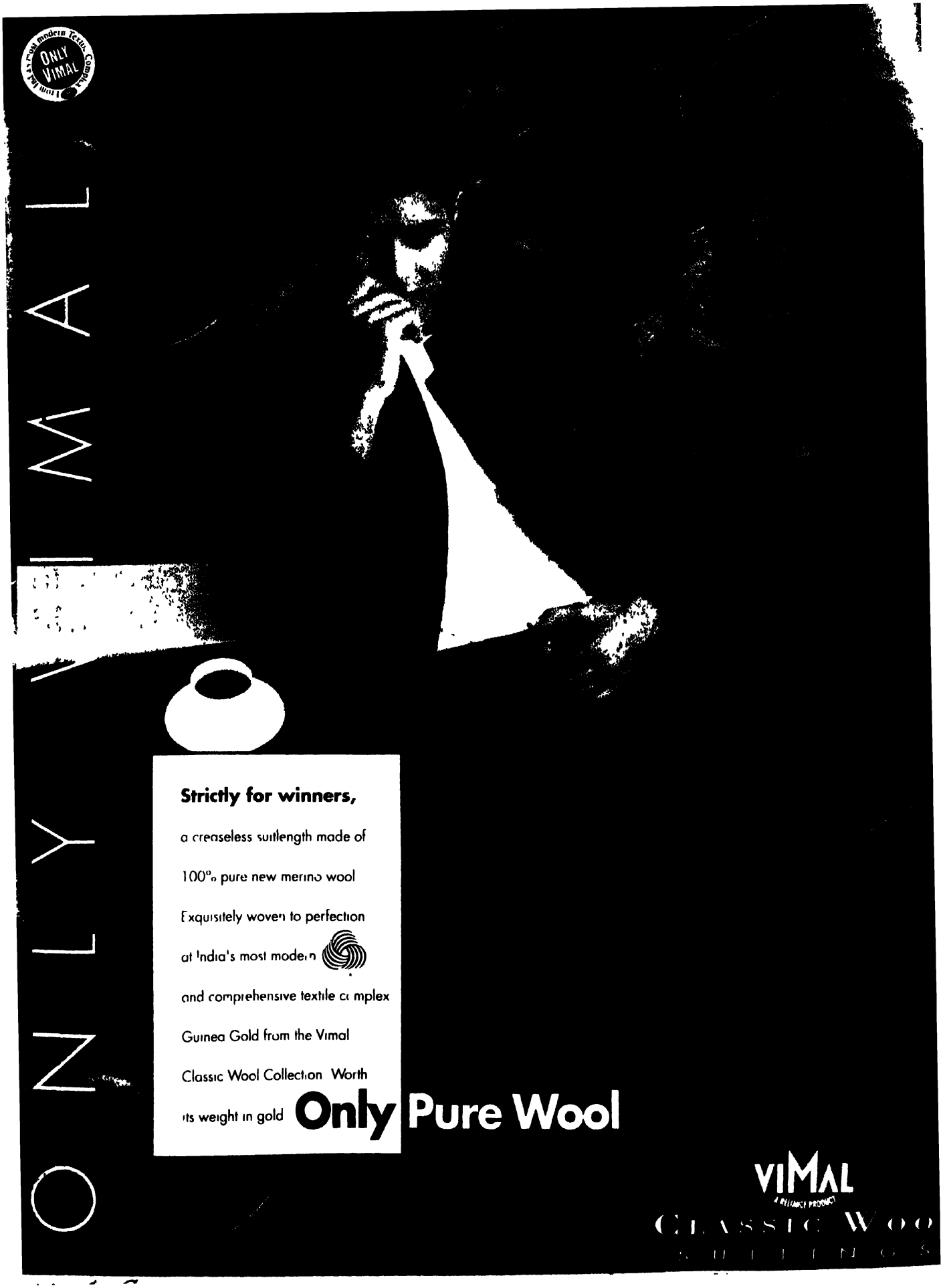


What is your favourite word?
Beauty
What is your favourite journey?
Through places covered with natural beauty, like Kashmir
What is your favourite dream?
Beautiful girls
What is your nightmare?
Nothing
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Music
What is your source of sustenance?
Music
On what occasions do you lie?
When I meet a beautiful girl or girls
What is your greatest regret?
None
What has been your happiest moment?
When I hear some beautiful music, anywhere

On what occasions do you lie?

When I meet a beautiful girl or girls.

What brings tears to your eyes?
Music
How do you relax?
Thinking of music.
What do you envy most in others?
Beauty
How would you like to be remembered?
As Lord Krishna.
How would you like to die?
I would like to be immortal.


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a creaseless suitlength made of
100% pure new merino wool
Exquisitely woven to perfection
at India's most modern
and comprehensive textile complex
Guinea Gold from the Vimal
Classic Wool Collection Worth
its weight in gold
Only Pure Wool
VIMAL
A RELIANCE PRODUCT
CLASSIC WOOL
SUITINGS



The Morning Fox

The Welcome Drink

The Evening Welcome

The Personal Butler Room

The Yellow Rose

The Happening

Be with us



The Garden Inn

DISCOVER EXCELLENCE

Bhubaneswar

The Telegraph

5 NOVEMBER 1995

POSTMORTEM

Salil Lives

■ Salil Chowdhury possessed certain qualities which set him apart from other music directors in Bombay as well as Calcutta ('Symphony No More', September 24).

Only the late Sudhin Das Gupta had some of his attributes. Naushad, Hariprasad Chaurasia and Shiv Kumar Sharma's tributes were actually a journey down memory lane

But none of the articles mentioned Salil Chowdhury's two very memorable creations *Ganga* and *Lal Pathar*

In the early Sixties, Rajen Tarafdar made *Ganga* based on a Samaresh Bose novel for which Salil Chowdhury composed songs like *Aamae dubaili re, aamae bhashaili re* and *Ichha kore parandare gamchcha dia bandhi*

Dekona more dekonago from *Lal Pathar* still lingers.

How true the saying is Mortal man, immortal melodies!

P.K. Sinha,
Giridih (Bihar)

■ Salil Chowdhury's inspiration for the first few bars of *Itna na mujhse* comes not from Mozart's Ninth Symphony as Chandan Mitra claims, but from the opening bars of the first movement (*Molto Allegro*) of Mozart's 40th Symphony in G minor.

Salil Chowdhury was one of those very few Indian composers who drew inspiration from Western classical music, another notable example being the instrumental interlude in the Bengali song, *Ei je sabuj banabithikae* which



adapts the beginning bars of the first movement of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony (Pastoral) in F major

To call this plagiarism would be a fallacy. On the contrary, he was one of those rare masters of music who could aesthetically adapt tunes and motifs from different masterpieces.

Rajarshi Sengupta,
Calcutta

■ *Dil se dil ki dore bandhi* is a Mukesh number and not sung by Dwijen Mukherjee

Ittefaq was not the only B R Chopra film for which Salil Chowdhury scored the music. The BR banner engaged him for *Kanoon* (1960) and *Chhotisi Baat* (1970) Incidentally, *Kanoon* was also a film without a single song

Balraj Sahni's voice may have matched Manna Dey's, but it sounds rather contrived when Chandan Mitra tries to establish this being the only reason for Manna Dey's inclusion in films like *Kabuliwala* and *Do Bigha Zamin* Incidentally, in neither of these films Balraj Sahni's playback singer was Manna Dey (The songs were in the background)

Lastly, it was not Mozart's Ninth Symphony, but the 40th in six minor which inspired Salil Chowdhury to compose the evergreen number, *Itna na mujhse*

Debasish Deb,
Calcutta

■ In remembering Salil Chowdhury, Shiv Kumar Sharma points to the dangerous trend in the film industry of lifting tunes from Western melody

He may call it "blind plagiarism" but he should not ignore the conditions in which music directors function nowadays In the Fifties and Sixties music directors had to cater to a select group of audience who were not swayed by an overwhelming Western influence

The market was less competitive and the shelf life of any creation was longer

Today, Bombay has become so competitive and so frighteningly materialistic that if you cannot produce something new every other day, you are put on the backburner

Syed Tajdaar Bakht,
Calcutta

Jayanta Mahapatra will be abroad for a while. Readers may please send their poems to him after the third week of November.

INSIDE



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The Beatles have been in and out of style since the Sixties, but this year promises to be their busiest one with the making of *The Beatles Anthology*

PAGE 26

The controversial Kiran Bedi is always in the news This time it is her new biography An interview with the supercop and an extract

Kiran Bedi

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Cover Paul McCartney, picture AP

COVER STORY

COME TOGETHER

Paul McCartney breezed into a suite at the Four Seasons Hotel in New York and immediately had all the Evian water removed to protest the fact that the French are conducting nuclear tests in the South Pacific He smiled "It'll be our little boycott" McCartney then sat for a frank talk with ***Jeff Giles*** *Drink up*

Paul McCartney A day in the life



Would *The Beatles Anthology* have happened if John Lennon were alive?

I don't think so It could have really been very difficult This is conjecture, but I think it would have been OK with me and John And I think Ringo certainly would have been OK with it I had managed to make my peace with John a good few months before he was killed George hadn't I'm not sure whether they were not talking or what it was But George did his big book, his life story and he (barely) mentioned John in it

And John was upset

Naturally, upset George is a very forthright character He just says what he thinks And I, in fact, to tell you the truth, he wasn't really keen on *Free as a Bird* He was saying to me, "I sort of felt John was going off a little bit towards the end of his writing"

I personally found that a bit presumptuous, but I don't think we ought to get into that because this is going to sound sour I felt that John was always a great writer Some of our early songs weren't massively meaningful Some of his later songs weren't, maybe, massively meaningful, were rather romantic and sentimental But he still had something for me

When you talked with John towards the end, what did you talk about? Children?

Yeah, and we talked about him baking bread And I'm quite, you know, kind of domestic I'd been married for a little while, I had some kids So we talked about his children And, with Sean, John finally saw what

ROLL OVER BACH, TOO

The three surviving Beatles have joined again after 25 years to produce The Beatles Anthology, *a collection of new songs from their archives, including an unfinished John Lennon number.* ***Jack Kroll*** *says the group's arrival in the Sixties was the most thrilling creative surge in the history of pop culture*

Were you there?
If not, you really can never know.

Amazement must be experienced firsthand, and the coming of the Beatles was an amazement

Girls screamed, the captions in *Newsweek*'s February 24, 1964, cover story read "eeeeeeeeeee .EEEEELFEEEEE - EEEEEEEEEEE!" And the *London Times* music critic praised the Beatles' "pandiatonic clusters" and "flat-submediant key-switches"

Both reactions were perfectly appropriate, the Beatles were blowing minds and nervous systems

And cash registers

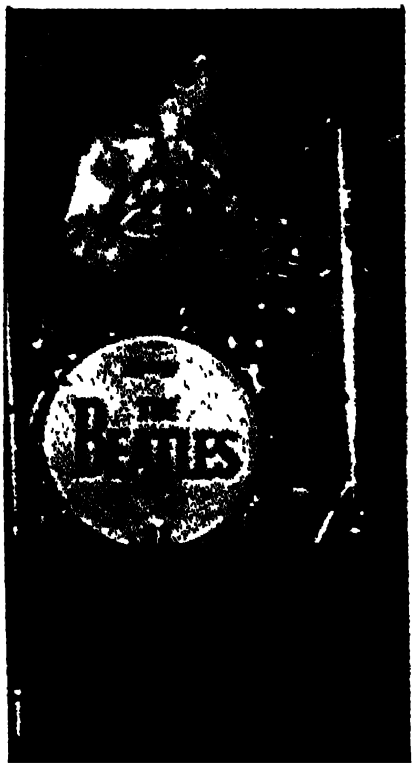
On their first US tour, two entrepreneurial types bought the pillowcases on which the four moptops had reposed in a Kansas City hotel and sliced them into 160,000 tiny squares, which they sold for a dollar each

The girls were screaming not at key-switches (which the Beatles, who could not read music, arrived at instinctively) but at things like the "Yeah, yeah, yeahs" in *She loves you*, delivered by Paul McCartney and George Harrison

But what linked the screechers and the scholars was a sense of something new, an absolute freshness that the Beatles manifested musically and personally. Those early songs—*I Want to Hold Your Hand, Please Please Me*—were both sexy and innocent.

Like those two "pleases", the first a polite supplication, the second a verb vibrating with sexual possibility A British writer described the band as "beat-up and depraved in the nicest possible way."

That is a perfect description of



Ringo Starr. Playing a new beat

rock-and-roll charisma But what made the Beatles the key pop artists of the Sixties was the synthesis that they made out of almost every conceivable pop element

Both John Lennon and Ringo Starr hailed their hometown of Liverpool as a crucible, a port city that brought together Irish, Blacks, Chinese and sailors coming from America with blues records Clubs and pubs jumped with the sounds of country and Western, British music-hall songs and rural folk tunes.

The classical composer and critic Wilfred Mellers said that the Beatles, like "other geniuses such as Bach, Mozart and Beethoven, knew the right time and place to be born."

The Lennon-McCartney songs were mini dramas that evoked a wide spectrum of emotion

McCartney's *Penny Lane* and *Strawberry Fields Forever* (coupled on one amazing single) conjured up their lost worlds of childhood, Paul's a "very strange" Utopia, John's a place where "nothing is real/and nothing to get hungabout."

In less than five years the Beatles produced a series of albums of increasing complexity, notably *A Hard Day's Night, Rubber Soul, Revolver* and *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* The album's climactic number, *A Day in the Life*, is the Beatles' peak achievement

"What's so great about Art?" demanded critic Nik Cohn, insisting that the Beatles "have flown away into a limbo" In a review I compared *A Day in the Life* to T.S Eliot's apocalyptic poem *The Waste Land*

In his illuminating survey of the Beatles' career, *Revolution in the Head*, Ian MacDonald rejects the comparison

He says of *A Day in the Life* "The fact that it achieves its transcendent goal via a potentially disillusioning confrontation with the 'real' world is precisely what makes it so moving "But that splendid sentence is also a succinct summation of *The Waste Land*."

What the Beatles did in the Sixties remains the most thrilling surge of creativity in the history of pop culture They obliterated distinctions of high and low, like Chaplin, like Buster Keaton, like Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington.

They made it clear that if art is to survive in the techno-millennium that looms ahead, it must be hooked into the realities and redemptions in the days of our lives.

(Newsweek)



George Harrison The forthright one

parenthood was about He finally understood the joy of being with your kids

Your upbringing made you more comfortable with children.

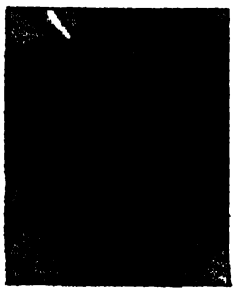
We were once on a Greek island on a holiday, and we were on a boat It was George and Patti, John and Cynthia, me and Jane Asher, I think And Julian was along. I played with Julian most of the trip We'd run around the deck playing cowboys and Indians — bang, bang, you're dead, or whatever — and Julian loved it And I remember John coming up to me

In fact, it was one of the most poignant moments of our relationship He took me aside and said, 'How do you do that?" And I couldn't tell him You either know how to do that stuff or you don't Well, luckily, towards the end of his life, John had found out how to do it

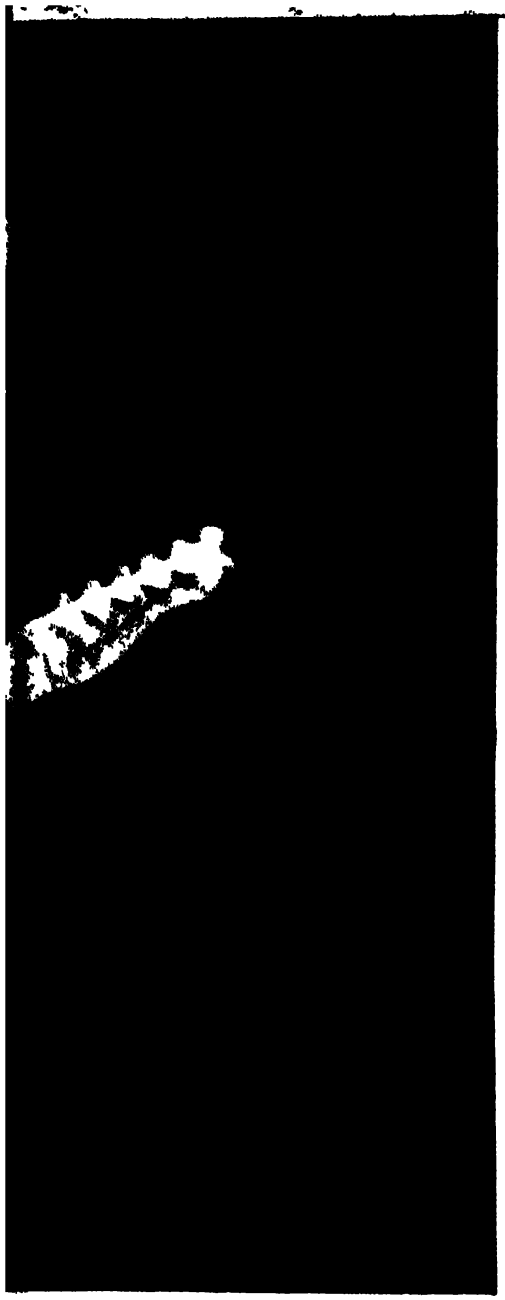
So he talked about his cats and padding around doing the dishes in his robe and making bread and playing with the baby We just had those great kind-of-nothing conversations which are so precious

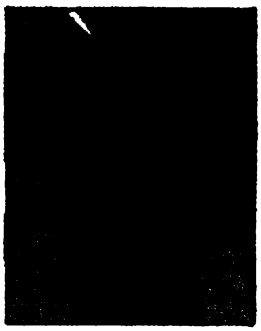
Yoko's family recently visited your family and everybody recorded a song together. When I talked to Yoko about it the other day, she said, "You know, they've raised beautiful children, and that's a lot."

It was lovely of her to say that because we've had such sort of crap



I felt that John was always a great writer. Some of our early songs weren't massively meaningful. Some of his later songs weren't, maybe, massively meaningful, were rather romantic and sentimental. But he still had something for me





Yoko will still talk about the Lennon Camp. She still has to guard her end of the whole thing. But about the kids: that is absolutely true. And I'll tell you something else. All the Beatle children are good kids, man. They are such good kids

John Lennon· In the Hall of Fame



over the years Mainly just because of business, I mean Yoko will still talk about the Lennon Camp She still has to guard her end of the whole thing But about the kids that is absolutely true And I'll tell you something else All the Beatle children are good kids, man They are such good kids.

People were surprised you were all spending time together.

Yeah Because of all the crap that has gone down, it seemed impossible When they were staying at our house in the country, they stayed the night And it was very weird, but wonderful, for me to sort of wake Yoko in the morning You know, "Good morning! There's a cup of tea for you in the other room!" And to see Yoko sort of waking up sleepy in her nightdress It was a major culture shock for me But



John Lennon: A dream come true?

Funnily enough, in his early days, John was very much wondering how he would be remembered. And I said, 'You're crazy, man. What are you talking about? Number one, you'll be remembered as something fantastic. Number two, you won't give a ____'

it was very nice We'd never have been so warm and friendly

Here comes a tacky question.

Good

Michael Jackson owns the publishing rights to Lennon/McCartney catalogue, which some view as a travesty. When he was under investigation for child molestation, I remember wondering if he'd go broke and have to sell the songs to you. Did that thought cross your mind?

Yep! You know, it would be lovely It would be right for me to be able to get back something of the songs because we were ripped off not by Michael, but we were ripped off in the beginning and he bought a ripoff contract The problem is that I have written to him three times and he hasn't replied And I'm the only employee of the company now I've been with the company 30 years!

I put a lot of time in, man So I feel a little bit like some sort of dishwasher in the backroom writing to the boss and saying, "You want to notice me, man? I've been washing dishes here a long time Hello?" Which is crazy of course

I think Michael separates business from life, and it's not always a good idea I would like him to do something because I think he's historically placed He's the one guy who could recompense this whole thing But what the hell, who cares? Life's too good You can't just go bitching all your life

Your're a music publisher, but you specialise in dead people.

You're not s anybody, and you don't get people ringing you up at three in the morning asking you what you're doing to promote their new record In fact, Linda and I were rung up once by Pete Townshend This was a long, long time ago And Pete said, "Hey listen, you're doing such a good job with Buddy Holly Will you take my publishing?"

And I was so tempted Sorely tempted, was I! But we suddenly got these images of Pete ringing up out of his skull — because he did go on some benders - - and saying, "What the are you doing with the publishing, man?"

Another tacky question. Lennon is in the Hall of Fame as a solo artist. You haven't been nominated.

Which Hall of Fame in this?

This would be the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The Baseball Hall of Fame? I'm in Beatles. Yeah! Yeah!

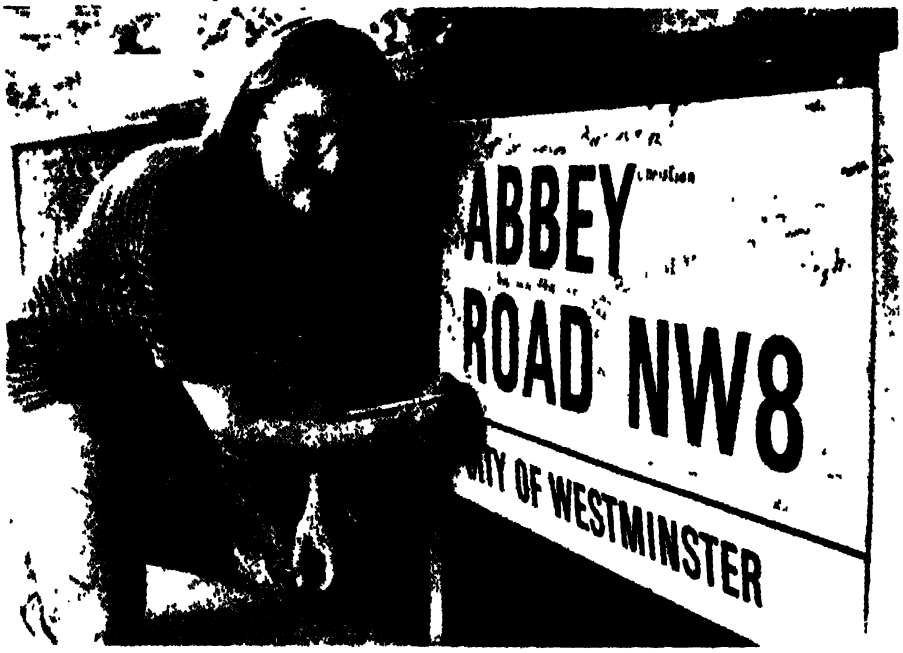




The Beatles and their manager Brian Epstein meet Princess Margaret at the premiere of their film *Help*

I think Michael [Jackson] separates business from life, and it's not always a good idea. I would like him to do something because I think he's historically placed. He's the one guy who could recompense this whole thing. But what the hell, who cares? Life's too good. You can't just go bitching all your life

Fans seek this address in London for the Beatles were pictured crossing this road for their *Abbey Road* album



that!

Seriously, how could this have happened?

I'm not really sure, actually We are in it as the Beatles, of course, and that's kind of enough, isn't it? I mean, a million times in my life I've like, not passed an exam or someone's beat me in something All the Beatles, for instance, are MBEs, Member of the British Empire Except John, who sent his back

It s the lowest honour you can have from Britain It's the lowest, George Martin's got a higher one than we have There's a guy who's a deejay called Jimmy Savile There's Andrew Lloyd Webber All these people are sirs Sir Cliff Richard But you can't sit around saying, "God, I wish they'd make me a sir " Or, you know, "I wish they'd put me in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame " I'm not that fussed, you know? I'm in my hall of fame

You've got to deal with yourself Funnily enough, in his early days John was very much wondering how he would be remembered And I said "You're crazy, man What are you talking about? Number one, you'll be remembered as something fantastic Number two, you won't give a

You'll be in the cosmos somewhere And I have a feeling that other things will be of more consequence at that point "

(*Newsweek*)

TALKING SHOP

MIXED CHAT

Who said women are the only chatterboxes? Men are equally fond of nattering and they do so at the expense of other things, says ***Mandira Mitra***

As a Bengali living in Calcutta, *adda* is the ruling passion of my life, everything else can go to damnation

That, in a nutshell, is my husband's philos-autobiography, if he could ever extricate himself from those interminable gab sessions and sit down to write it Which, of course, is a remote possibility Nothing in his life is considered to be more, or as, important as his *adda* The family, the wife, the job — all pale into insignificance before it

The worst part is that he realises that I do not appreciate it, but he carries on irrespective I have, of course, done my best to wean him away in every possible way I have threatened to walk out on him and even to divorce him But nothing works

Once after a rather stormy round of 'discussion' on the subject in which he came out second best, he quoted a couplet from Daag, the well-known Urdu poet

Hazrate Daag jahan baith gaye, baith gaye,
Padne lagi jootiyan, uth na sakey, ainth gaye

(Once the honourable Mr Daag parks himself somewhere, he strikes roots there,
Even when given a drubbing with shoes, he cannot extricate himself for he is stuck there)

Obviously, this poet and my husband belonged to the same miserable specimen of human beings with a gift of the gab Which is one of the reasons why I do not think very highly of poets, the next reason being that they put things in a roundabout way, which is stupid and wholly unnecessary

No wonder my husband loves reading poetry And carries on his awful *adda* sessions I end up making tea 10 times a day for him and his cronies who are up to no good I am, of course, a staunch feminist at heart, a fan of Germaine Greer and all that, but there you are

During the Pujas, my place turns into a virtual club house People come and go all day, till midnight An unceasing babble issues from the drawing room Voices rise and fall Heated arguments break out Guffaws rattle the window panes One can hear occasional snatches of Rabindrasangeet, for the motley group comprises all kinds of performers

Once, I found a tribal young man doing the *Chhou* dance amid the forest of chairs God knows where he came from, or who brought him There are mercantile executives, clerks, traders, writers, singers, dancers, politicians, painters, doctors, diplomats, actors, directors, journalists, publishers, and others, who presumably do nothing worth the mention, among those who grace my drawing room regularly And all of them will turn up in droves during the holidays when they have nothing better to do than sit and wag their tongues interminably Any other woman in my place would have upped and left long ago (that's how I have often heard my mother threaten my father)

Bengalis, as a community, have little time for organised religion The males of the species have even less to do with religion than us women They seem to treat the Puja days as a time for merriment No devotion, not a thought spared for the Mother nothing of the sort They simply laze around and talk I wish Professor Henry Higgins had seen them in action He would have revised his opinion and would have thought twice before posing the question, "Why can't a woman be more like a man?"

Unable to cure my husband of his foible, I had, at one stage, joined him and participated in a few of those *adda* sessions A lot of information could be gleaned which, however, did not give me high hopes about the future of my conjugal life

Apparently, these *adda* sessions are an integral part of our community life, and have been so, for donkey's years All our great writers and artistes have been *addabaaj* by nature My husband goes ga-ga while talking about the historic *adda*s which are believed to have inspired some of the greatest poetry and fiction in Bengal The ancestral house of the Tagores was a venue of literary and musical *adda*s

There is that famous photograph showing Tagore himself relaxing on a chaise-lounge while Gaganendranath and two others are lolling on the floor That, I am told, was the culmination of a prolonged *adda*

Syed Mujtaba Ali has written about *adda*s in the Udayan house in Santiniketan's Uttarayan complex He recalls an occasion when the poet cracked a joke and the others did not know how to react The things that happen in all-male company!

Mujtaba himself was a great *addabaaj* in his time In Calcutta, he stayed with the Mukherjees on Ritchie Road where he was the soul of a lively *adda* Many of his characters were ins-



pired by these, and the leisurely mood of the *adda* permeated many of his widely-read pieces

But much earlier, there were those famous *adda*s of equally well-known literary groups which brought out magazines like *Parichay* and *Kali-O-Kalam* Sudhindranath Dutta, Buddhadev Bose and their contemporaries were all *adda* addicts Rajshekhar Bose (Parasuram) had his own *adda* at his Parsibagan house These gatherings have figured in his stories as the *adda* in a mess in Habsit agan Lane where the great Kedar Chatterjee spun those unforgettable yarns for the consumption of the *babu*s of the mess

That Premendra Mitra was not immune to the charms of *adda*baaj is evident from the stories of Ghanada, who presides over another mess *bari* Narayan Gangopadhyay's Tennyda and Gour Kishore Ghose's Brajada used to hold forth at *adda*s The Kallol group of writers had their own *adda* while in our own times, the tradition was kept alive by Sunil-Shakti's Krittivas group Creativity, apparently, has as much to do with the tongue as with the pen

The Pujas have always been an occasion for holding prolonged *adda*s, but their character has changed over the decades Time was when the great *babu*s hired nautch girls and organised nightlong *mujra*s in the *jalsaghar*, where the aroma of *attar* mingled with



that of alcohol And if Bimal Mitra and others of his ilk are to be believed, these *babu*s were feckless characters Debauchery was their idea of fun

When I was a little girl (and I am not going to tell you how old I am), I lived in a small suburban town A *sarbajanin*Puja used to be held close to our house, and nothing can compare with the fun we had! It was the practice in those days to build the image in the pandal, behind a screen

From the day the clay-modellers arrived, we visited the place daily to watch the image being made The big day was when Durga's eyes were painted The image really seemed to come alive! Stalls mushroomed around the pandal The *adda*s in the pandal started a few days before *Mahasasthi* Adults sat in groups all over the place It was quite boring, of course, because most of them were talking politics most of the time We girls had our own *adda*, comparing notes on Puja shopping, and all that was yet to be bought My husband maintains that women still discuss the same topic at Puja pandals Men!

Well, you cannot expect the good things of life to last forever, and our salad days are soon over But I have been lucky In Calcutta, I have settled down in a housing estate where the Pujas are always great fun

During the festive days, the wives participate in the morning preparations and assist the priest accompanied by a lot of chin-wag You cannot help it with so many women around! There are separate *adda*s for the men, the boys and the young girls in the pandal While musical soirees and plays are held in the evenings during those days, the *adda* sessions continue unabated

On Mahasaptami evening last year, I had dropped in for half an hour to witness the proceedings at my drawing room The *adda* was being held in small groups on topics of earthshaking import In one corner, a well-known singer and a journalist were arguing over the need to free Rabindrasangeet from the clutches of the Santiniketanites "Those are the people who made life miserable for Debabrata Biswas, the journalist roared 'to hell with them'" The singer shot back that the so-called liberals were out to ruin Rabindrasangeet

My husband, who takes pride in being a champion of wildlife, was trying to convince someone of the importance of protecting tigers His companion was quite sceptical and opined that all tigers should be kept in the zoo because they turned maneaters at the slightest provocation Three others discussed cricket in one corner A gentleman I have known for years, sat alone, browsing through a book He was not reading it I knew it He was a publisher and whenever he found a book, he inspected the quality of its printing, paper and binding

After about a couple of hours, he would inevitably come to the conclusion that the book had been produced badly and that he could have done a much better job of it It was only then that he would condescend to drop a few lines, after which he would pick up another book and repeat the performance

There was this film director, who was enthusiastically explaining to a reluctant audience of two, the fine points of making a low-budget film "You could actually shoot a 20-minute episode for the TV in four shifts, and that cuts your costs drastically," he said One of the two then asked him why he did not make art films Which made him very angry indeed

Yet another group was discussing Hindutva and the future of the country The consensus was that it was quite bleak I could not help wondering why they wasted so many words on something that was common knowledge

The one person who seemed to be enjoying himself the most was a gentleman who was snuggled in a quiet corner, snoring peacefully He was totally impervious to the racket of the drums outside and the incessant chatter inside the room

But who said women are the only chatterboxes? Men are equally fond of nattering In fact, they do so at the expense of other things

My husband tries to justify it by saying that sustained chatting not only relieves tension, but also stimulates the brain and enables one to take on the stresses of life I hit back with a quote, though I could not recollect where it was from *"But far more numerous was the herd of such/Who think too little, and who talk too much'* He was stumped He retorted with one from Lewis Carroll *The time has come, the walrus said To talk of many things Of ships and shops and cabbages -- and kings --/Of why the sea is boiling hot --/And whether pigs have wings*

"So that is what your *adda* boils down to?" I asked him "Spending hours to decide whether pigs have wings, or some such nonsense!" He changed the topic quickly ■

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Forgetting faces or names can be embarrassing. ***Sunayana Gupta*** *on some of the gaffes absent-minded relatives tend to commit*

They say "Frustration is looking for your glasses without your glasses" But what would they call it, if you are looking for your glasses *with* your glasses? My great grandfather possessed such a steely and authoritarian a personality, that no one could see him in the eye while speaking to him (it at all one mustered courage to speak in his forbearing presence) One day, he had to be escorted home from his office by an orderly

Silence descended and everyone waited apprehensively for an outburst The explosion did come and he had everyone running amok looking for his glasses The tidy house looked ransacked, but the coveted stuff still eluded the hands of the search party More effort was put into this job than any treasure hunt ever It took only an outsider, blissfully unaware of his irascible temper, to point out in his own timid way, that the glasses lay securely perched where they should be — on my great grandfather's nose

Illustriously of the same lineage, his daughter is better known within the family circle and outside as a glorious flagbearer of forgetfulness Misidentifying people, going for weddings and returning with someone else's slippers on her feet, came to be accepted as mundane by her family members

A washerman would come to her place once every week to collect soiled linen for washing One day, after he had been given the dirty clothes from the hamper and the requisite payment done, he continued to linger around Much irritated by his now obtrusive presence, she curtly asked him to leave After slight hemming and hawing, he apologetically pointed out that *his* rubber slippers were on *her* feet

Things started happening during another visit of the washerman to the house The bunch of keys to the locks of the main door, almirahs, *et al* were not to be found After a lot of futile hunting, it suddenly struck my grandmother that the washerman must have nicked the precious bunch She told all who cared to hear that this man would sneak into the house (to rob, obviously), the moment she locked and left it (On being asked how she would lock the house without the keys, she was rather peeved)

She went up to the washerman, who was totally unaware of what lay in store for him, and ordered him to stand up Having little or no option, he relented She commanded, "*Arse kudo*" (jump like this), which in her opinion was the most foolproof method of detection Seeing the stricken look on his face, she demonstrated the exercise and the clang of the keys was distinctly audible They had been secured in the corner of her saree *pallu* and promptly forgotten about The harassed washerman left in a huff I wonder if he ever came back

My aunt's father had once attended a wedding wearing a freshly pressed dhoti over the one he had already been wearing He



had not felt awkward nor had we noticed any incongruity

Forgetfulness must be running in the family and my aunt is a champion of sorts Forgetting faces, confusing names is an everyday affair with her and we have learnt to live with it She would sit in the cab and take it upon herself to direct the cabbie Everytime she wanted him to turn into a bylane, she would desperately wave her left hand and call out, "Right, right", the driver, unable to solve the ambiguity, would come to a screeching halt

She outstripped everyone in the race one day, when she went out alone Having found a cab parked right across the street and the driver beside it, adjusting the meter, she opened the driver's door, hauled herself into his seat and slammed the door shut The driver, too bewildered to react, slowly approached her and meekly murmured — *"Mashima, eta amar jaiga"* (Madam, this is my seat) It was then that she realised what she had done and quickly got off to get into the rear seat And for those who think that she must be used to driving, let me tell you, she cannot drive

Talking about my Dad, he, too, keeps the banner flying high The other day, he went to a chemist's shop and bought some medicine Instead of taking what he had bought after paying for it, he picked up the paper weight lying on the counter, put it in his pocket and turned to leave The shop owner, a silent spectator to this ridiculous scene, smilingly called out, *"Dada ota apnar nov, apnar eta neen"* (Sir, that is not yours, you take the medicine)

The gem is yet to come, and this from my Dad's *mama* (maternal uncle) For a chemistry (theory) paper in high school He had to enumerate the preparation of sulphuric acid No amount of chewing his pencil stub or scratching his forehead would help because he had overlooked the topic while studying for the test

Well known by his folks for his ready wit, he chose to face the problem squarely He scrutinised the boldly lettered word **Sulphuric** and hey-presto, the answer lay in the recesses of the word itself

Sulphur + ic = Sulphuric

Simple

All set for the challenge, he started drawing on a fresh sheet of paper with a flourish A massive cauldron had the words SUI PHUR printed on it, and moving towards it were men, bent doubly by sackloads of *IC* on their backs This they poured into the cauldron and you had Sulphuric Acid in a jiffy And here was a simplistic, homespun method of manufacturing H_2SO_4

Days later, following an uproarious scene in the staff room, the principal called him to the office With a deceptive smile on his lips, he called the student to know which scientist (from India or abroad) had discovered such an original formula of H_2SO_4, as visually depicted in the paper The only name which came to his mind and seemed to carry significant weightage was 'Hartley Davidson', and the words came tumbling out [Hartley Davidson were known for their motorcycles] God save Davidson!

The principal asked him to go back to his class room before breaking into fits of uncontrollable laughter He did not dare to ask the discoverer-of-sorts what IC was ■



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The Telegraph *Classifieds*

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ADMISSION OPEN

Aries
March 21 - April 20



Your best bet is attack after planning a strategy Those interested in sports, films, photography, have a field day This is the right time to fuse business and pleasure, says Ganesha The last three days turn out to be mighty eventful for Ariens

Taurus
April 21 — May 20



Like mighty Tendulkar, the Taurean, you too will sail through the opposition and ultimately reduce it to pulp Journey and ceremony should please the cockles of your heart If in for an interview or a test, the results should be gratifying Be bold

Gemini
May 21 — June 20



Do not be upset by any undue pressure, or delays, or cancellations Finally, matters do work for you and work out splendidly The full moon helps you in your finances, loans and prayers You will have cause to remember your ancestors A trip is on the cards

Cancer
June 21 — July 20



Take time by the forelock, get work done, socialise, be of good cheer, take the lead and go for victory with a capital You will be like a finely tuned piano, a delicately adjusted sitar in matters of love and creativity It is certain that things will work out for you

Leo
July 21 — August 21



Once again, you will be up to your eyes and ears in work It will be duly appreciated You may have much to do with parents and in-laws Home, shop, office and renovation will also take up your time and energy Please expect news from a distant place

Virgo
August 22 — September 22



Those of you who are interested in research, marriage, education, films, commerce, computers, do very well You will set up a fast pace and others will have difficulty coping with it At interviews, conferences, meets, you will be able to give your best and thus win applause

Libra
September 23 — October 22



You will have much to do with loans, finances, transactions and perhaps legal issues as well Soon, it could be engagement time or even wedding bells for you What you do now will have a ripple effect Time for travel, conferences and socialising on a massive scale

Scorpio
October 23 — November 22



There will be the urge and the pressure to perform, to outshine and outdo others Mars will help you considerably to do so Alliances and paradoxically, separations are emphasised this week, because of the full moon A journey or an outing with a stop-over is probable

Sagittarius
November 23 — December 20



While health could be a bit of a problem, rest assured that you will recover, go in for a possible job-hop and work extra hard Ganesha says loans and debts have an extra edge to it Behind-the-scene-activity will be of tremendous importance

Capricorn
December 21 — January 19



You will be just a wee bit faster than your opponents and that is the secret of your success You will be helped by human as well as divine forces A little bit of loving and lots of laughing is how it will go for you Many will be looking for adventure now

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18



It will be just that last minute heave and tug which will get you neat at the top and you jolly well deserve to be there A minor or major wish-fulfillment is ordained for you Do expect visitors and relatives to descend upon you Home becomes the centre of attraction

Pisces
February 19 — March 20



Long-distance connections and the luck of the draw are very definitely highlighted this week Many Pisceans will be mid-way through a change in attitudes, lifestyle, job, profession, business or just a general outlook Only by the end of next year will the change be complete

BIRTHDAYS

November 5: Success after struggle, but the success will be doubly sweet, announces Ganesha, and therefore, worth it. Children and creativity give satisfaction.

November 6: The moon helps you to reach out to people and places by all possible media of transport and communication. You will enjoy the fruits of your labour.

November 7: Security and financial surge. The full implications and impact will be felt next year, but this December it should all start. Romance blooms.

November 8: Inspirational moves, journey, slipping overseas on business, artistic moves and talent are foretold. Try to be pragmatic and level headed.

November 9: Genuine love and caring, and that is rather rare in this world. You will have the motivation and the energy to finish a project or start a project.

November 10: There is a danger of accidents On the positive side, moon connects well with Saturn giving you staying power.

November 11: Governmental connections, name and fame foretold. Changes in your work and personal front are definite They will be to your advantage.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code: ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
IC 741	0620	1 3 4 7	IC 742	0850	1 3
			IC 742	1050	4 7
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2-028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF-738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1010	1 3 5 6 7	IC-722	1250	1 3 5 6 7
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 181	1600	daily
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
D5-402	0600	3 5 7	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF-106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
IC 676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
9W 202	0905	1 2 3 4 5 6	9W-201	0835	1 2 3 4 5 6
D2 102	0920	daily	D2-101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI-306	1730	5
9W-212	2000	daily	9W-211	1925	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC-274	1850	daily
IC 263	0700	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9-303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC-401	1155	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	2055	1 3 5
S2 006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC-264	2210	daily
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC-702	1630	1 4 6 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S-815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S-811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 4 6 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
D5-601/602	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC-257	1520	2 4
S2 026/021	0850	1 2 3 4 5	S2-022/00	2005	1 2 3 4 5
D5-601	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
IC 703	0610	1 3 4 5 7	IC 704	0920	1 3 4 5 7
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC-230	1620	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S-811	1635	2 4 6
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S-812/815	1635	1 3 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
D5 601/603	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 257	1140	2 4	IC 257	1520	2 4
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
IC-213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC 213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
D5-402	0600	3 5 7	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
D2 172	1640	daily	D2 171	1155	daily
IC-765	1720	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
D5 -406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 812	1700	1 3 5	IC 811	2055	1 3 5
IC-285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
IC 249	1430	2 4 7	IC 249	1835	2 4 7
D5 601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
PF 705	073	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
D5-601/605	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0800	3 5 7	IC 256	1250	3 5 7
IC 253	0800	1 2 6	IC 254	1040	1
			IC 254	1250	2 6
IC 213	1130	7	IC 213	1535	7
IC-213	0910	3	IC 213	1315	3
PF 73	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 542	1115	1 3 5	IC 541	1030	1 3 5
PF-735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

RJ 185	1445	4	RJ-184	0705	4
KL 876	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7
KB-105	0850	2 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 4 5 7	TG 313	1240	1 3 6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
TG 314	1355	1 3 6	IC 739	1505	2 4 5 7
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1955	1
BUCHAREST					
RO 076	2150	5 7	RO 075	1200	5
CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	1200	1	IC 226	1430	
BG 698	1745	1 5	BG 697	1035	1
DHAKA					
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG 092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 6
IC 723	1250	1 3 5 6	IC 724	1530	1 3 5 6
BG 094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1835	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG 093	1635	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	0820	1 5
DUBAI					
BI 107	2100	6	BI 108	0740	
KATHMANDU					
RA 214	1215	2 4 6	RA 213	1135	1 3

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]	0540	4 6	IC 748	1610	2 4 6
LONDON					
[illegible]	0400		BA 113	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
[illegible]	[illegible]	1	SU 527	1555	4
PARO					
[illegible]	[illegible]	3	PF 101	0810	2 6
[illegible]	[illegible]				
SINGAPORE					
[illegible]	1[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]30	1 5
[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]10	2000	6
SOFIA					
[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	0600	1
TOKYO					
[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	12[illegible]	1

AI Air India ● **BA** British Airways ● **BG** Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● **BI** Royal Brunei Airlines ● **D2** Damania Airways ● **D5** NEPC Airlines ● **IC** Indian Airlines ● **KB** Druk-Air ● **KLM** Royal Dutch Airlines ● **LZ** Balkan Airlines ● **M9** Modiluft ● **PF** Vayudoot ● **RA** Royal Nepal Airlines ● **RJ** Royal Jordanian Airlines ● **RO** Tarom Air Transport ● **S2** Sahara India Airlines ● **SQ** Singapore Airlines ● **SU** Aeroflot ● **4S** East West Airlines ● **TG** Thai Airways International ● **9W** Jet Airways

TRAINS

Departure Up	Time	EASTERN RAILWAY Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	Delhi-Kalka Mail	[illegible] 30	[illegible]
3005	19 20	Amritsar Mail	[illegible] 55	[illegible]
3003	20 00	Bombay Mail [illegible]	[illegible] 00	4001
2381	9 15	Poorva (New Delhi) Express [illegible] Dep Wed Fri & Sun Arr [illegible] Mon Thu & Sat	[illegible] 15	[illegible]
2303	9 1	Poorva (New Delhi) Express [illegible] Dep Mon Tue [illegible] & Sat Arr Mon Thu [illegible] & Sat	[illegible] 5	2[illegible]
2301	16 [illegible]	Rajdhani Express [illegible] Dep Mon [illegible] Mon Fri [illegible] Arr Tue [illegible] Tue [illegible]	[illegible] 1	[illegible]
2305	13 45	Rajdhani Express [illegible] Dep Thur Sun Arr Wed & Sat	[illegible]	[illegible]
2307	23 [illegible]	Jodhpur Express	[illegible] 10	[illegible] 05
2019	6 20	Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express Dep & Arr Except Sunday	[illegible] 10	[illegible] 0
3073	23 00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express [illegible] Wed Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Thu Wed & Sun	11 [illegible]	[illegible] 1
3045	22 00	Guwahati Express Dep Wednesday Arr Thursday	[illegible]	2011
5049	23 00	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr Thursday	[illegible] 35	5050
5047	13 00	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express Dep [illegible] Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	[illegible] 30	[illegible]
3009	[illegible] 30	Doon Express via Grand Chord	[illegible] 00	[illegible] 10
3007	9 30	Udyan Abha Tooran Express via Main Line	18 [illegible]	3006
3049	13 20	Amritsar Express	15 [illegible]	30[illegible]
3019	21 00	Kathgodam Express	11 [illegible]	80[illegible]
3021	16 05	Mithila (Raxaul) Express	[illegible] 00	[illegible] 22
5659	17 35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6 [illegible]	[illegible] 60
3317	6 10	Black Diamond Express	[illegible] 2	[illegible] 318
3029	17 11	Coalfield Express	[illegible] 30	[illegible] 0
3035	18 20	Asansol Express	8 15	3036
3031	21 05	Danapur Express	5 50	3032
3071	22 30	Jamalpur Express	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	Santiniketan Express	15 30	3016
1159	15 25	Chambal (Gwalior) Express Dep Fri Sat & Sun Arr Mon Tues & Wed	[illegible] 55	1160
1171	15 25	Shipra (Indore) Express Dep Thurs Sat & Sun Arr Mon Wed & Thurs	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express	4 50	3328
1181	15 25	Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express Thursday only	[illegible] 55	1182

Up	Time	Sealdah	Time	Dn
3141	13-40	Teesta-Torsa Express	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	Darjeeling Mail	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	Delhi Express via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	Kanchenjunga (Lumding) Express	20 35	5658
3153	22-00	Gour Express	5 15	3154
5663	20-00	Katihar Express	1 15	5664
3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	Mughal Sarai Express via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 20	Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express	10 25	3104
5085	12 40	Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

Departure Up	Time	SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
[illegible]	[illegible]	Madras Mail	[illegible]	6004
9302	[illegible]	Bombay Mail [illegible]	[illegible] 20	8001
2860	[illegible]	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express Dep & Arr Except Sunday	[illegible] 50	[illegible]
8001	[illegible]	Ahmedabad Express	[illegible]	8002
8086	[illegible]	Kurla Express via Nagpur	16 20	8079
2841	14-05	Coromandal (Madras) Express via [illegible]	[illegible] 10	2842
[illegible]	[illegible]	Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express Dep [illegible] Tue & Fri Arr Mon [illegible] & Sat	[illegible]	7004
[illegible]	[illegible] 35	Bangalore Express Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	[illegible]	[illegible]
8001	[illegible]	Tata Steel Express	[illegible]	8014
8101	[illegible]	Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
8005	[illegible]	Titlagarh Express	[illegible]	8006
8015	[illegible]	Ranchi Hatia Express	[illegible]	8016
8007	[illegible]	Puri Express via [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Jagannath (Puri) Express	[illegible]	8416
[illegible]	[illegible]	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express	[illegible]	26
8015	[illegible]	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	[illegible]	8046
8011	[illegible]	Purulia Express Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	[illegible]	8012
[illegible]	[illegible]	Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express via Howrah Sunday only	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express via Howrah Saturday only	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express Monday only	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express Saturday only	[illegible]	[illegible]
	14 05	Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express (via [illegible] & Howrah) Thursday only	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express via Howrah & [illegible] Saturday only	[illegible]	-
[illegible]	[illegible]	Cochin Harbour Terminus Express via [illegible] & Howrah Dep Tue & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express via Howrah & Cuttack) We [illegible] day only	[illegible]	
	11 [illegible]	Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	[illegible]	[illegible]

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

LITTLE MADHU

I met little Madhu several years ago, when I lived alone in an obscure town near the Himalayan foothills I was in my late twenties then, and my outlook on life was still quite romantic, the cynicism that was to come with the thirties had not yet set in

I preferred the solitude of the small district town to the kind of social life I might have found in the cities, and in my books, my writing and the surrounding hills, there was enough for my pleasure and occupation

On summer mornings I would often sit beneath an old mango tree, with a notebook or a sketch pad on my knees The house which I had rented (for a very nominal sum) stood on the outskirts of the town, and a large tank and a few poor houses could be seen from the garden wall A narrow public pathway passed under the low wall

One morning, while I sat beneath the mango tree, I saw a young girl of about nine, wearing torn clothes, darting about on the pathway and along the high banks of the tank

Sometimes, she stopped to look at me, and, when I showed that I noticed her, she felt encouraged and gave me a shy, fleeting smile The next day I discovered her leaning over the garden wall, following my actions as I paced up and down on the grass

In a few days, an acquaintance had been formed I began to take the girl's presence for granted, and even to look for her, and she, in turn, would linger about on the pathway until she saw me come out of the house

One day, as she passed the gate, I called her to me

'What is your name?" I asked "And where do you live?"

"Madhu," she said, brushing back her long untidy black hair and smiling at me from large black eyes She pointed across the road, "I live with my grandmother "

"Is she very old?" I asked

Madhu nodded confidingly and whispered "A hundred years "

"We will never be that old," I said She was very slight and frail, like a flower growing in a rock, vulnerable to wind and rain

I discovered later that the old lady was not her grandmother but a childless woman who had found the baby girl on the banks of the tank Madhu's real parentage was unknown, but the wizened old woman had, out of compassion, brought up the child as her own

My gate once entered, Madhu included the garden in her circle of activities She was there every morning chasing butterflies, stalking squirrels and mynahs, her voice brimming with laughter, her slight figure flitting about between the trees

Sometimes, but not often, I gave her a toy or a new dress, and one day she put aside her shyness and brought me a present of a nosegay made up of marigolds and wild blue-cotton flowers

"For you," she said, and put the flowers in my lap

"They are very beautiful," I said, picking out the brightest marigold and putting it in her hair "But they are not as beautiful as you "

More than a year passed before I began to take more than a mildly patronising interest in Madhu

It occured to me after sometime that she should be taught to read and write, and I asked a local teacher to give her lessons in the garden for an hour everyday She clapped her hands with pleasure at the prospect of what was to be for her a fascinating new game

Sometimes, but not often, I gave her a toy or a new dress; and one day she put aside her shyness and brought me a present of a nosegay made up of marigolds and wild blue-cotton flowers. 'For you,' she said, and put the flowers in my lap



In a few weeks, Madhu was surprising us with her capacity for absorbing knowledge She always came to me to repeat the lessons of the day, and pestered me with questions on a variety of subjects How big was the world? And were the stars really like our world? Or were they the suns and daughters of the Sun and the Moon?

My interest in Madhu deepened, and my life, so empty till then, became imbued with a new purpose As she sat on the grass beside me, reading aloud, or listening to me with a look of complete trust and belief, all the love that had been lying dormant in me during my years of self-exile surfaced in a sudden surge of tenderness

Three years glided away imperceptibly, and at the age of 13, Madhu was on the verge of blossoming into a woman I began to feel a certain responsibility towards her

It was dangerous, I knew, to allow a child so pretty to live almost alone and unprotected and to run unrestrained about the grounds And in a censorious society she would be made to suffer if she spent too much time in my company

She could see no need for any separation, but I decided to send her to a mission school in the next district, where I could visit her from time to time

"But why?" said Madhu "I can learn more from you, and from the teacher who comes I am so happy here"

"You will meet other girls and make many friends," I told her "I will come to see you And, when you come home, we will be even happier It is good that you should go"

On her dark arm she still wore a small piece of ribbon which I had playfully tied there about a year ago. She had given her heart, even before she was conscious of possessing one, to a stranger unworthy of the gift

It was the middle of June, a hot and oppressive month in the Siwaliks Madhu had expressed her readiness to go to school, and when, one evening, I did not see her as usual in the garden, I thought nothing of it, but the next day I was informed that she had fever and could not leave the house

Illness was something Madhu had not known before, and for this reason I felt afraid I hurried down the path which led to the old woman's cottage It seemed strange that I had never once entered it during my long friendship with Madhu

It was a humble mud hut, the ceiling just high enough to enable me to stand upright, the room dark but clean Madhu was lying on a string cot exhausted by fever, her eyes closed, her long hair unkempt, one small hand hanging over the side

It struck me then how little, during all this time, I had thought of her physical comforts There was no chair, I knelt down, and took her hand in mine I knew, from the fierce heat of her body, that she was seriously ill

She recognised my touch, and a smile passed across her face before she opened her eyes She held on to my hand, then laid it across her cheek

I looked round the little room in which she had grown up It had scarcely an article of furniture apart from two string cots, on one of which the old woman sat and watched us, her white, wizened head nodding like a puppet's

In a corner, lay Madhu's little treasures I recognised among them the presents which during the past four years I had given her She had kept everything On her dark arm she still wore a small piece of ribbon which I had playfully tied there about a year ago She had given her heart, even before she was conscious of possessing one, to a stranger unworthy of the gift

As the evening drew on, a gust of wind blew open the door of the dark room, and a gleam of sunshine streamed in, lighting up a portion of the wall It was the time when every evening she would join me under the mango tree She had been quiet for almost an hour, and now a slight pressure of her hand drew my eyes back to her face

"What will we do now?" she said "When will you send me to school?"

"Not for a long time First you must get well and strong That is all that matters"

She didn't seem to hear me I think she knew she was dying, but she did not resent it's happening

"Who will read to you under the tree?" she went on "Who will look after you?" she asked, with the solicitude of a grown woman

"You will, Madhu You are grown up now There will be no one else to look after me"

The old woman was standing at my shoulder A hundred years—and little Madhu was slipping away The woman took Madhu's hand from mine, and laid it gently down I sat by the cot a little longer, and then I rose to go, all the loneliness in the world pressing upon my heart

(Sanctuary Features)



GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

TRYST WITH TRUTH

There are many people who seem to belong to India, even if they weren't born here One of them is Diana Eck, the American scholar who's spent years of her life travelling the pilgrimage routes of India and living in the sacred cities Her book *Banaras City of Light* is a luminous account of tradition there

So it came as a surprise to me to be confronted with her American self To discover her as a Methodist Christian from small town Montana whose forefathers were Swedes — pioneers who migrated to America around the turn of the century and who lived in primitive log huts in remote forest

For these pioneers, their most important book was the Bible — for many it was their only book

Diana herself was brought up in a community with an unquestioning belief in Christianity, a sturdy faith in God which was reinforced by the summer camps of young Methodists where she sang hymns around camp fires, and kept watch with prayer as the sun rose In her environment there was no other God but the Christian God, she met no one but Christians and didn't even come across modern concepts like feminism

Then she encountered native Americans, and saw men going to the Vietnam war She wanted to come to Asia - -the continent of Vietnam — but the course she applied to from her university took her to South Asia — until then she didn't know the difference She came straight to Benaras and that changed her life

But not quite as I might have thought It transformed, but did not destroy her Christian faith

"India's theological gift to me," she writes, has been the "discovery that God can be addressed as Mother, can wear the ashes of the cremation pyre, or can beckon us to dance"

Through Indian thought she also learnt more about prayer and meditation When she was diagnosed as having breast cancer, it was meditation as well as radiation which helped to heal her She writes of stilling the mind, "Just being awake, alert, attentive is no easy matter I think it is the greatest spiritual challenge we face"

Through the image of Kali, she learnt to think again about the nature of death and how to be still and be in God's presence in places where we confront it She herself has had to confront death in many places not least in a morgue in Mexico where her brother's body had been taken after police had beaten him so hard and long they had ruptured his spleen

With the German philosopher, Schopenhauer, she found the *Upanishads* "the most elevated reading the world has to offer" From the *Rig Veda* she learnt that "truth is one, the wise call it by many names"

Her spiritual transformation has now made her one of the most persuasive preachers of pluralism, of true dialogue between believers of different faiths and non-believers too Her passion for pluralism is clear in her new book, *Encountering God* She discourages people from any religion from saying, "I am right, and therefore everyone else is wrong" Ultimate Truth is too big for any group of humans who know totally Neither does she feel true dialogue comes from the attitude that "we have the true way and others have lesser ways" That implies superiority We have, she argues, to actively try to glimpse the truth in other faiths, to appreciate their values, to establish a proper relationship with them

As she writes, "There is no question that religious traditions have been part of the problem as one surveys the divisions and conflicts of the present world, and there is no question that religious traditions will also have to be part of the solution"

To India which has an ancient history of pluralism rooted in a broad Hindu ethos, these ideas are not new But they are to many people of the world and specially to many Christians, Jews and Muslims who believe that there is only one holy story to be told and to be participated in by the faithful

Eck sees the exclusivism of many presentday groups as a revolt against the secularism of modernity As an example she cites the burst of Christian fundamentalism in the Seventies and Eighties in America

But she sees hope in new American diversity, in the fact that she finds Los Angeles the most complex Buddhist city on earth, that there are over 600 mosques in the US, as well as innumerable Hindu and Jain temples and Sikh gurudwaras The US is, now, the most ethnically diverse nation on earth — and simulataneously one of the most religious-minded But this still has to be converted into genuine pluralism If only America could do that, and people like Diana Eck are continually towards this goal, then it really might be able to stake a claim as a great civilisation

(Sanctuary Features)

As she [Diana Eck] writes, 'There is no question that religious traditions have been part of the problem as one surveys the divisions and conflicts of the present world; and there is no question that religious traditions will also have to be part of the solution'

JUNIOR WHIRL

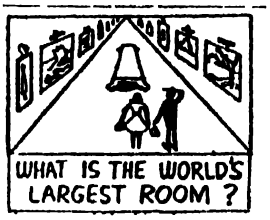
HARRIMAN



OVER CAST! Cow, moon, dish spoon — we have an assortment of at least 25 critters above How many of them can you find?

SUM MEMORY! "I m the 5 year old who fed you peanuts back in 1960 remember? said the — -year-old joker to the circus elephant Fill blank with person s present (1995) age No fair peeking below

Present age of person is Tony



MATCH ROOMS WITH PLACES

JUST for fun see if you can match the following rooms with related locations (one each) listed below Example No 1, classroom school

Classroom _____
2 Emergency room _____
3 Stateroom _____
4 Reading room _____
5 Mudroom _____
6 Dressing room _____
7 Locker room _____
8 Choir room _____
9 Jury room _____
10 Gaming room _____

Locations School, courthouse ski resort church, casino steamship theatre, library, hospital gym

Time limit 2 minutes

1 School 2 Hospital 3 Steamship 4 Library 5 Ski resort 6 Theatre 7 Gym 8 Church 9 Courthouse 10 Casino

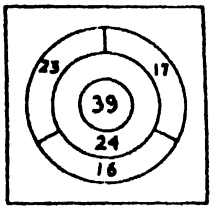
Riddle Room for improvement

ON TARGET! A sharpshooter with a flair for mathematics scored 100 on the target below This score was attained with six consecutive shots While all six shots hit the target, the total obviously could not have been made with six bull's eyes or six of any individual amounts

How, then, was the target struck to score exactly 100?

As a clue let it be known that one number was struck twice and another four times

Simultaneous Equations



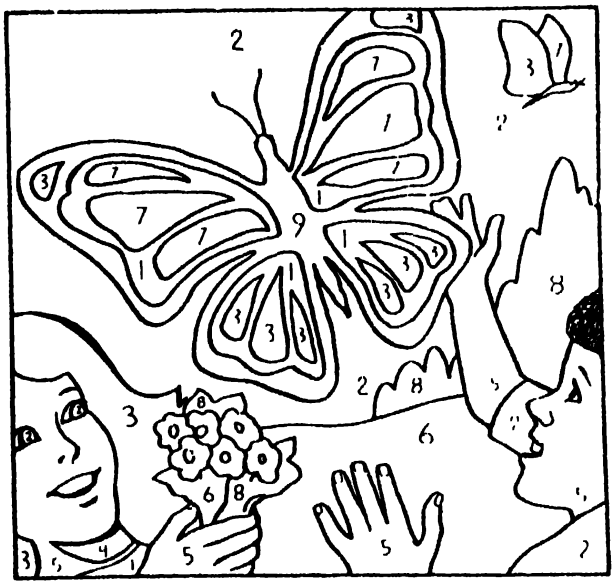
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Birdhouse is missing 2 Post is shorter 3 Bandana is different 4 Shirt logo is missing 5 Sweater is different 6 Sign is different

FUNSPOT



FLY BYE! Dear butterfly, please flutter down and smell the posies **Colors 1—Red 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh 6—Lt. green 7—Orange 8—Dk green 9—Dk purple**

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

MACKEREL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

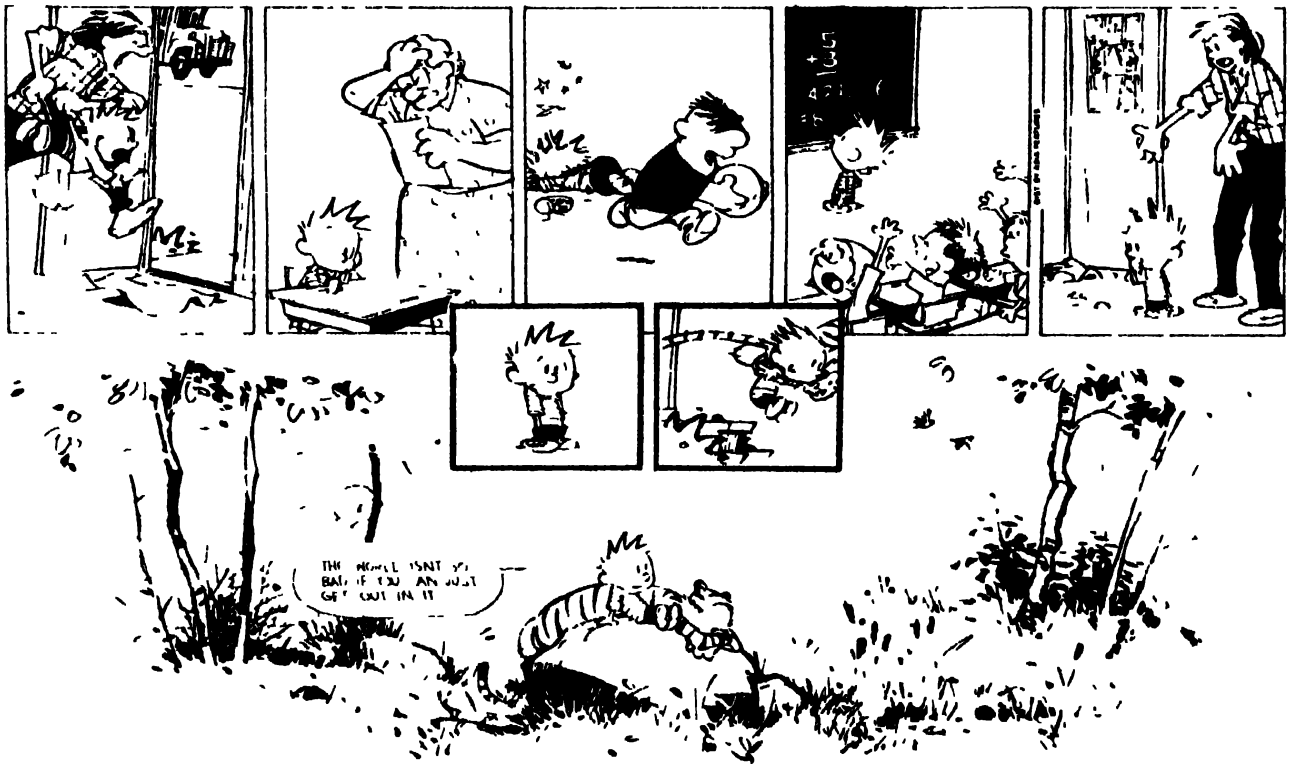
Possible lwosome Cram keel

COMICS

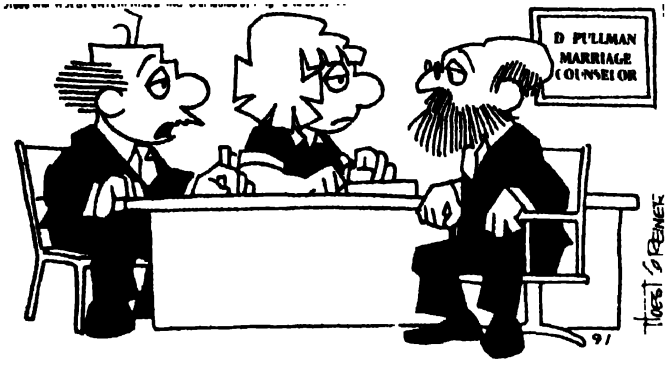
ARCHIE



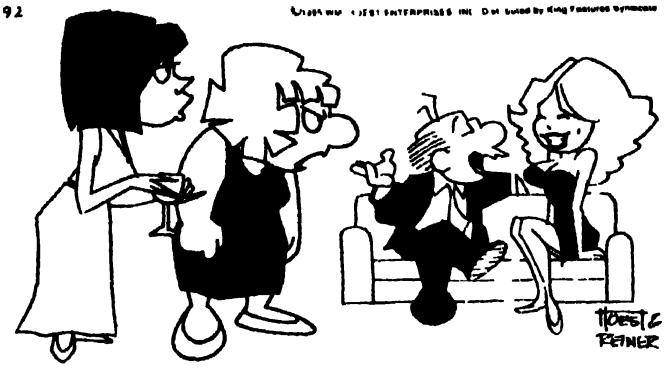
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



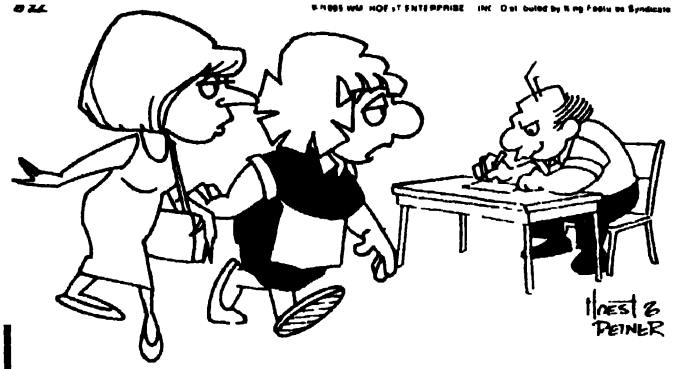
THE LOCKHORNS



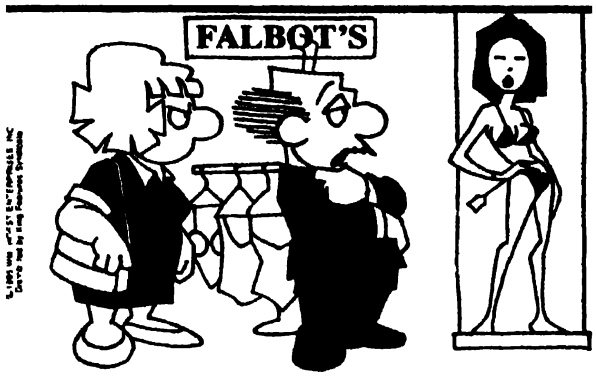
"WE'D LIKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 13TH IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY"



"LEROY WILL LIVE TO REGRET THIS IF HE'S LUCKY"

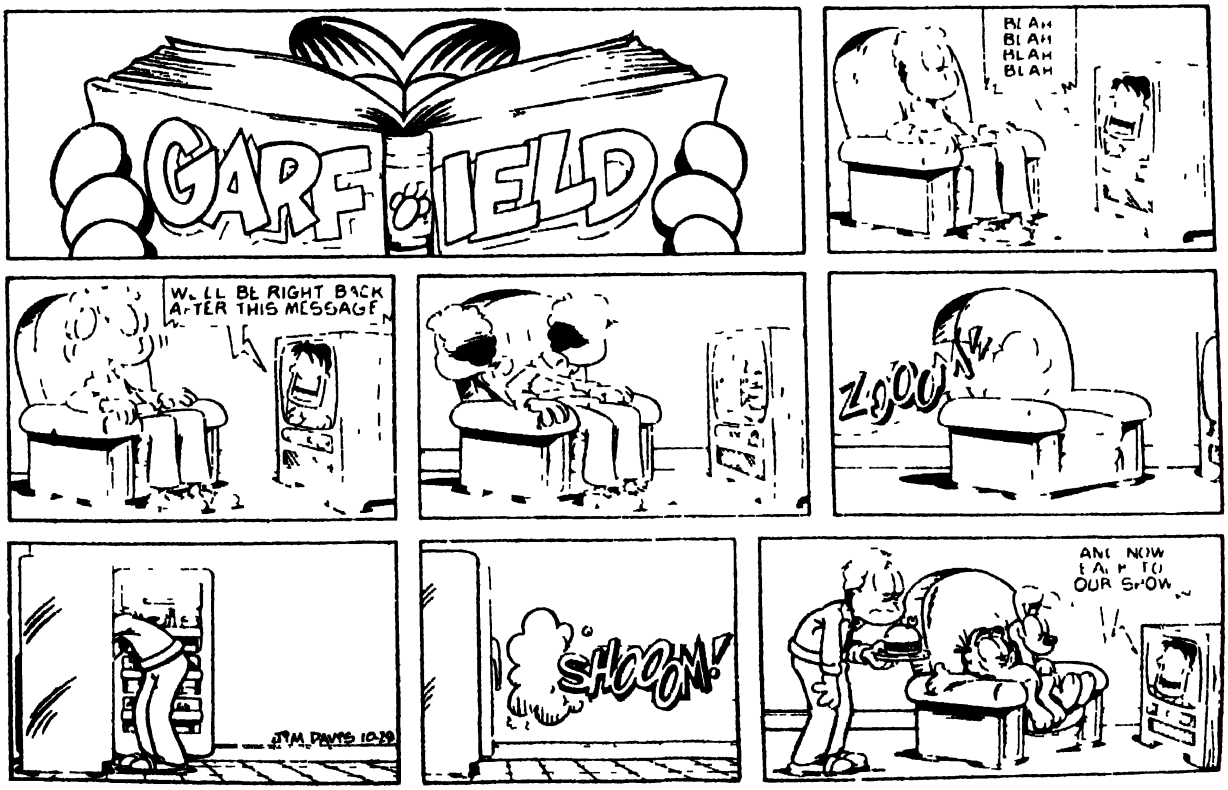


"IT'S LEROY'S LATEST PROJECT. A PRE-DIVORCE AGREEMENT"



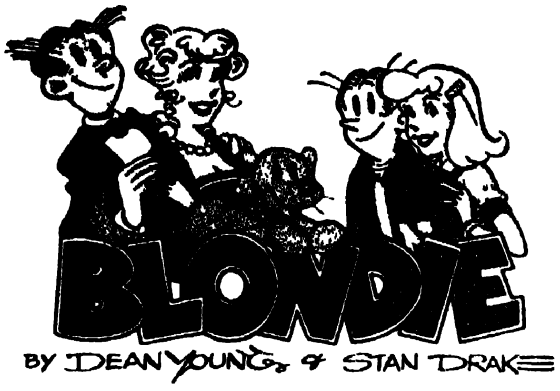
"I'M TRYING TO PICTURE IT ON YOU, LORETTA, BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH IMAGINATION"

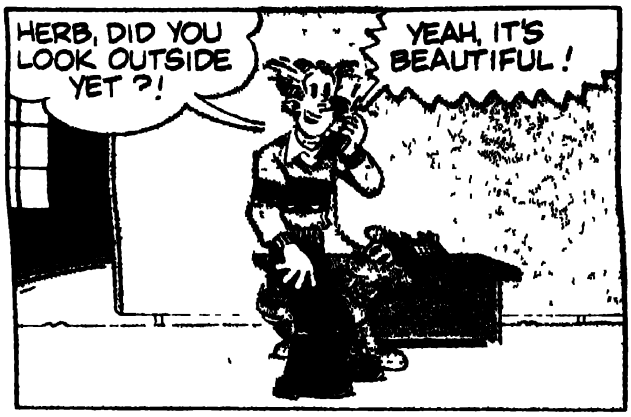
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP




BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


HERB, DID YOU LOOK OUTSIDE YET ?!
YEAH, IT'S BEAUTIFUL !

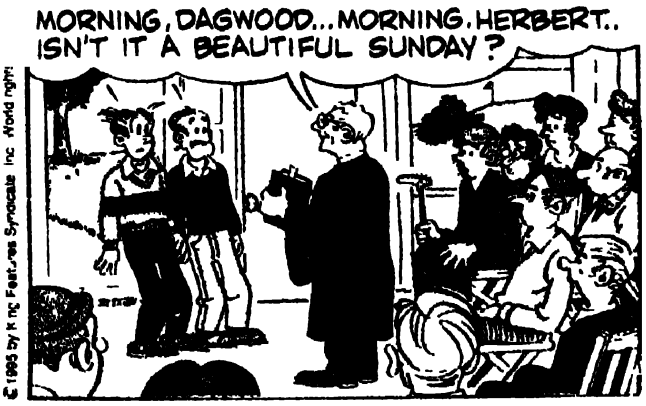

BLONDIE WAS PRETTY UNDERSTANDING ABOUT ME SKIPPING CHURCH FOR GOLF THIS MORNING


SO WAS TOOTSIE! SHE HAD TO ADMIT IT WAS A PERFECT DAY FOR IT


I'LL BET THE PASTOR OF OUR CHURCH WILL EVEN UNDERSTAND!
SURE, HE'S A GOLFER HIMSELF


I'D SAY ON A GORGEOUS MORNING LIKE THIS HE KIND OF KNOWS WHAT TO EXPECT


LISTEN, IF OUR PASTOR DIDN'T HAVE TO CONDUCT CHURCH SERVICES THIS MORNING, HE'D BE HERE, TOO
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!


MORNING, DAGWOOD... MORNING, HERBERT.. ISN'T IT A BEAUTIFUL SUNDAY?
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INTERVIEW

'I am not the first one to do so'

*Supercop **Kiran Bedi** tells the Magazine*



Kiran Bedi: Making a point

The feisty police officer, who takes to headlines like a duck takes to water, was recently in the eye of a storm again when she was chargesheeted for Tihar for breach of security ***Anuradha Raman*** *spoke to the woman of steel in Delhi about her decision to commission a biography and her future plans Excerpts from the interview*

What is the purpose of this book? Was it intended as a biography? Do you think you should have waited a little before coming out in the open?

The publisher and Khuswanth Singh visited the prison and were impressed by the community programmes and various other measures that were taken to integrate prisoners in Tihar

They then, hit upon the idea of writing on what was happening in Tihar At some stage, I think, the publisher wanted the writer to go beyond Tihar to find out about the person behind Tihar Was there a prior link to this corrective work that was taking place? And so on As for waiting for sometime, it depends on each individual

You are looking back in anger, hitting back at people who have hurt you in the past.

It is not a sudden anger I have spent 24 years in the service The anger did not erupt suddenly in 1995 It was on from day one

It is anger that made me join the services in the first place Anger can play a positive role When you are not angry, nothing moves When you are angry about someting, you are letting other people know that you will not tolerate nonsense

As for hitting back at people, that may be one purpose of writing Writing is also a creative exercise Sometimes, it can be to share information with others

Are you trying to share information with the readers?

I am not drawing any conclusion (Elsewhere, Kiran Bedi is reported to have said that if a police officer comments on knots in the system, what is wrong with that? No state secret has been shared There is no harm in government officers coming out openly and criticising the system If I have come out against the system, I am not the first one to do so)

What were you hinting at when, following Rajan Pillai's death, you asked for an inquiry to go beyond just Tihar mismanagement and simultaneously you said that this was not possible. in feudal bodies with democratic gowns?

I am a professional and I understand the administration well As a senior police official, I understand my responsibilities well If I am the head of a department, I have certain responsibilities, and if I do not exercise them, I am answerable

Unfortunately, in our work culture, the seniors get away with non-performance while junior officers are targeted Unfortunately, we don't debate on non-performance and the non-performance at senior level decides the performance level of others below him I am questioning non-performance I need to be judged too

By just wearing a gown, you cannot be democratic, you have to be functionally democratic In Tihar, we met the objectives of governance We gave everything The sad part is that the 9,000-odd people there got a big jolt While they feel left alone, I am the one left to answer

Will you enter politics?

I cannot say anything about the future I may be pushed out of Delhi As long as I have the energy, I will work for the community How long this will last, I don't know

EXTRACT

INTO STORMY WATERS

BY PARMESH DANGWAL

"Out of the average of 300 prisoners coming in every day, 50 are drug addicts The incidence of drug-related crimes being so high, it is most essential that this problem be dealt with effectively in the prisons We still have far too little space in our treatment centres We are, therefore, trying to institutionalise them And, for that we have sent a proposal to the Ministry of Health, Government of India, for establishing treatment centres like "Navjyoti" in the prisons to be run by the superintendent of the jail We have requested for funds, in the form of grants from the government, so that the superintendent can employ a team of homoeopaths, vocational trainers, yoga instructors, psychiatrists and social workers It would involve an amount of Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000 per superintendent per month to enable him to do so These funds would go to the prisoners' welfare fund and be at the disposal of the respective superintendents to provide a holistic infrastructure to deal with the drug problem in prisons The proposal is under active consideration of the government and is also being considered by the UN Drug Control Programme NGOs have their own limitations and the institutionalising of the programme would bring in much greater control in functioning by the jail staff itself One large prison is on the verge of being declared a demonstration project to be steered by Dr Harinder Sethi of Aasara (an NGO)

Yet another serious problem I noticed concerning the prisoners' health was their problem of smoking Quarters in the jails are confined and smoking was creating bronchial and other respiratory tract problems even in non-smokers through passive smoking But this was a problem in which very large numbers were involved and I kept my mind open to opportunities that might enable me to stop this One day, on my rounds in the adolescent wards, I was standing behind a prisoner when he coughed and spat a little distance away It landed in front of a boy sitting in his educational class I pounced on the opportunity and declared to the lot sitting there that this was how a privilege given to inmates was being abused Spitting into a class was sacrilege and if concessions like smoking were causing this then I had no option but to stop it henceforth



Smoking was immediately banned for the adolescents and strict instructions were issued that no visitor would bring *beedis* for his or her ward Just like liquor brings a lot of money to the government's coffers so also were *beedis* and cigarettes bringing in a lot of money to the prisoners' welfare funds in the jails But my superintendent agreed with me that we would rather bear the financial loss but we would ban consumption of tobacco in the jails Since we had approached them at the psychological level the youngsters realised that it was because of their misuse of privileges that this ban had been imposed and therefore they were quite silent about it They were all young with flexible and receptive minds and they opted for showing obedience to the ban orders This affected their mind control a lot and they soon realised they were better off with the ban They reported that spitting in the barracks had come to a stop They were now living in cleaner barracks and a lot of their throat and chest problems had disappeared

That made us happy

The problem now was with the mroe hardened and longer addicted adults! How should we set about effecting the ban for them? The opportunity presented itself one day On one of our rounds in Jail 3 one of the prisoners attending classes pointed out to me that a particular prisoner was selling *beedis* in black ie, charging more than the normal rates I asked him why he would be doing so when they were freely available in the jail canteen and he told me that sometimes the canteen would be closed for two days, or there would be a short supply On being questioned, the concerned prisoner refuted the charge saying that the other had some personal enmity with him and that is why he was saying so So I ordered a search of his belongings in his barracks and sure enough the search revealed a tin full of *beedis* I took this opportunity to tell them that this privilege we had been giving them had been misused and that a criminal offence was being committed because of this Blackmarketing would not be allowed to thrive in the prison and therefore I was going to impose a ban on smoking in all prisons I drove on the initiative I had got and expressed my anger at them Here I was, I told them spending over one and a half crores of rupees on their health problems and at no cost would I let them undo all that I had been trying to do I told them that here I was trying to cure them of TB and bronchial and other problems, and spending so much money on them, and they dared to take tonic from me and poison from the prisoners No more would I permit this, I told them If they wanted to

Extracted from "I Dare!"— Kiran Bedi A Biography by Parmesh Dangwal; UBSPD; Rs 295

continue taking the poison then let them pay for the cure I certainly was not going to do it!

Immediately on imposing the ban market forces exerted themselves in the jails' townships People started hoarding whatever stocks were available and there was a flourishing black market We were aware this would happen, and we were also aware that this would last only till such time as the stock started to dry up Massive searches were conducted and violators punished Stocks soon petered out and so that concern of ours was over with The major concern, however, was the withdrawal symptoms that had begun to become apparent Also, the convicts realised that the undertrials got a chance to smoke when they went to the courts but for them there was no such opportunity This was putting them into depression The response to this move was a mixed one, as was expressed through the petition box system Some claimed that it was a good thing I had done but there were very vituperative and abusive responses also I did not react to them I was accused of having done the most stupid thing and that all my efforts at providing them b tter living conditions, and a more liberal atmosphere, had all come to nought

How much of a dependence they had developed on *beedis* became apparent just 24 hours after this The cooks said they could not work in the *langars* without their *beedis* A large number of prisoners refused to eat because of stomach aches they had developed I wondered if my superintendents would be able to manage the situationa and whether I had not bitten off more than I could chew But then I realised what an opium-like effect their smoking had on them and that knowing this and yet permitting it would, for me, be absolutely immoral I, therefore, let the ban continue My superintendents cooperated with me totally They persuaded them, they counselled them and showed determination to continue along with me This gave me heart The superintendents had to do a lot of excess work and face a lot of hassles but they stood by me Without their implicit support it would just not have been possible We kept on at it We gave them extra milk, fruits, medicines, anything to keep their minds off smoking It required tremendous effort but then the results started becoming apparent I was told that their habits had started improving and that they were saying that I was very strict and that they might as well learn to do without smoking

I recommenced my rounds in the jails Groups started forming, some telling me I had done the right thing and some started pointing out that eve n the Jail Manual gave the prison in charge the prerogative of issuing two *beedis* a day to each prisoner I said this was impossible because the logistics were too cumbersome, and also that it was not possible to find out who smoked and who did not so that the sum total would again be a situation where there was excess smoking and blackmarketing Some of the staff members who were heavy smokers themselves were not



She dares

supportive of the ban and therefore we gave them external duties where they did not have to interact with the prisoners The situation had come to a make or break stage If we could hold our own for a little while longer, then we were through, and if we failed now then it would never be possible to attempt such a thing ever again

Then came my most crucial test, like a bombshell, I entered the prison for one of our regular performance appraisal meetings Normally, the prisoners would clap and thus show their approval of the way I was handling and managing things That day there was no such clapping I thought probably they had come to the conclusion that it was a silly thing to do and that it might be construed as hypocrisy, and that is why they had stopped the practice My superintendent, Tarseem Kumar, had been telling me that he was facing a lot of problems here but that he was managing to cope His problems soon became apparent I lectured the prisoners on the reasons for the ban on smoking and tried to get the prisoners to agree with me There was absolutely no response So I told them it was getting late and that we would, as usual, all stand up and say our prayers No one stood up! So I told them it was alright if they did not want to stand and that we would say our prayer sitting There were about 1200 of them with the convicts on my right and the undertrials in front of me I managed to get a group of the undertrials to sing along with me and then I told them to go back to their barracks With little persuasion the undertrials went away but the convicts remained sullen and unmoved I told them that I would listen to their complaints later and that they should go now Some of them then spoke up and said that they would only leave if they were given *beedis* They claimed that I was doing injustice to them They did not want eggs and milk or fruit they wanted their *beedis*, which, they said, was like their beloved and that they could not live without them "If you do not give it to us then we will all commit suicide" For the first time I started to sweat The other three jails had effectively accepted the ban, if I gave these convicts any concessions then everything would be undone I had to overcome the situation and so I plunged headlong into it I told them that what was making them behave like this was because of the withdrawal symptoms What they were undergoing was the tootan phase (a period of withdrawal where the body seems to be breaking) At that they all laughed and said, "Madam knows what is 'tootan'" I said yes, and that I would provide six more doctors so that they could get medical assistance in this difficult period They would administer a homoeopathic drug called 'tobaccum', I told them, and that would reduce their desire for tobacco

We had a lot of discussion that day about what I should do and what I should not So ultimately I told them that I would hold discussions with doctors and psychiatrists and only then tell them what had been decided Till then, I told them, the ban continues" ■

PINUP

THE MOOR, MIRRORED

Bhupen Khakhar tries to catch Salman Rushdie's reflection on canvas



The man in front of the canvas is definitely one of the most controversial figures of the decade. His portrait, too, is all set to become the most

by the National Gallery, London.

The portrait was commissioned for a BBC documentary on Salman Rushdie and his latest novel, *The Moor's Last Sigh*.

The man behind the canvas is Bhupen Khakhar the chartered accountant-turned-painter-turned-playwright — a man with many inclinations.

Kapil Jariwala, who plans a display of Khakhar's paintings at his own private gallery and hit upon the idea of Rushdie's portrait, revealed that "Salman really likes it", and is also a "keen collector of Bhupen's works for many years".

So enamoured is the author with his own likeness that he is "next on the list if the National Portrait Gallery does not buy it".

Khakhar, a not too familiar name in the international art circuit or among the Indian diaspora, has his fictitious counterpart, a chartered accountant, appearing in *The Moor's Last Sigh*.

Khakhar paints men who come and go and who may or may not talk of Michelangelo; leaps past the apparent realities and rewinds his ideas to unravel shocking images.

Here, too, he tries to go beyond his immediate subject and outlines the setting of the novel with allusions to Bombay, Rushdie's home town, and Cochin. The profile of the author is modelled on the Moghul tradition of miniatures.

"I like the obvious resonances to his life and cultural connections," observed Charles Saumarez Smith, director, London Gallery, who makes no secret of his intention to go ahead with the acquisition of the painting.

The artist would be happy if his painting "goes to a public gallery". Khakhar had many sittings with Rushdie before he completed his work at his Baroda studio.

But be it Rushdie or his image — thy name breeds strife. The reason is obvious. The author is still under a death threat from Iran's hardliner groups. Khakhar is also aware of this: "They want the painting p because il situation."

A critic, on seeing the work of the painter was reminded of a line from a Beatles number — "I look at all the lonely people" This time, too, it is a profile of a lone writer, or, perhaps, a portrait of an artiste in exile. ■

SUBHASH GHAI, *the self-styled showman of Hindi cinema, is today considered one of the most powerful influences in Bollywood. An FTII alumnus who failed as an actor, he went on to become a successful director. Right from Kalicharan, his first film as director, he has dished out a series of hits and misses — but all of them big. His latest film as producer, directed by Mukul Anand, is* Trimurti, *which has an impressive star cast as usual.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Being accepted.
What is your greatest fear?
Being rejected.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mother; also any person who wins through values.
What do you dislike most in others?
Pretention.
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My possessiveness
What is your most precious possession?
My wife.
What objects do you always carry?
A pen.
What makes you most depressed?
When people misunderstand me.
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
My paunch.
What is your favourite word?
I love you.
What is your favourite journey?
Car journey towards Khandala in the rains.
What is your favourite dream?
I'm dancing on stage and people are clapping.
What is your nightmare?
Falling from a cliff.
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
My wife
What is your source of sustenance?
A few good friends.
On what occasions do you lie?
At the premieres of my films.

On what occasions do you lie?

At the premieres of my films



How would you like to die?

While making a big hit film

What is your greatest regret?
I didn't look after my health.

What has been your happiest moment?
When a journalist wrote after my first film *Kalicharan* that "a director has arrived" because I had never been assistant to anybody, nor a student of film production.
What brings tears to your eyes?
Relationships.

How do you relax?
By sleeping.
What do you envy most in others?
Intellect.

How would you like to be remembered?
As an honest human being.
How would you like to die?
While making a big hit film.



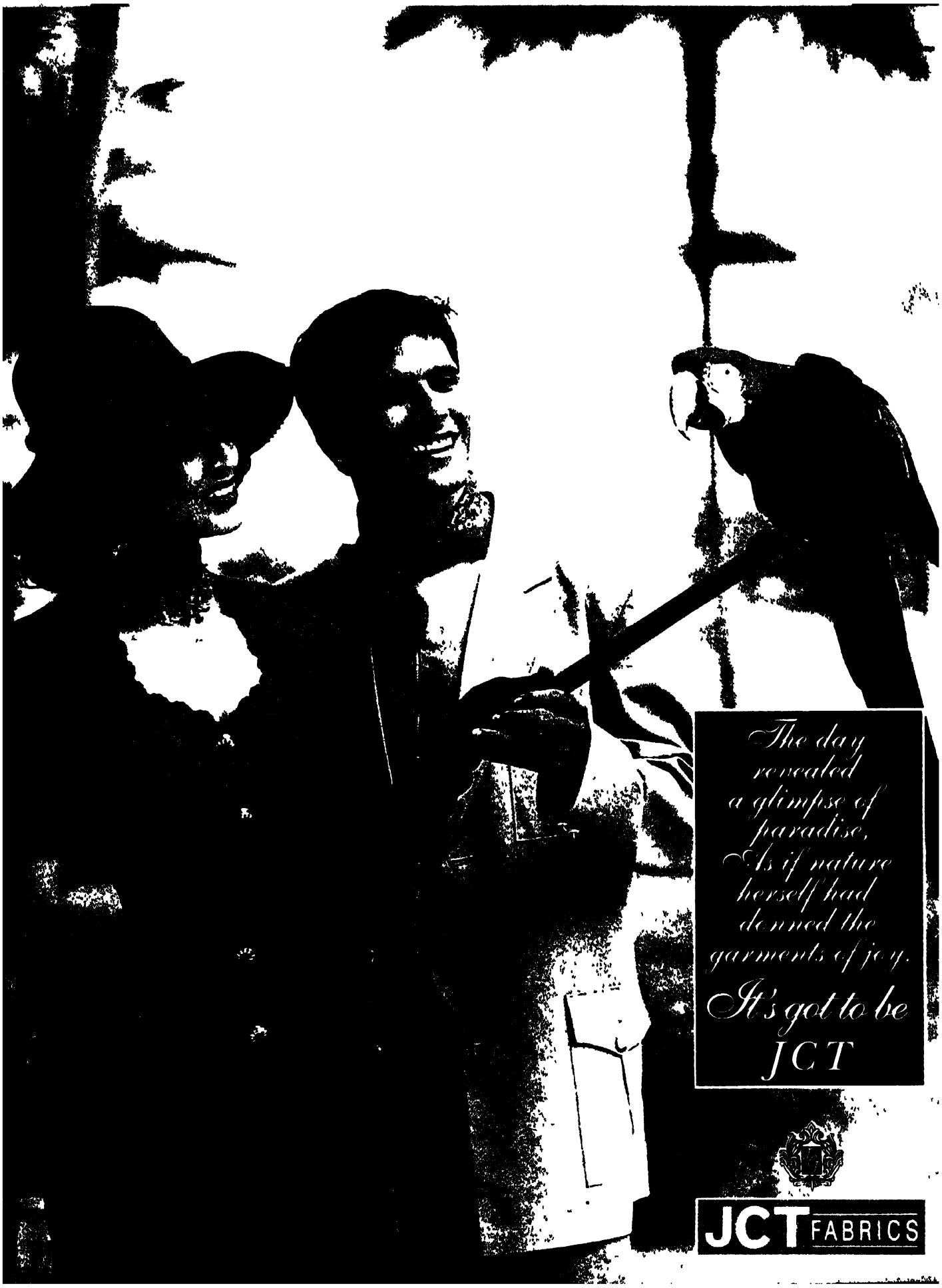
HERE'S
ARTIFICIAL
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[illegible] HERBS

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12 NOVEMBER 1995

The Telegraph

POSTMORTEM

Melody Where East Met West

■ A golden era in film music has ended with the passing away of R.D. Burman and Salil Chowdhury ('Symphony No More', September 24).

Once, in an interview, RD had complimented Salil Chowdhury's ability to fuse Western and Eastern tunes, an ability which he himself had

If Salil Chowdhury was a legend, RD was a phenomenon and we cannot forgive the Magazine for not having carried a cover story on him.

Such masters will obviously be missing in today's film scene where there is no regard for humility and creativity and where money dictates taste, values and originality, where a number like *Come September* is used simultaneously in two films and where lyrics like *Main to raste pe ja raha tha.* become superhits

There is no need to compose music nowadays, just litt a tune from a popular Western number, add some idiotic words and you've created a hit song!
Gautam Bose,
Dibrugarh

■ I was fortunate enough to meet Salil Chowdhury personally along with Basu Bhattacharya at the former's daughter Tulika's residence in Kurseong some years ago I was so touched by the modesty and amiability of this musical genius
I.K. Singh,
Kurseong

■ Spontaneity and effortlessness are the two qualities that constituted the genius called Salil Chowdhury He, in-league with Hemanta Mukhopadhyay, gifted Bengal some of the most melodious numbers ever to be composed. *Ranar chhutechhe, Abak prithibi, Kono ek gaanyer bodhu*

The reason why these songs are still popular is obvious they are pristine works of art where vulgarism has no place
Rajib Mukherjee,
Bandel (W B)

■ I need to congratulate the Magazine for its excellent tribute to Salil Chowdhury Anil Grover's translations of two Salil Chowdhury hits, *Toote hue khwabon ne* and *Koi hota jisko apna.* , were marvellous for he managed to retain the lyrical flow as well as the musical rhythm

For lines like *Toote hue khwabon ne* he translates 'Splintered dreams of mine' Or 'Wish there was no sleep in my eyes/ And only tears were afloat in them'/ And I stayed awake even in my dreams'.

Anil Grover not only understands poetry, he appreciates the beauty of each line

On the other hand, Bablu Bhattacharya's translation of *Gaanyer bodhu* and *Path harabo boleyi ebaar* was quite dull and literal There is no sense of poetry when he says 'I have descended on the path only to lose my way '

However, there are one or two lines where he sounds good 'The tale is a garland/Dew-drenched buds of which/Had blossomed in the spring of life'
Pinky Ghosh,
Calcutta



R.D. Burman: Another legend, like Salil Chowdhury

To B Or Not To B

■ The Magazine should give us a cover story on the return of the film giant, Amitabh Bachchan We expected some sort of a congratulatory writeup on the Big B's recent birthday in the Magazine, but we were disappointed
A Mukherjee,
Calcutta

Jayanta Mahapatra will be abroad for a while Readers may please send their poems to him after the third week of November

INSIDE



Colossus of Barbie

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INDIANS ARE making it big even in Hollywood Their films range from erotic thrillers to period dramas, produced on medium budgets and immensely popular

PAGE 26

Barbie, the world's most adorable doll, is the star of an exhibition in New York

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COVER STORY

NAMASTE HOLLYWOOD

That is where lies the pot of tinsel and gold And even there, some Indians are doing very well, thank you, says ***Arthur J. Pais***

Jessica Tandy and Bridget Fonda in *Camilla*

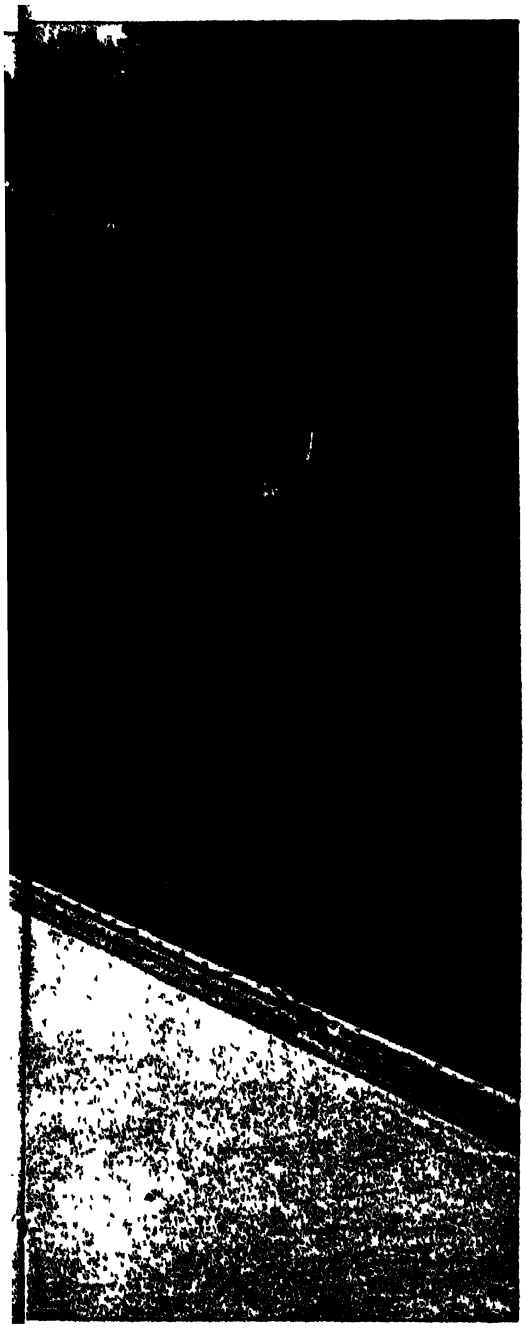


"IN THIS TOWN, YOU HAVE TO BE ON YOUR TOES ALL 24 HOURS, KNOW HOW TO WRESTLE WITH the lions and swim with the sharks," says Ashok Amritraj, a former tennis champ, and a producer of a dozen movies.

"People in Hollywood are friendly, and full of suggestions but unless you are always alert, and have a sharp business mind, you cannot deal with them "

Amritraj, who has also served as the executive producer for actor-producer Michael Douglas' hit movie, *Double Impact*, is working on three medium-budget ($12-$15 million) movies. "I like to have a mixed production bag," he says. "An erotic thriller, a costume drama, perhaps a comedy, and a big budget film."

Amritraj also says that he shares the fiscal conservatism of his Indian peers. "We are the new kids on the block," he says. "We cannot make $30 million movies (that being the cost of an average Hollywood movie) immediately. We must learn to walk steadily before we try to run with the big box-office "



Amritraj is among a dozen Indian producers making movies for Hollywood Their products range from erotic thrillers to historical themes. The total budget of their movies under production and in preparation exceeds $200 million. And most of these movies deal with American subjects Indians are also into directing movies.

In an industry where women directors count less than a dozen, there are three Indian women who have directed movies: Radha Bharadwaj (*Closet Land*, a political drama with Alan Rickman and Madeline Stowe), Mira Nair and Deepa Mehta.

"We are into mainstream movie-making," says director Jagmohan Mundhra, who specialises in erotic thrillers His *Improper Conduct*, a story of sexual harassment, was released a few months ago in more than 300 movie houses across America, a good show for a low-budget movie. It got some good reviews, too, particularly from *The Los Angeles Times*.

Many of these producers started in the business when Amritraj was finding his footing in Hollywood For instance, Sharad Patel, who owned movie theatres in East Africa, began his Hollywood career with a low-budget but rousing movie on *Idi Amin*, the Ugandan dictator.

With the success of that film, he ventured into making an American comedy. *Bachelor Party*, which Sharad Patel produced for 20th Century Fox, was a runaway hit a little more than a decade ago; it made Tom Hanks a star.

Following his work in *Bachelor Party*, Hanks drew the attention of major Hollywood directors, including Penny Marshall, and went on to work in some of the biggest hits, including *Big* and *Forest Gump*

But Sharad Patel suffered several setbacks when two of his ventures failed However, he is back in business in a big way, having got Walt Disney to distribute *Jungle Book* The $25 million live-action movie will hit more than 1,400 screens across America in a few months

Sharad Patel and his son Raju are not the only immigrants from East Africa who have made a home in Hollywood Sunil Shah, the producer of *Lion Heart*, the movie that made Jean-Claude Van Damme a star, and his three brothers inherited their movie business sense from their father Raminikbhai Shah who owned movie theatres and video distribution companies in Kenya

When East Africa began expelling Asians in the Seventies, the Shahs left for England When Raminikbhai Shah sought to revive

MUNDHRA'S EROTICA

Tahnee Welch, daughter of the glam actress, Raquel Welch, has been seen in some of the big Hollywood hits, including *Cocoon* But her career hasn't really taken off, and when she heard that a smalltime director, Jagmohan Mundhra, was casting *Improper Conduct*, Welch sent feelers and grabbed the lead.

Mundhra, most of whose movies are made on shoestring budgets ($2 million, against the $26 million Hollywood average) and are seen widely on video in America and in theatres elsewhere, does not hear his name at the Oscar times Nor do his movies get awards.

But he is considered one of the most successful of Hollywood's Indian directors. Though the films he had made in his home country *Vish Kanya* among them have flopped, he has truly developed a Midas touch in Hollywood. And that is the reason the likes of Tahnee Welch want to be seen in Mundhra's movies.

His movies are described as erotic thrillers. But Mundhra says he has nothing to feel ashamed of

"Isn't it a legitimate genre?" he asks "You take a heart-pounding story, lace it with sensuous scenes, and unless you are a damn fool, you will not lose money." He pauses for a moment "I have had more fun making these films than in a classroom " Mundhra, a graduate of India's prestigious IIT, has three masters degree and a doctorate from Michigan State University He has also taught for several years in America.

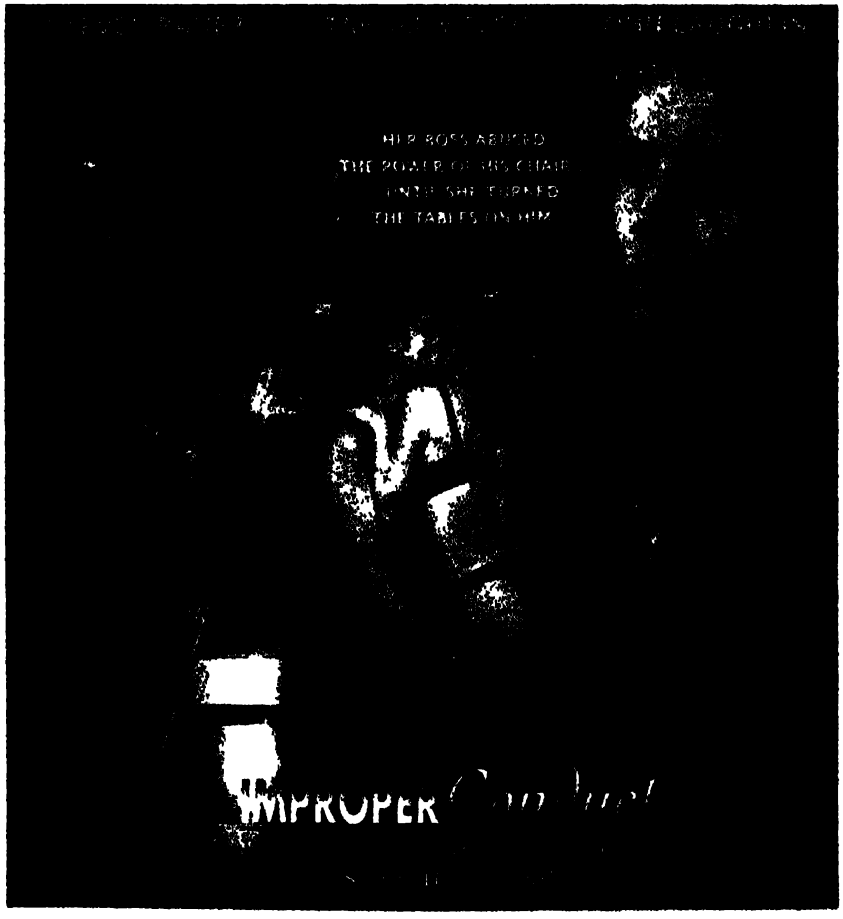
Having directed 15 such films in a decade, Mundhra knows what he is talking about With such hits like *The Other Woman* and *Night Eyes*, his films have grossed a conservative $150 million. "They would cost less than $34 million," he says. Because most of his films feature new faces, they are released on video across America and are shown regularly on pay-for-view cable In Europe and Asia, where it takes less money to release them in movie houses, Mundhra's movies enjoy typically a week or two in theatres

A movie career was a natural for him. "When you grow up in a country like India, film culture seizes you," he says "You come to America with an electrical engineering degree, you get a masters degree in business administration and you're working on your doctoral thesis at Michigan State University about marketing of movies, and all the time you wonder `When am I going to make my own films?'"

So hooked was he on movie business that even as he was teaching at Loyola Marymount College a course in consumer behaviorism, he distributed Indian movies to Los Angeles theatres for weekend showings and worked as an unpaid intern in an American movie company, but his first film was far removed from the erotic thriller he would specialise in

With all his savings, borrowed money and advance from distributors, he made a film called *Suraag* in Hindi in 1982, an also-ran film. It starred Sanjeev Kumar

***Improper Conduct* : Voyeurism at its best ?**



his business in England, his sons migrated to America, and began producing small budget action dramas

Like most Indian producers in Hollywood, the Shah brothers refuse to put their eggs in one basket "There is no point in trying to do a $45 million movie, and suffering a lot of heartaches," says Sunil Shah



Ashok Amritraj with other Hollywood producers

and Shabana Azmi He later made Kamla with Marc Zuber and Deepti Naval, it got him some good notices, but wasn't a hit. Some years ago, he made *Vish Kanya* toplining Pooja Bedi The movie flopped.

About 12 years ago, Mundhra got connected to erotic thrillers, thanks to a chance meeting with former tennis champ Ashok Amritraj who was branching into making Hollywood films They made *Night Eyes*, about a voyeuristic security expert The 1989 movie cost about $1 2 million, but grossed over $30 million It "opened the floodgates of erotic thrillers," declared Entertainment Tonight show The Video Source Book counts 35 erotic thrillers last year, up from 11 in 1991

"I had made a couple of crime and horror films before,' Mundhra says "But they didn't fly It was when one added sex to the genre, things began to change "

Mundhra's formula is simple· Have a story with a good twist, fill them with steamy but not explicit sex scenes, pack them with *Playboy* centrefolds such as Kathy Shower, the ravishing stunt double of *L.A. Goddess* or a model such as Lee Anne Beman who played a hardnosed reporter in *The Other Woman*

"My films are made on such small budgets that any free exposure you get from the actors is welcome," he says. *Playboy* playmates or *Penthouse* pets are natural for his films.

` Mundhra, a burly man with a soft voice, bristles when his movies are called soft porn by some writers. "Sharon Stone or Melanie Griffith take off their clothes in a $30 million movie and that's okay for many," he says. "But a $2 million venture with erotic scenes is dubbed porn."

He admits he shoots two versions of his films the videostore bound version with steamy bedroom scenes, and a television theatre version with less sex "I never go for gross or explicit sex," he asserts Since he writes the story and script for most of his films, he knows where to draw the line between "decent sex and pornography," he says.

And he believes the audiences should be surprised continually In *The Other Woman*, for instance, the investigative reporter suspects her psychologist-author husband of adultery When she confronts the suspect, she discovers the call girl/model is merely an innocent fan of her husband "And then comes the twist that explains the movie's title," Mundhra says "The reporter falls in love with the call girl And complications follow"

Mundhra, 45, turned a producer with his newest *Improper Conduct* which deals with sexual harassment in office.

"All these years I saw all my movies make plenty of money," he says "But for someone else " He hope to have *Improper Conduct* in movie halls. "I know it's difficult Once you're branded a video director, you may stay put there "

But his wish came true recently. *Improper Conduct* opened in about 200 movie houses, not a bad deal for a small-budget movie, and promises to do respectable business.

Would he want to try another genre? "Am I doing something wrong?" he asks with a chuckle "Or are you afraid that I shall run out of ideas?"

` If the $45 million movie does not work out, we may not be able to get up and walk for many years So what we do is to produce a $20-$25 million budget movie and several others that cost about $10 million"

His recent film, *Double Dragon*, a martial-art drama set in futuristic Los Angeles, cost about $15 million Though the film did not do good business, it is bound to do well in video sales, Hollywood insiders say

Shah, along with his two brothers, is working on two movies starring his favourite Jean-Claude Van Damme `Even those movies, we shall try to keep under $25 million," he says "Jean-Claude Van Damme is a big star now, but he appreciates when a producer tries to keep the costs down because he knows that if the film's budget soars and it does average business, often the star gets blamed for its non-success "

Mira Nair, whose $25 million project on the Buddha fell through last year when another acclaimed director, Bernardo Bertolucci, started his own movie, *Little Buddha*, is making a $12 million movie that is already being talked about as an Oscar contender *The Perez Family*, starring Oscar winners Marisa Tomei and Angelica Huston, is described as a searing drama of a Cuban immigrant family in Miami

Its theme is aptly summed up in its ad-line "From a life of turmoil to a future of promise, a family had become strangers And strangers

became a family Due in theatres in December (just the time when Oscar-race begins in earnest), The *Perez Family* is described as a make-you-laugh, make-you-cry heartwarmer. It focuses on two Cuban refugees looking to America to fulfill their romantic fantasies

Juan Perez (Alfred Molina), just released from Castro's prison, goes to Miami to find his wife (Huston), whom he has not seen for 20 years On the boat he meets Dottie (Marisa Tomei), a free spirit whose idea of America comes from pop music and movie stars. In spite of themselves, the two fall in love

Unlike Nair, who got Hollywood recognition through *Salaam Bombay!* which was nominated for an Oscar, and *Mississippi Masala*, Deepa Mehta is a relative stranger to the film city But she has plenty of experience behind the camera. As a co-founder of Sunrise Films, a Canadian TV and movie production company, she worked with her husband Saltzman on several adventure episodes in the *Thunderbay* series shown by the Disney Channel

Seven years ago, she moved into features with *Martha, Rich and Edie*, which was followed by the culture-clash story, *Sam and Me* She also directed an episode of the *Young Indiana Jones* chronicles for George Lucas and ABC TV

After she separated from Paul Saltzman, Mehta directed what many believe is her breakthrough film, *Camilla*. A gentle road movie starring Jessica Tandy and Bridget Fonda, it is being released in November by Miramax, a distribution wing of Walt Disney



Last Call: **One from Amritraj's 'mixed bag'**

Deepa Mehta was offered $11 million to do *Camilla*. By Hollywood standards, $11 million is not a millionaire's budget but for a Canadian filmmaker it was a big fortune. 'Oh my God, what am I going to do with $11 million? I could do 10 films with that money in Canada'

Mehta, whose father was a movie distributor in India, remembers asking him many years ago,

Daddy, why don't you pick up films that do well. Wouldn't it be nice to be rich?"

Her father replied: "There are two things that you don't know about One is when you are going to die and the other is how a film is going to do "

Mehta must have remembered this when she was offered $11 million to do *Camilla* By Hollywood standards, $11 million is not a millionaire's budget but for a Canadian filmmaker it was a big fortune.

"Oh my God, what am I going to do with $11 million? I could do 10 films with that money in Canada "

Nair and Mehta are among many independent filmmakers who live far away from Hollywood and yet cannot resist the great tinsel city Add to this list the names of Ismail Merchant (his partners, director James Ivory and writer Ruth Prawer Jhabvala) and Amin Q. Chaudhri, who live in New York and Pennsylvania, respectively Anant Singh, one of the most successful filmmakers in South Africa, also makes Hollywood films.

Singh's interest in Hollywood began three years ago when he could not raise money for the anti-apartheid musical, *Sarafina!*. Though based on an internationally successful musical, which had played in New York for more than a year, and in London over seven

months, he found distributors hesitating to back his $7 million project "Get a Holywood star, any black star from Hollywood," said one distributor And Singh did just that He persuaded Whoopie Goldberg to play a pivotal role in *Sarafina!* and overnight Walt Disney grabbed the movie Impressed by Singh's efficiency, Disney gave the greenlight to his next project, *Father Hood*, a $20 million project

Sarafina! was a modest hit but Singh stumbled with *Father Hood*, a road movie about a convict and his children who beg him to take them away from a badly-run orphanage The movie stared Patrick Swayze, a box office durable, and yet it ran out of gas Seeing the bad response it got in the limited release, Walt Disney yanked it out of theatres in the third week Its gross? $10 million

But street-smart Singh is back in business He has just completed *Mangler* a $10 million horror movie based on a Stephen King novella, and directed by Toby Hooper (*Poltergeist*) And Sony Classics has grabbed *Yankee Zulu* a shoe stringbudget satire about race relations in new South Africa In South Africa, *Yankee Zulu* has grossed bout about $4 million,



Academy Award winner (1990) Whoopi Goldberg stars as Mary, a passionate school teacher in South Africa in Anant Sing's *Sarafina!*

Jagmohan Mundhra with Steven Bauer in *Improper Conduct*



making it the most successful movie ever produced there

Merchant has stayed out of Hollywood for nearly three decades, with one exception *The Guru*, made in the Sixties for 20th Century Fox But three years ago, he felt that Orion Pictures, an independent firm tottering on bankruptcy, could not do justice tohis *Howards End*, and he accepted a bid by Sony Classics, a wing of Columbia Pictures *Howards End* bagged three Oscars and grossed $26 million in America (about $40 million abroad)

Columbia then asked Merchant if he could produce *The Remains of the Day* based on a Booker Prize-winning novel The movie was originally to be produced and directed by Mike Nichols (*Working*

'Since the Merchant-Ivory team is known for making movies for $10-$12 million budget, and make them look as if they cost about $30 million,' says film historian and critic Andrew Sarris, 'Columbia must have thought them to be natural for the project [The Remains of the Day]'

Leaps of Faith

Mehta who has been making television and feature films in Canada for the past decade, could not resist a good Hollywood offer. Her first American film, *Camilla*, was made on a modest budget of $6 million — one fourth the budget of regular star-studded Hollywood pictures.

She got an assignment on the strength of her last film, *Sammy and Me*, a little seen but critically acclaimed movie about friendship between an elderly Jew and a young India immigrant (Ranjit Chowdhery), both outcasts of sorts

Sammy and Me was released about 18 months ago. Mehta was then married to Harry Saltzman, one of North America's most successful television filmmakers, and whose hits include *Danger Bay* adventure series for Walt Disney Channel

Mehta, who has adegree in philosophy from Delhgoi University, was a cofounder of Sunrise Films Limited, along with Saltzman She also directed one of the episodes of George Lucas's *Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*.

***Father Hood*: Jack Charles (Patrick Swayze, right) gets a surprise visit from his kids**



Girl and *Regarding Henry)* but Nichols not commit to make the movie on less than $ 30 million budget Columbia thought that the movie would have limited appeal

`Since the Merchant-Ivory team is known for making movies for $ 10-$ 12 million budget, and make them look as if they cost about $ 30 million," says film historian and critic Andrew Sarris, "Columbia must have thought them to be natural for the project "

The Remains of the Day, nominated for threee oscars, grossed about $ 55 million worldwide "Since it was made for $ 12 million, it turned out to be a profitable venture," says film critic George Russel Had it cost $30 million, it would have ended in the red " (A



A scene from *The Remains of the Day*

A romantic comedy about two young women — one moving the end of her life(the late Jessica Tandy in her last role), the other just starting out (Bridget Fonda) — who take to the road together in an old VW, it is being released through Miramax, an arm of Walt Disney. The two are brought together by their common interest in music but soon discover that despite a gap of more than 50 years, they have plenty of things in common

The journey takes three days, and although not a great distance, it is long enough to realise that it is never too late to follow your dreams and allow yourself the room to set your spirit free.

"The movie is reality rooted in a fantasy," Mehta says. "For me this combination is very important because I don't think we have enough magic in our lives."

"When you take a leap of faith— whether it is within yourself or whether it is for somebody else— magic happens."

"I think you have to believe in people however off centre or fantastical they might be," she continues, `but at the same time, they must strike some cord of reality within you To bring that out in the actor's performances was of prime importance to me."

Tandy, who starred with Marlon Brando on the stage in *A Streetcar Named Desire,* and whose few movies including *Driving Miss Daisy* brought her great accolade, surprised everyone when she said that she was looking forward to working with Bridget Fonda.

Daughter of Peter Fonda (*Easy Rider*) and niece of Jane Fonda, Bridget Fonda has been about five years in the movie business but starred in such h its as *Single White Female* and *Singles* Tandy was in the 80s when she began working for *Camilla,* and died in mid-1993 after completing all her work

Said Tandy who plays the title role, "I was delighted to hear that Bridget wanted to do the picture not only because she liked the part, but because she wanted to work with me I felt the same way about her There is a lot I can learn from young actors, specially someone like Bridget who has so much more experience in films than I do "

Fonda says that Camilla and Freda have a wonderful relationship in the movie but it was not easy to prepare for the part. "At first my chartacter (Freda) finds herself a little intimidating," she says, "But the hunger and the desire to share her love of music with someone is so strong that it forces her to overcome her shyness and fear Music is the common ground that brings us together initially, but as the movie progresses, we find out that we have more in common than we thought ".

Tandy said that the friendship between the characters is unusual, that not all older women will get on with younger women. But, in this case, said Tandy, "We each have our music which is very important to us. More important to us than it is to our husbands."

Though music plays a key element of the film, the stars could not play any instrument. But they refused to opt for music doubles, and took elaborate lessons in playing guitar and piano for more than two months.

movie has to gross two and a half times its budget to breakeven)

As *The Remains of the Day* was being released, Columbia was also distributing *Age of Innocence* a $35 million project based on an American classic, and directed by Martin Scorsese Both movies had plenty in common both were period dramas, and dealt with unrequietted love Both were well received by the critics but ended up making almost the same amount of money But *Age of Innocence* was not profitable because it had cost a hefty $35 million

Merchant and h is team are getting ready to release their first movie for Walt Disney in the next few months *Jefferson in Paris* starring the Oscar winner Nick Nolte in the title role, is going to be a controversial project The film details Jefferson's personal life including his alleged affair with his black mistress

Amin Q Chaudhri, whose hit movies inlcude *Tiger Warsaw* (with Patrick Swayzee) has not inked a deal as yet with a Hollywood studio for his ambitious project *Gunga Din* The film was to be made five years ago as a coproduction between Chaudhri and a Soviet film firm It was to be shot in a central Soviet republic But wtih the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the deal fell through Chaudhri is trying to revive the project

"We are here to stay, and Hollywood bigwigs know that we are dead serious of what we are doing," says Sunil Shah "Remember the Alan Arkin movie, Russians Are Coming, Russians are Coming?

"Well they say in Hollywood, `Indians are coming, Indians are coming'" ■

FIRST TIME IN INDIA

SELF HYPNOSIS

FOR SELF IMPROVEMENT THROUGH

AUDIO CASSETTES BY PRADEEP AGARWAL'S

Pradeep Agarwal, member of the Hypnosis Hall of Fame Guild, U S A and head of the Institute of Mind Control & Development, has been conducting lectures and workshops for the past 20 years in India and abroad with remarkable success More than seven thousand people have attended his workshops and claim marvelous changes in their lives

Pradeep Agarwal presents 13 audio cassettes, each endowed with such techniques to help you to change your life

Each cassette is prepared to solve a specific, focussed purpose and is scientifically created by blending alpha-mind music and carefully developed suggestions

All you have to do is select a calm & quiet place where you won't be disturbed for half an hour, sit down comfortably and play the cassette of your choice on a good music system, preferably using headphones

Side B of all cassettes, which consists of subliminal suggestions inter-woven with music can however be listened to by you at anytime and at any place You could be involved in any activity without focussing your concentration on the music for the suggestions to work This is because we have used a sophisticated audio-technology so that while you only hear the music, your subconscious mind, without your knowledge' listens' to the subliminal suggestions being suitably affected by them in the intended positive ways

01 HOW TO MASTER SELF-HYPNOSIS

This cassette comprises of the fundamental initiation to self-hypnosis The music and the voice of Pradeep Aggarwal guide you to a very deep state of relaxation and programme your sub-conscious mind to enable you to enter this wonderful state of self-hypnosis The technique used is called 'Progressive Relaxation' The cassette also programmes you to enter this state instantly at any time you want

Side B of this cassette consists of 'Visualization Induction', a technique that is very helpful to enter self-hypnosis

By the time you finish listening to this cassette you would have become a master in self-hypnosis!

02 RELIEVE STRESS AND ANXIETY

This cassette guides you to the state of deep hypnotic relaxation and suggestions are given to programme you for remaining calm, composed and wise in the midst of any tense & stressful situation

03 ATTAIN SUCCESS AND CONFIDENCE

Success, be it in any field, needs confidence as its necessary backbone This cassette develops your confidence to a supercharged state so that success becomes your second nature So get set on your way to super-confidence!

04 GENERAL HEALING

A cassette of extra-ordinary power Listeners have reported amazing cures of mental and physical ailments through this cassette It enables you to heal yourself of all ailments

05 PEACEFUL IMAGERY

A wonderful cassette of guided meditation which guides you to various peaceful mental imageries in the form of beautiful landscapes to help you relax and remain calm in any stressful situation

06, ASTRAL PROJECTION

This cassette enables you to experience what is commonly called an "out-of-body experience" You are guided to project yourself out of your body, visit places and observe what's going on at the different locations Later you return to your physical body safely A very powerful exercise for your mind

07 STOP SMOKING FOREVER

There is hardly any need to elaborate on the importance of this cassette Surveys suggest that more than 80% of smokers want to quit but can't This cassette enables you to uproot the nicotine habit forever and become a non-smoker

08 PAST LIFE REGRESSION

Have you lived before ? If so, where ? And when ? Who were you ? Man or a woman ? Pradeep Aggarwal has guided thousands into vivid memories of their past lives and thereby gain an understanding of their present lives The cassette contains the same technique he uses in his workshop

09 DEVELOP PSYCHIC POWERS

Everyone has E S P The knowledge and use of them can benefit you immensely – far beyond your present abilities This cassette enables you to tap the powers hidden deep inside your sub-conscious mind Each succesive listening will develop your psychic powers a step further

10 IMPROVE MEMORY

This cassette, specially developed for students, enables you to improve your memory and concentration It also contains a special session to erase examination phobia so that you can remain calm, confident and remember everything at the examination hall and score with flying colours !

11 ATTRACT THE WOMAN YOU WANT

This cassette enables you to enhance your self-image as a lovable, attractive and sexy man who deserves the love of the women he wants It makes you confident, removes your mind blocks and sends out positive vibrations to attract women

12 LOSE WEIGHT

Sick of hearing nicknames like "fatso", "fatty" or "hippo"? tired of carrying those obnoxious tyres around your torso ? Get your sub-conscious mind programmed to burn off the fat for good – for ever

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An amazing cassette that has helped thousands to shed their cloaks of inferiority and develop a powerful and magnetic personality to attract fame and wealth

Everyone lives in the world of their thoughts and these thoughts have energy Positive thoughts attract positive results Negative thoughts attract negative results Through methods of relaxation, visualization, affirmations and subliminal persuasion, you can discover how to tap into the vast storehouse of creative energy that is buried within your subconscious mind and put that energy to work for you!

ORDER FORM

TT1

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	06 Astral Projection	Rs	95/-
	07 Stop Smoking Forever	Rs	95/-
	08 Past Life Regression	Rs	95/-
	09 Develop Psychic Powers	Rs	95/-
	10 Improve Memory	Rs	95/-
	11 Attract the Woman You Want	Rs	95/-
	12 Lose Weight	Rs	95/-
	13 Attain Wealth & Prosperity	Rs	95/-

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132, Cotton Street, 2nd Floor, Calcutta - 700 007
PH 033-2301052
NAME
ADDRES

CITY/TOWN
STATE & PIN CODE

HUMOUR

USING CONNECTIONS

K.R.K. Prasad *catches his wife using the telephone well and proper*

Ever since bureaucrats were equated with call girls by that righteous election commissioner, even the old girl at home started winking

All actions were being X-rayed And then I got an opportunity to corner her misdeeds The Calcutta Telephones gave the break

"You should own up at, least on moral and ethical grounds," I told my wife

"Whatever for?" she questioned back

"Tapping telephones is bad and you have done it"

She looked puzzled

"You remember how you got the new recipe for that paneer-stuffed-capsicum? You got it word by word over the line," I accused her

"Oh that! I had lifted the receiver to fix an appointment with my hair dresser When I heard this conversation of two ladies discussing a recipe, it was too tempting to be ignored So I kept on listening"

"You mean eavesdropping?"

"How mean! I did not know who they were They were not aware that I was on the line You may call it eaves-hearing Honestly, whoever expected a cross connection of their conversation on our phone They continued yapping for another hour and all my engagements went haywire for the day"

"Nonetheless you added one more recipe to your repertoire and that too by tapping their telephone," I repeated

She kept quiet Strike when the iron is getting warmer

"It was downright immoral to have snatched a bridegroom by tapping the phone" I persisted

She budged She looked down That was a clear sign of retreat She seemed to take an eternity to reply

"There was nothing immoral I will tell you how it happened Our phone rang after remaining dead and buried for three full days I ignored the ring knowing fully well that the telephone operator would enquire whether our line was through and once he disconnected it would again go kaput

"But on an impulse I lifted the receiver, I had not even said 'Hello' and the lady who appeared to suffer from verbal diarrhoea, rattled off, 'Oh! Sarla! Where were you? I have got the best news of the year A real scoop and million dollar lottery ! I have got a wonderful alliance for your daughter ! The boy is a computer engineer from IIT and an MBA from IIM He is working in the US and is a Green Card holder Has earned tons of money Wants to settle down in India after a year or two He is the only son of his parents Vegetarian He does not smoke A 26-year-old handsome young man Does not touch alcohol I wish I had a daughter You know what, I am the first one to know



They contacted me on arrival They do not want any dowry and want immediate marriage They do not want any fuss and are not even prepared to advertise ' She went on

"It was too good, how could I say that I was not Sarla and that it was a wrong number when I have a niece waiting in the wings to marry only a Green Card"

"So I murmured, 'Address?' hopefully expecting my caller not to recognise my voice

"She dictated the address, gave some more details about the parents, the way the subject should be broached, their likes and dislikes and a million other tips and added 'best wishes', 'prayers', *et al* She then hung up as if to catch the next plane to the US

"Without giving me a chance she cut off What else could I do I told my brother Boy met girl Parents liked the alliance — *chat mangnee phat biya* On the seventh day, the couple took off for California We cooed bye-bye to the newlyweds How can you accuse me of evil designs? This is downright unjust"

"But you tap your own daughter's phone That is criminal" I smiled, unable to mask my delight at her discomfiture

"Don't be silly Lifting the receiver on an extension when there is a parallel line is a legitimate weapon of a possessive parent, ' she thundered

"That brat was saying sweet nothings to that nincompoop son of your colleague After coming to know their rendezvous I changed my voice and misled him Several such mishaps and missing of meeting points ultimately led their friendship to nowhere I have no regrets I practise value-based parental tactics"

"But it was immoral nevertheless," I repeated

' I tap your phone also Do you know that? Otherwise how can I run an Armageddon of this house and keep people under control?" ■

THEY ALSO SERVE

STILL GREEN

Bonomali Banerjee had the audacity to book the DC, traffic—for a right cause Yes, he's around to put the signals straight

It is a familiar sight on Calcutta roads traffic snarls at any important crossing and an indifferent constable looking away or busy collecting bribes from the drivers

Often ministers and top bureaucrats made news when they nabbed constables accepting bribes from erring drivers

But this is a story of a traffic constable taking drivers of ministers and senior bureaucrats, who usually care for nothing, to task for violating traffic rules

Bonomali Banerjee, a traffic constable, has been giving 150 to 200 'pocket-book summon' cases a day to the Calcutta traffic police The state government earns several lakhs of rupees from the fines realised from the erring drivers of cars

It is not an uneasy task to distinguish this cop with a formidable moustache manning Shyambazar five-point crossing No irregularity, be it a rash driving or illegal parking or ignoring traffic signal, will miss his eyes He will immediately pounce on the driver or note down the car number

Bonomali who used to man the road in front of Writers' Buildings has recently been transferred to Shyambazar He made an appeal for a transfer to a less important crossing since he had a major eye operation

"I was really proud to see that chief minister Jyoti Basu could recognise me the other day I was manning the Ultadanga crossing and the chief minister was travelling from the airport to his Salt Lake residence As I saluted him he looked at me from his speeding car and smiled Perhaps, he recognised me because he used to see me manning traffic in front of Writers' Buildings"

Once he spotted the then deputy commissioner, traffic, Chayan Mukherjee's car parked in front of Writers' Buildings and noted its registration number Though his colleagues told him that his days of duty in front of the state secretariat were over as he dared to book the DC traffic, he was relieved after Mukherjee patted and congratulated him for his honesty and integrity

Mukherjee published his name and photograph in the Calcutta traffic police bulletin He also recommended his name for the Indian Police Medal award But the file is gathering dust He, however, received an award last month from a non-government organisation, Saptodipa, for his performance

Only the other day he did not spare the car of a judge near Shyambazar crossing When Bonomali joined the profession in 1960 his boss was Tim *saheb* Bonomali was Tim's favourite for his uprightness In 1966 he was awarded a one rupee coin by the then DC traffic in recognition of his work

So the man carries on, with his unwavering tenacity and vigour, keeping vigil over truant drivers or those daring to flout traffic rules

Utpal Banerjee



INNEREYE

BEJAN DARUWALLA

Aries
March 21 - April 20



Ganesha says home, property and work make a trio for you The next few days prove very eventful, as all the three directions converge Children, grandchildren, hobbies and sports are foretold A home away from home is also possible Do anticipate changes on the work front

Taurus
April 21 — May 20



Take a chance, be it romance, property deals, finance, or just a trip Communication is the key and that means letters posters, ads calls telex telegrams, deeds and contracts will be signed and these should naturally, have a direct bearing on finance property and marriage

Gemini
May 21 — June 20



For Taureans and Geminis the second and the sixth will be electrifying and, therefore try to home in on it if possible The focus is certainly on your finances and family buying, selling, investing, housing renovation and decoration A family get together is on the cards

Cancer
June 21 — July 20



Partnerships at all levels, that is, from business to purely platonic, act as the main trend of the week Your ability to handle human relationships will be fully tested Tuesday, Friday and Saturday find you taking crucial decisions Journey, and ceremony foretold

Leo
July 21 — August 21



Hidden things, including assassinations, now definitely come to light Servants, colleagues, pets subordinates almost dictate the tenor of your life The second half of the week promises success, despite expenses and a bad bout of health

Virgo
August 22 — September 22



Best to do your duty, however irksome Also, you will find yourself in the limelight of publicity because of your intelligence and a generous slice of luck You will be restless raring to go Childbirth, conception, creativity a new line of work are the other highlights

Libra
September 23 — October 22



Ask for favours, be it business, job, romance, loans, promotion and perks Also, the month gives you an opportunity for an alliance at all levels, inclusive of the strictly personal it would be best to be friendly and amiable as contacts formed will stand you in good stead

Scorpio
October 23 — November 22



Luck of the draw will be with you Therefore, try a lottery Unemployed Scorpios should land at least a part time job, the employed could be in for a raise Businessmen will think of a radical change Pilgrimages, prayers and trips with a possible stop-over are likely this week

Sagittarius
November 23 — December 20



Open up full throttle, specially after the middle of the month as work will be done and the situation will be under control Loans, funds and finance will be easier to secure and that should ease the situation A home away from home is possible

Capricorn
December 21 — January 19



Despite the position and hassles, you will have the resources and the wherewithal to carry on bravely Decisions on the personal and the professional level will have to be taken, most certainly so Investments buying and selling are the other paramount features

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18



While there could be some opposition to plans and health hazards, there is no need to despair, says Ganesha as Jupiter gives you the grit, the imagination and the tenacity to overcome all hurdles Monetary gains are possible on the second half of the week

Pisces
February 19 — March 20



Ganesha claims a job-hop, or a better pay packet for you Also, children give rare delight, hobbies, prove relaxing, a journey is not ruled out, and the home has a facelift Contacts and contracts are also on the cards Investments, cheques and deals figure importantly

BIRTHDAYS

November 12: It is absolutely certain that joint-finance and loans will be very important. Kids too will play a useful role. Health safeguards essential.

November 13: For you too, health is suspect and beware if signing a contract, entering into an important partnership or a joint-venture. Expenses will multiply.

November 14: Your potential will be realised and that is saying a lot. Those in import, export, sales, collaborations do well.

November 15: A fine time it is for artistes, direction, dealings could gain.

November 16: Nothing stops you, unless you put the brakes on yourself. In other words, be daring and different Promotion, love and money foretold.

November 17: Mixed results, but you should be in the money, and that is comfort. If there is opposition to plans, do it methodically.

November 18: Changes may not be all that pleasant, dially if they refer to finances and social standing Journeys ajay.

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0800	1 2 3 6	IC 742	1030	1 3
			IC 742	1250	4 7
IC 743	0420	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028/00	2005	1 2 4 5
BAGDOGRA					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6
BHUBANESWAR					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1140	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1210	1 3 5	IC 722	1410	1 3 5
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 191	1600	daily
BHUJ					
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESWAR					
D5 402	0600	3 5 7	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC 544	1115	1 3 7	IC 543	1050	1 3 5
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2010	1 4 6
VF-106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	1
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
9W 202	0905	1 2 3 4 5 6	9W 201	0845	1 2 3 4 5 6
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 273	1940	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	2000	daily	9W 211	1945	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
CHENNAI					
IC 263	0630	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	MH 305	0820	daily
MH 304	0905	daily	AI 307	0945	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 808	1130	1 3 4 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC 401	1135	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 001	1810	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	1930	2 6
S2-006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	MH 301	1950	daily
MH 307	2030	daily	IC 261	1910	daily
COIMBATORE					
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 707	1630	1 3 5 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1625	1 2 3
4S 81.	1205	1 2 5	4S 811	1635	1 6
IC 701	1240	1 3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
DIMAPUR					
D5-601/60.	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC-257	1145	1 4	IC 256	1540	1 4
GUWAHATI					
S2 026/021	0850	1 2 3 4 5	S2 022/00	2005	1 2 3 4 5
HYDERABAD					
D5-601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 703	0815	1 3 5	IC 704	1120	1 3 5
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	3 5 6
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 250	1640	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
4S 813	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 769	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
HYDERABAD					
IC 771	1615	3 5 7	IC 772	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2010	1 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
IMPHAL					
D5 601/603	0600	daily	D5 602	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 214	1540	2 6
JAIPUR					
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
JORHAT					
IC 257	1145	1 4	IC 258	1540	1 4
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1740	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 810	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
MADRAS					
D5 401	0600	3 5 7	D5 402	1230	2 4 6
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1050	1 4 6
IC 44	1115	7	IC 543	1035	7
D2 171	1640	daily	D2 172	1955	daily
IC 766	1910	daily	IC 765	2210	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 69	1615	4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
IC 249	1130	2 4 7	IC 249	1035	2 4 7
D5 406	1330	1 4 6	D5 405	1835	1 4 6
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	3 5 7	IC 286	1100	1 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 810	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1
SHILLONG					
D5 601	0600	daily	D5 602	1935	daily
PF 707	0715	2 4 6	PF 708	1510	1 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
D5 601,605	0600	daily	D5 606	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 25.	0745	2 4 6	IC 254	1025	2 4 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
TEZU					
PF 73.	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1030	1 4 6
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1740	1

INTERNATIONAL

BHUTAN					
RJ-185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
KATHMANDU					
KL-876	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7
BANGKOK					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0845	2 5	TG 313	1240	1 3 6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
TG 314	[illegible]	[illegible]	IC 737	1505	[illegible]
AI 306	1710	5	AI 301	1825	6
BUCHAREST					
RO 070	2150	[illegible]	RO 075	1200	[illegible]
CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	0600	1	IC 226	1020	1
BG 698	1735	[illegible]	BG 697	1650	2 5
DHAKA					
BG 092	0850	4 [illegible]	BG 091	0810	1 [illegible]
BG 092	1150	1 [illegible]	BG 091	1110	1 3 6
IC 72	1250	1 [illegible]	IC 734	1510	1 [illegible]
BG 094	1405	1 [illegible]	BG 093	1305	1 [illegible] 6
BG 094	1510	4	BG 093	1410	1
BG 096	2100	1	BG 095	2020	1 5
DUBAI					
BI 107	2100	6	BI 108	[illegible]	7
KATHMANDU					
RA 214	1?1	[illegible] 6	RA [illegible]	1140	[illegible] 6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC 4	1?1	1 [illegible] 5	IC 748	1455	1 2 4 6
LONDON					
BA 14	2040	[illegible]	BA 143	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
[illegible]	1755	1	SU 53	1555	4
PARO					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 108	1335	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	[illegible]	SQ 416	2380	2 5
SI 108	0830	[illegible]	SI 107	2000	6
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
A [illegible]	1410	[illegible]	AI 309	182	6

AI Air India ● **BA** British Airways ● **BG** Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● **BI** Royal Brunei Airlines ● **D2** Damania Airways ● **D5** NEPC Airlines ● **IC** Indian Airlines ● **KB** Druk-Air ● **KLM** Royal Dutch Airlines ● **LZ** Balkan Airlines ● **M9** Modiluft ● **PF** Vayudoot ● **RA** Royal Nepal Airlines ● **RJ** Royal Jordanian Airlines ● **RO** Tarom Air Transport ● **S2** Sahara India Airlines ● **SQ** Singapore Airlines ● **SU** Aeroflot ● **4S** East West Airlines ● **TG** Thai Airways International ● **9W** Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
[illegible]	[illegible]	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	[illegible]	[illegible]
3005	19 30	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	0 10	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
238	[illegible]	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Grand Chord Dep Wed Thur & Sat Arr Tue Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	[illegible]	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tue Fri & Sun Arr Mon Thur Fri & Sat	16 15	2301
2301	16 40	**Rajdhani Express** [illegible] Dep Mon Tue Wed [illegible] Arr Mon Tue Thur [illegible]	10 45	2302
2303	16 15	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thur & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	10 50	2304
2307	13 30	**Jodhpur Express**	1 40	2308
2059	[illegible]	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	11 10	[illegible]
4074	3 00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tue Fri & Sat Arr Tue Wed & Sat	11 35	3071
3045	[illegible]	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 25	3046
5049	[illegible]	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep [illegible] Arr Thursday	11 55	[illegible]
5047	[illegible]	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 40	5048
3009	20 40	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	11 30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
4021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	4022
5659	17 45	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 35	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3045	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	3046
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3071	20 40	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Mon Tue & Thur Arr Mon Thurs & Fri	7 55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Wed Sat & Sun Arr Sun Wed & Sat	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4-50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express** Dep Friday Arr Tuesday	7-55	1182

Sealdah

Up	Time		Time	Dn
3141	13 40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	311
5657	6 25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5085	12 40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	[illegible]	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	9 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-25	2859
201 1	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	21 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	11 05	**Coromandel (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	8 10	**Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	[illegible]	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	[illegible]	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	[illegible]	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	18 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2341	16 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express** (via Howrah) Sunday only	16 10	
	[illegible]	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express** (via Howrah) Saturday only	10 45	2422
6317	[illegible]	**Guwahati - Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	-
	14 05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	11 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	[illegible]	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	[illegible]	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tue & Fri Arr Tue & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	[illegible]	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	14 0	**Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

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RUSKIN BOND'S  COLUMN

AN ENCOUNTER WITH KIPLING

I was sitting on a bench in the Indian section of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, when a tall, stooping, elderly gentleman sat down beside me I gave him a quick glance, noting his swarthy features, heavy moustache, and horn-rimmed spectacles There was something familiar and disturbing about his face, and I couldn't resist looking at him again

I noticed that he was smiling at me

"Do you recognise me?" he asked, in a soft pleasant voice

"Well, you do seem familiar," I said "Haven't we met somewhere?"

"Perhaps But if I seem familiar to you, that is at least something The trouble these days is that people don't know me anymore — I'm a familiar figure, that's all Just a name standing for a lot of outmoded ideas "

A little perplexed, I asked, "What is it you do?"

"I wrote books once Poems and tales Tell me, whose books do you read?"

"Oh, Maugham, Priestley, Thurber And among the older lot, Bennett and Wells " I hesitated, groping for an important name, and I noticed a shadow, a sad shadow, pass across my companion's face

His face brightened up at once, and the eyes behind the thick-lensed spectacles suddenly came to life

"I'm Kipling," he said

I stared at him in astonishment, and then, realising that he might perhaps be dangerous, I smiled feebly and said, "Oh, yes?"

"You probably don't believe me I'm dead, of course "

"So I thought "

"And you don't believe in ghosts?"

"Not as a rule "

"But you'd have no objection to talking to one, if he came along?"

"I'd have no objection But how do I know you're Kipling? How do I know you're not an imposter?"

"Listen, then

When my heavens were turned to blood,
When the dark had filled my day,
Furthest, but most faithful, stood
That lone star I cast away
I had loved myself, and I
Have not lived and dare not die "

"Once," he said, gripping me by the arm and looking me straight in the eye, "once in life I watched a star, , but I whistled, her to go "

"Your star hasn't fallen yet," I said, suddenly moved, suddenly quite certain that I sat beside Kipling "One day, when there is a new spirit of adventure abroad, we will discover you again "

"Why have they heaped scorn on

'I've spent most of my life in India — not *your* India, but an India that does still have much of the colour and atmosphere that you captured. You know, Mr Kipling, you can still sit in a third class railway carriage and meet the most wonderful assortment of people. In any village you will still find the same courtesy, dignity and courage that the Lama and Kim found on their travels'



me for so long?"

"You were too militant, I suppose — too much of an Empire man You were too patriotic for your own good"

He looked a little hurt "I was never very political," he said "I wrote over 600 poems, and you could only call a dozen of them political, I have been abused for harping on the theme of the White Man's Burden but my only aim was to show off the Empire to my audience — and I believe the Empire was a fine and noble thing Is it wrong to believe in something? I never went deeply into political issues, that's true You must remember, my seven years in India were very youthful years I was in my twenties, a little immature if you like, and my interest in India was a boy's interest Action appealed to me more than anything else You must understand that"

"No one has described action more vividly, or India so well I feel at one with Kim wherever he goes along the Grand Trunk Road, in the temples at Banaras, among the Saharanpur fruit gardens, on the snow-covered Himalayas *Kim* has colour and movement and poetry"

'I'm Kipling,' he said. I stared at him in astonishment, and then, realising that he might perhaps be dangerous, I smiled feebly and said, 'Oh, yes?' 'You probably don't believe me. I'm dead, of course.' 'So I thought'

He sighed, and a wistful look came into his eyes

"I'm prejudiced, of course," I continued "I've spent most of my life in India — not *your* India, but an India that does still have much of the colour and atmosphere that you captured You know, Mr Kipling, you can still sit in a third class railway carriage and meet the most wonderful assortment of people In any village you will still find the same courtesy, dignity and courage that the Lama and Kim found on their travels"

"And the Grand Trunk Road? Is it still a long winding procession of humanity?"

"Well, not exactly," I said, a little ruefully "It's just a procession of motor vehicles now The poor Lama would be run down by a truck if he became too dreamy on the Grand Trunk Road Times have changed There are no more Mrs Hawksbees, in Shimla, for instance"

There was a faraway look in Kipling's eyes Perhaps he was imagining himself a boy again, perhaps he could see the hills or the red dust of Rajputana, perhaps he was having a private conversation with Privates Mulvaney and Ortheris, or perhaps he was out hunting with the Seonee wolf-pack The sound of London's traffic came to us through the glass doors, but we heard only the creaking of bullock-cart wheels and the distant music of a flute

He was talking to himself, repeating a passage from one of his stories "And the last puff of the daywind brought from the unseen villages the scent of damp wood-smoke, hot cakes, dripping undergrowth, and rotting pine-cones That is the true smell of the Himalayas, and if once it creeps into the blood of a man, that man will at the last, forgetting all else, return to the hills to die"

A mist seemed to have risen between us -- or had it come in from the streets? — and when it cleared, Kipling had gone away

I asked the gatekeeper if he had seen a tall man with a slight stoop, wearing spectacles

"Nope," said the gatekeeper "Nodoby been by for the last ten minutes"

"Did someone like that come into the gallery a little while ago?"

"No one that I recall What did you say the bloke's name was?"

"Kipling," I said

"Don't know him"

"Didn't you ever read *The Jungle Book*?"

"Sounds familiar Tarzan stuff, wasn't it?"

I left the museum, and wandered about the streets for a long time, but I couldn't find Kipling anywhere Was it the boom of London's traffic that I heard, or the boom of the Sutlej river racing through the valleys?
(Sanctuary Features)



GILLIAN WRIGHT'S  COLUMN

MOORS, CASTLES AND WHISKEY

At London's King's Cross Road station, I joined a queue waiting for the premier express of the east coast route to Scotland — The Northern Lights The journey from London to Dundee takes only six hours, but for the English and the Scots this is a long journey indeed, a journey from the English capital to a country whose inhabitants have long regarded themselves an oppressed people

Whenever you mention to the Scots the ill effects of colonial rule in I dia, you can be sure of the echo, "Just as happened with us and the English"

The queue moved, and I climbed into a carriage with my copy of the *Scotsman*, the nation's leading newspaper It seemed only natural that the main feature article concerned the poet Robert Burns The article concentrated on the national poet's last years, when he was crippled by rheumatics which eventually killed him

His employers at the excise department, were shown to be heartless men When he'd become too ill to work they'd just reduced him to penury by cutting his wages

The 85-year-old lady sitting opposite me offered me some nuts and raisins She was, like me, travelling to Dundee, a city once famous for jam, jute and journalism It has long links with India — notably through jute

My companion told me she'd joined a jute mill in Dundee when she was just 14, but had left when she had married "It was the Indians," was her view "They started manufacturing jute themselves"

The jute factories have a long history According to a local historian, these factories and those for cotton too, were built in a rough triangle along two burns, or streams The first factories were powered by water and had a dual purpose as 'meal' mills grinding Scottish oats

Then steam replaced water as the source of power But once the industry declined it never revived and it now a shipment of jute arrives from India to feed the handful of remaining mills, it's worth a story in the local newspaper



The train sped through the green of England to the border country where my companion told me I'd be sure to notice the change of air — it was always colder in Scotland To the right was the deep blue of the seas

We stopped briefly at Edinburgh's Waverley station, built in the bottom of the drained loch that once formed part of the city's defences Above the station towards the castle, standing on a huge rock, and in the other direction was a mountain of unspoilt moorland

To the north the Firth of Forth cut deeply into the coast To reach Dundee the train rumbled over the Fourth bridge, one of the most dramatic pieces of railway engineering there is, and then over another great bridge spanning the River Tay

Just across the Tay lies Dundee, with its tall stone buildings and their sash windows which rattle like the gates of hell when the wind rises from the North Sea The view across the Tay is breathtaking Indeed, if there is one thing which most obviously separates Scottish cities from most English ones It is that they have not let themselves be destroyed by roads, multi-storey car parks and ugly buildings of inhuman scale

This has required effort and imagination When I moved on from Dundee to the city of Glasgow, I discovered I had arrived on the very day that the man who had saved the city from the developers died

Sir Robert Grieve, poet and polymath, engineer and planner, had been appalled by plans to turn Glasgow into what he termed a "pincushion city" with 650 tower blocks His care was for the social aspects of town planning, for properly balanced communities, and he understood well that Glaswegians wanted their children to grow up with gardens to play in

Due to his intervention only a few of the tower blocks were built, and they proved so disastrous they were dynamited at the beginning of the Eighties

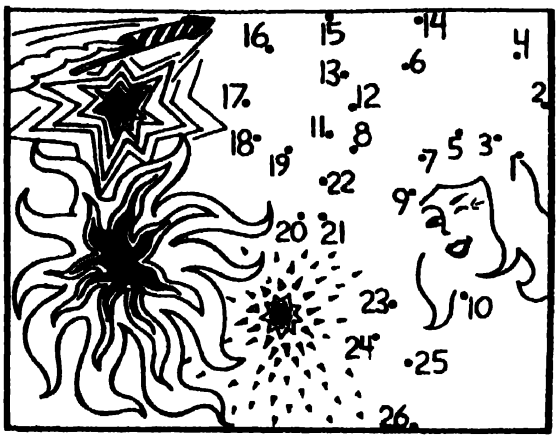
Glaswegians look down on Edinburgh to the east, and the people of Edinburgh on Glasgow — but an outsider can see the beauty in all the great cities — in the castle of Edinburgh, the merchant grandeur of Glasgow and the glistening granites of Aberdeen

The Scots may feel exploited by the English, but they haven't let English "colonisation" make them in any way inferior They are proud of their continuing literary excellence, engineering prowess, art schools, football, cultural festivals, whiskey and a tradition for independent thinking that has virtually wiped the Conservative Party from the face of the land The state of their cities perhaps best shows their wisdom and the most positive side of national pride

(Sanctuary Features)

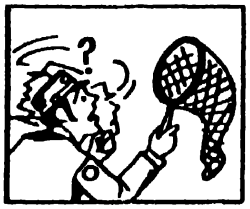
JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KALIFMAN



BLAST OFF! What can you draw to complete this holiday scene? To find out, connect dots from 1 to 2 to 3, etc

SNAP TO IT! Start with A add S to form AS add T for SAT, etc shuffling letters as necessary, and forming a new word in each step until this word SALUTE is completed More than one answer is possible A as sal last least salute is one way



NET RESULT EXERCISE

LET'S see if you can find a total of at least 10 of the 12 six-letter words ending in NET defined below No 1 for instance is bonnet

1 Sun hat — NET
2 Wasp kin — NET
3 Sky sight — NET
4 Small piano — NET
5 Baby swan — NET
6 Brass horn — NET
7 Poetic work — NET
8 Hair colour — NET
9 Sea bird — NET
10 Red stone — NET
11 Ring type — NET
12 Lodestone — NET

Remember, each word of these words has six letters

Time limit 2 minutes

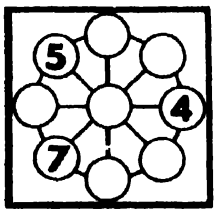
1 Bonnet 2 Hornet 3 Planet 4 Spinet 5 Valnet 6 Comet 7 Sonnet 8 Blunet 9 Can net 10 Garnet 11 Signet 12 Magnet

WHEEL RITE! Challenge Place the six missing numbers twixt 4 and 12 (6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) in blank circles of the diagram below so that each three-number row across totals 24

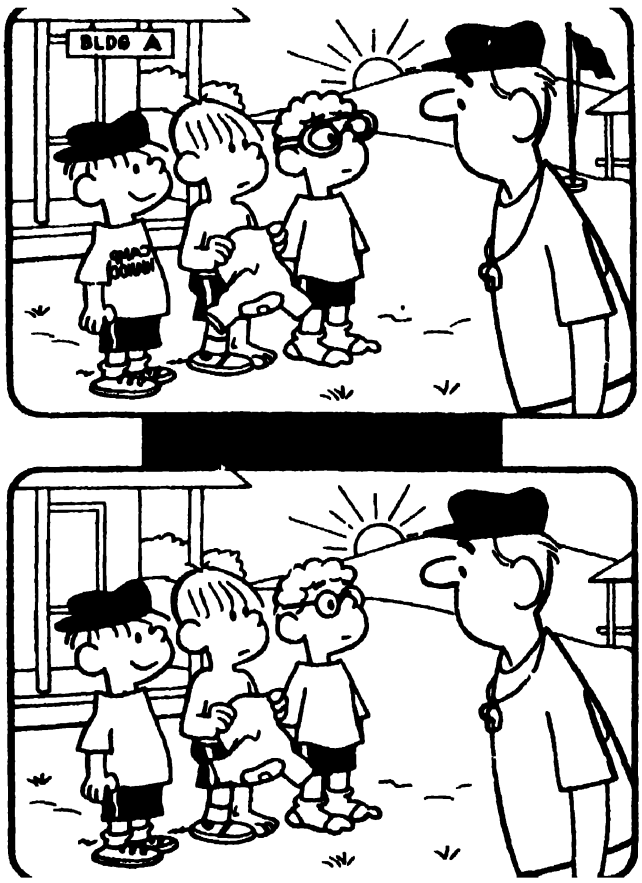
Find the centre number and the rest is easy Hint centre number is an even amount

remember, object is for all three-number rows across the figure to total 24

How quickly can you comply?



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Sign is missing 2 Shirt logo is missing 3 Shirt sleeve is moved 4 Glasses are different 5 Wristwatch cord is shorter 6 Flag is missing

FUNSPOT



BANNER DAY! What better day for the Pledge of Allegiance than the Fourth of July Code 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Black

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

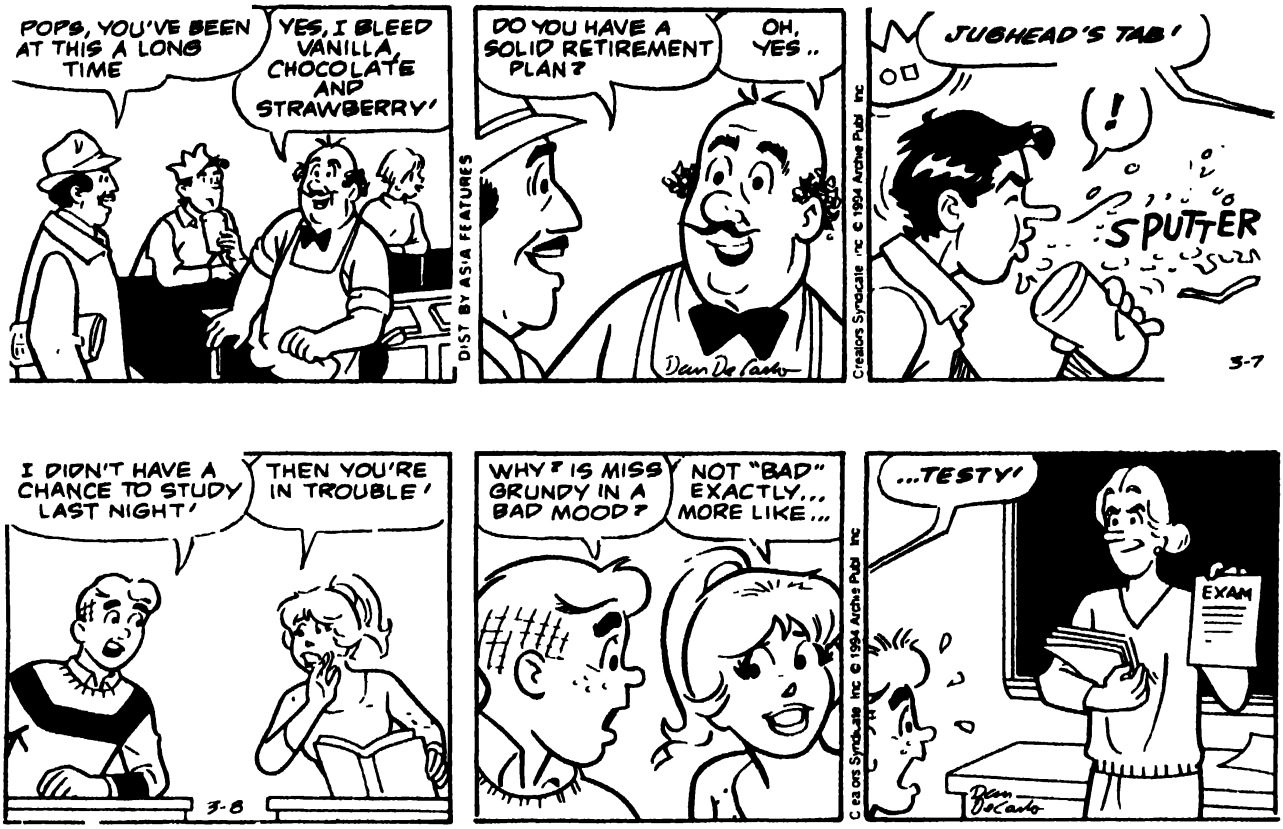
A S S E M B L E

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

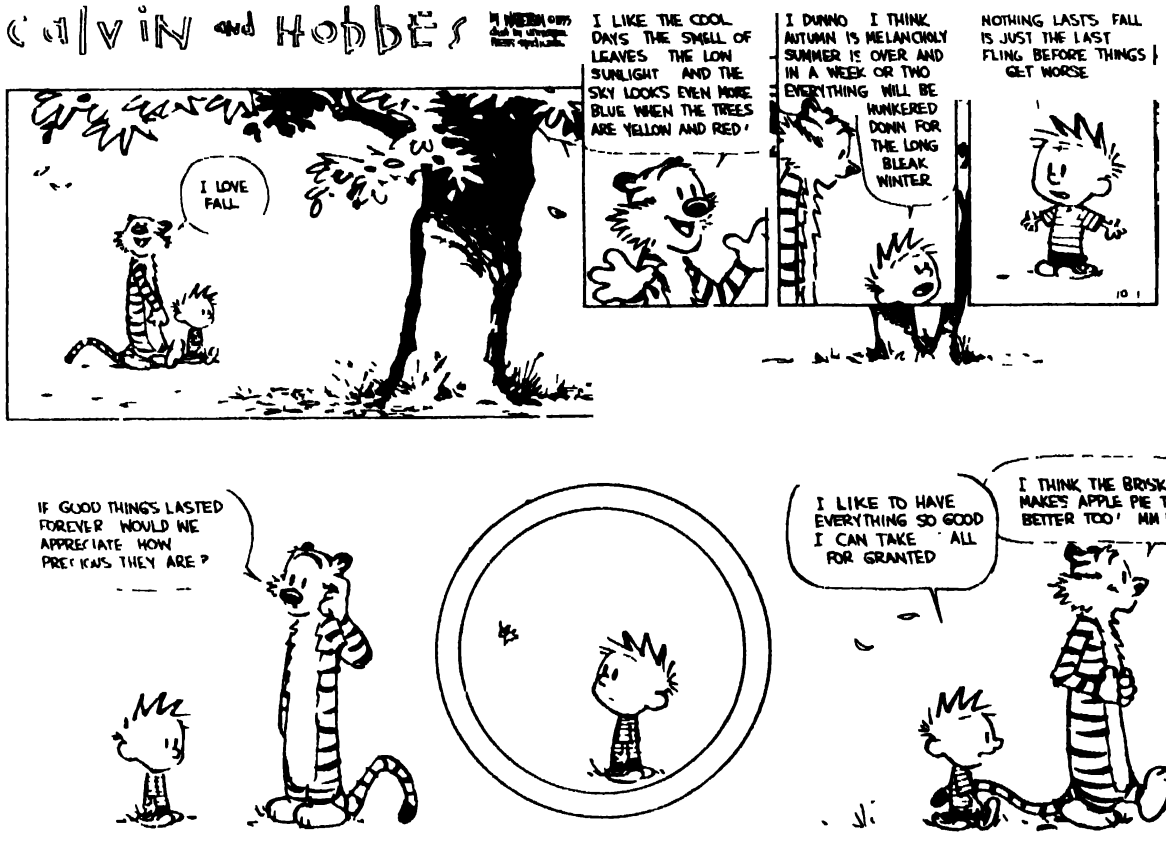
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome Lease beam

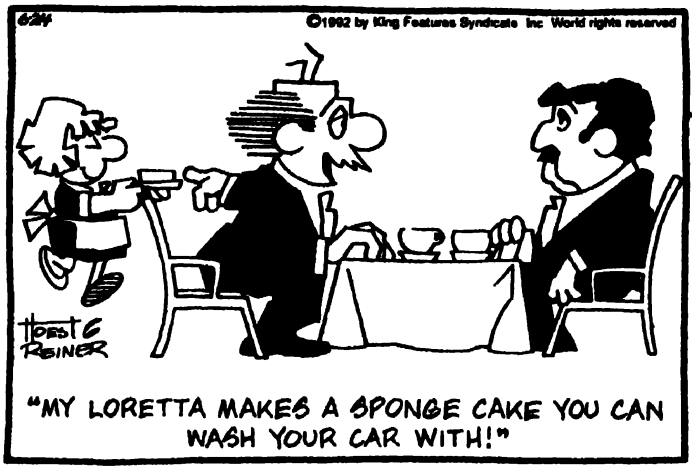
ARCHIE



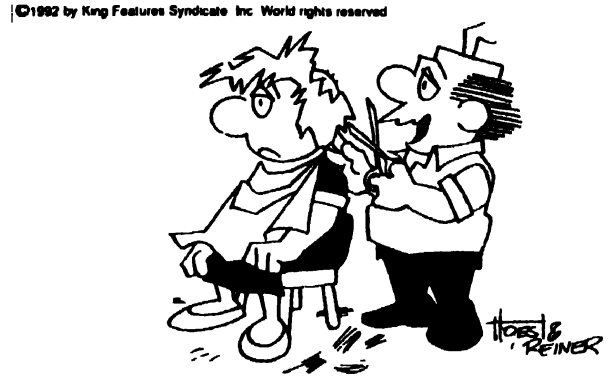
CALVIN AND HOBBES — WATTERSON

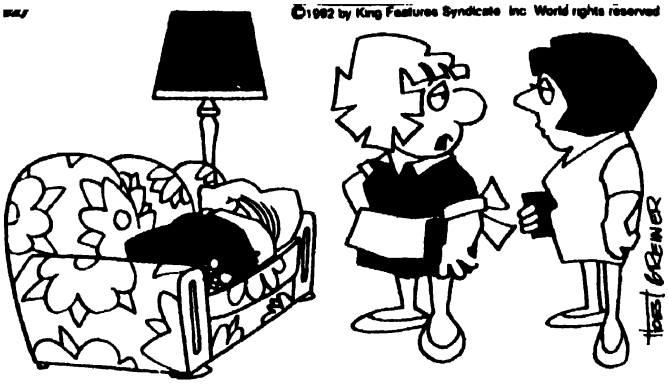


THE LOCKHORNS

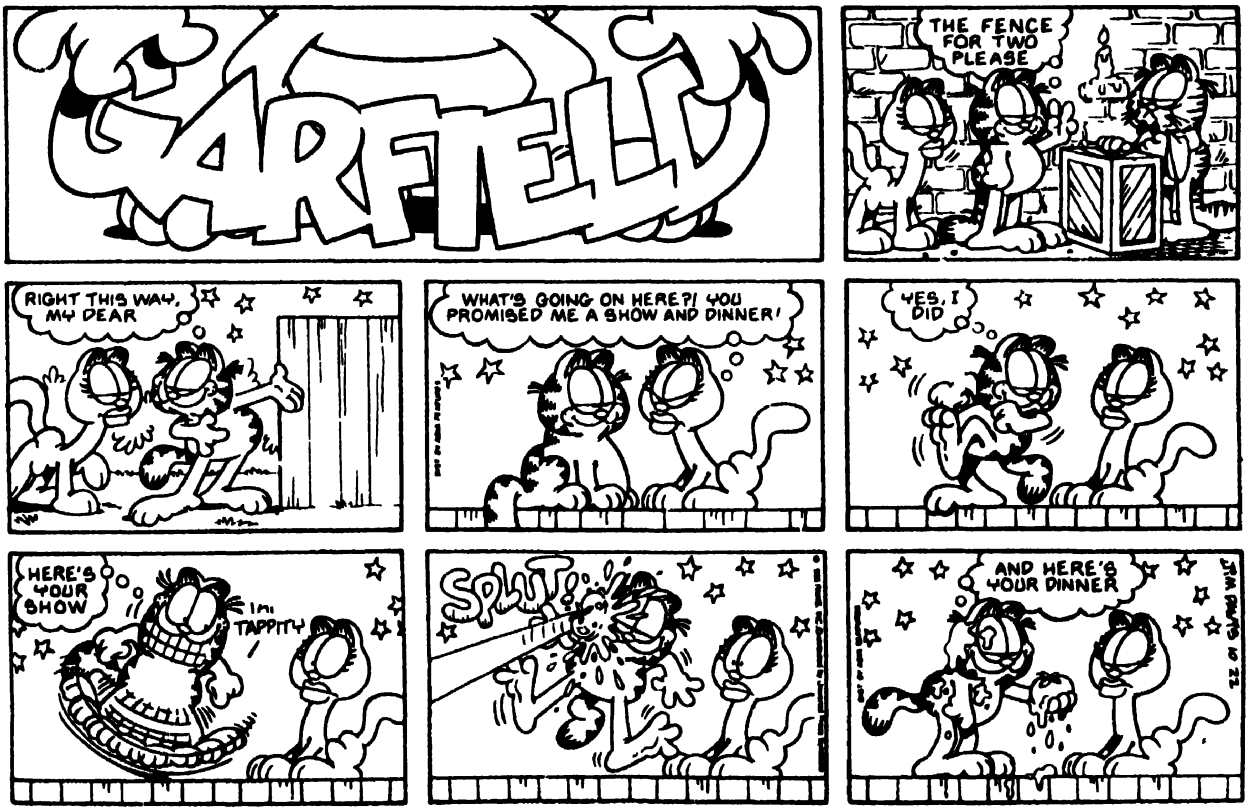




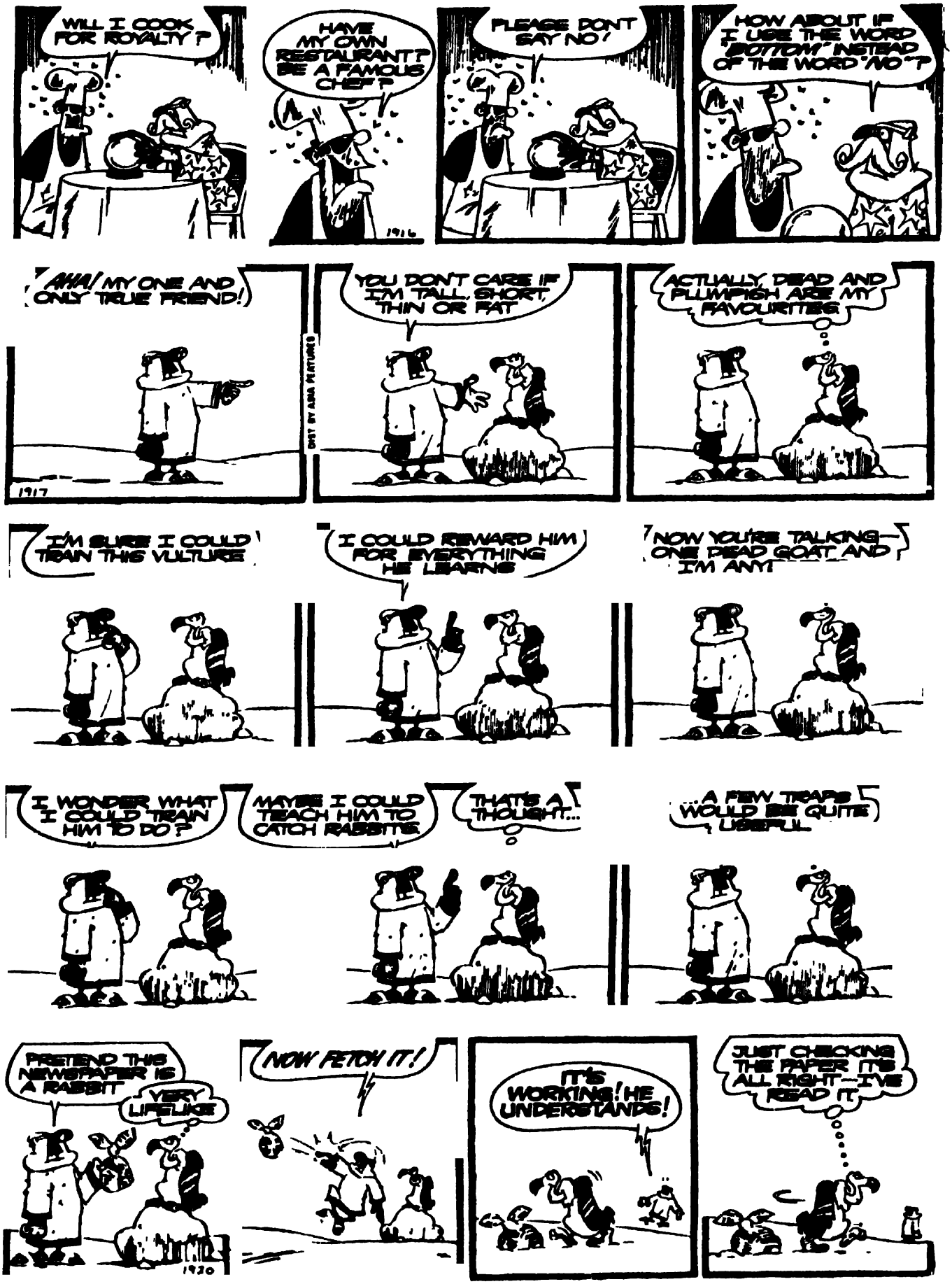


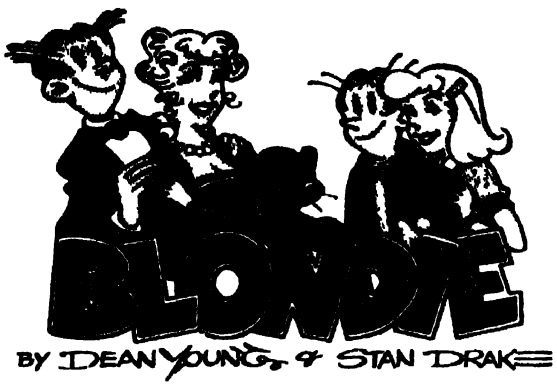


GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

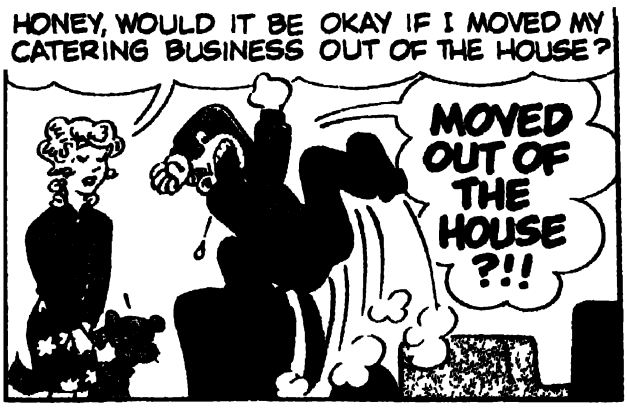



BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


I'M GOING TO ASK HIM RIGHT NOW


DON'T ASK HIM, JUST TELL HIM
NO, TOOTSIE, I THINK I SHOULD ASK HIM


HONEY, I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU
SURE, DEAR, WHAT IS IT?


HONEY, WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I MOVED MY CATERING BUSINESS OUT OF THE HOUSE?
MOVED OUT OF THE HOUSE?!!


WHAT ABOUT ME?! WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?! WHAT ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF OUR MARRIAGE?!


NO! A THOUSAND TIMES NO! NEVER!!


NO! NO! NO! NEVER! OVER MY DEAD BODY!!!
YOU WERE RIGHT, I SHOULD'VE JUST TOLD HIM

DOLL OF A DOLL

This plastic paragon may have been mired in controversy, but that has hardly stood in the way of her popularity if the New York art exhibition starring the doll is to be believed. ***Lisa Sabbage*** *chronicles her transition*

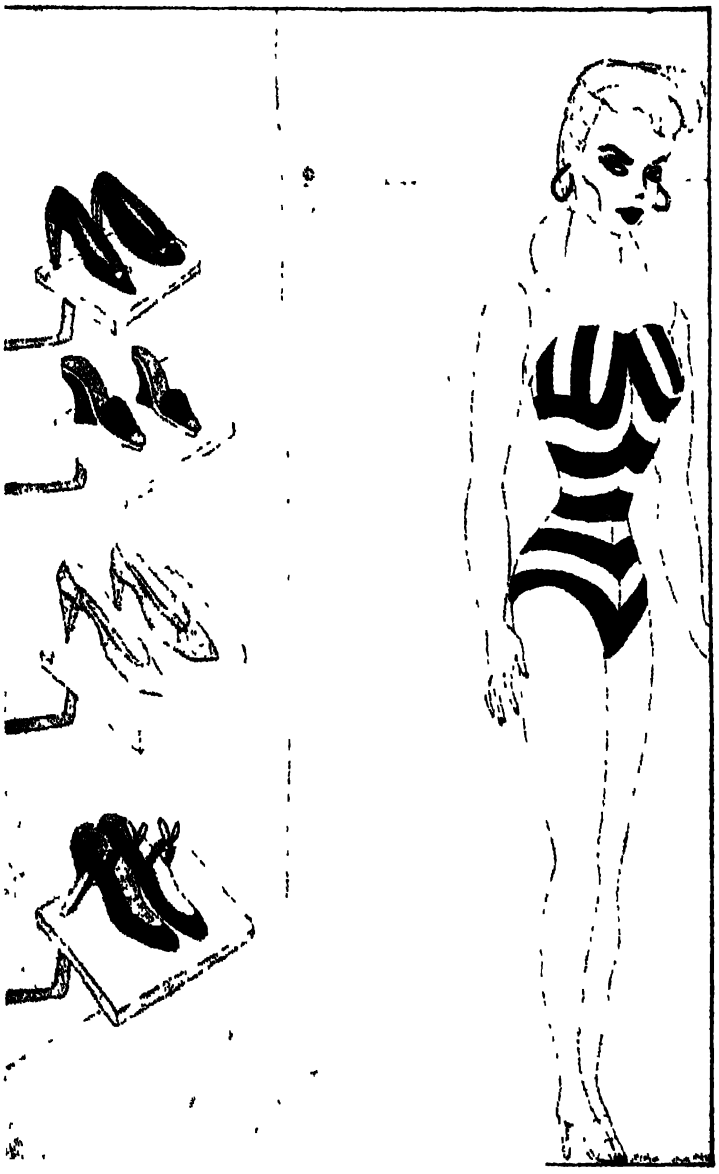
When Ruth Handler created the Barbie doll for the Mattel toy company in 1959, she had no idea that 36 years later her brainchild would be the most popular doll in the world or that Barbie would be the star of her very own New York art exhibition.

Truth, as they say, is stranger than fiction, and there are few stories as strange as that of the Barbie doll

Chronicled in all her pink plastic glory in 'Art, Design and Barbie· The evolution of a Cultural Icon' at the Liberty Street gallery, Barbie's life had surprisingly unwholesome and un-American beginnings.

Ruth Handler, co-founder of Mattel with her husband Elliot, wanted to add a doll to the company's growing range of toys and was searching for inspiration when she happened to come across the Bild Lilli doll

Lilli, a titillating novelty doll sold to men in post-war Germany, crystallised everything Handler had been look-





Like Lilli, Barbie was given an adult body with cone-shaped breasts and a waspish waist. However, Barbie was reduced to 11-and-a-half and was given a wardrobe, accessories, her own home and furniture.

"Mattel saw the adult doll as a focal point for a whole concept, a whole world," explains Susan Hedrick, one of the exhibition curators and a member of the Barbie generation of the prosperous Fifties.

"It was a ripe time for it," she says "There were a lot of kids growing up in the baby atmosphere of the Fifties Barbie was part of the whole fantasy of growing up and having a wonderful figure like that, and all these clothes and shoes and accessories, and having a dream house and car and boyfriend"

As well as tracing the evolution of Barbie, the exhibition also gives a *carte blanche* to 50 artists to explore their own — not always nice — feelings toward Barbie and her perfect lifestyle

Jill Greenberg blows her up into a giant 50-' woman attacking New York in a large format photograph, Barbara Nessim draws her in 'Imelda Marcos Ain't Got Nothing on Me' proudly displaying her exquisite collection of shoes, and Holger Scheibe pictures her being kissed passionately by a muscular male model

Now 36, Barbie has gone through a lot of changes — 500 professional makeovers in fact

"The original Barbie has a very sophisticated Fifties-style fashion model face, with arched eyebrows and hair in a pony tail," says curator and fashion writer Valerie Steele.

"Then over the course of the Sixties, her hair changed Her makeup changed Her eyebrows became less arched. She got a lot of different hairstyles — the bubble cut, the page boy. And gradually in the Seventies, the face got younger, the hair got longer, the face got sweeter-looking, less sophisticated."

Steele says the burgeoning youth culture and the new feminine ideal of the Sixties triggered this metamorphosis.

"You see it in the fashion models, this switch away from the very glamorous 1950 model, who was often a woman of 30, very sophisticated, very soigne — to a younger, swinging chick fashion model, like Jean Shrimpton or Twiggy in the Sixties and Seventies.

BARBIE FACTS

- Barbie dolls outnumber the population of Canada.
- Nearly 1 billion Barbie dolls and family members have been sold since 1959
- Placed head-to-toe, the dolls would circle the earth more than 11 times
- Barbie has about 120 new outfits designed for her each year
- Two Barbie dolls are sold every second somewhere in the world
- Barbie had more than 500 professional makeovers
- Look out Imelda, Barbie has more than one billion pairs of shoes
- The dolls are sold in more than 140 countries
- More than 910 million Barbie fashions have been produced since 1959
- An original Barbie doll can fetch up to US $4,500



Barbie's permutations have not been popular with everyone, however American journalist David Trinidad believes Barbie hit her peak in the Sixties with her *haute couture*, Jackie-O-influenced fashions

" In the Seventies, Barbie took a nosedive with her poorly made Bicentennial and Olympics costumes and her Farrah Fawcett Superstar look," he says scathingly.

"Though she managed to bounce back in the Eighties with a line of *Dynasty*-esque dresses, the doll never fully recaptured her initial sense of style"

It's not just Barbie's fashion sense that has come under fire in recent years. The doll and her manufacturers have been accused of perpetuating sexist stereotypes, and bombarding girls with unrealistic images of women.

Groups of Barbie survivors are apparently forming all over America, meeting like Alcoholics Anonymous to share stories of their painful relationship with Miss B

True, the exhibition's Sixties' section features the painfully gender-bound Dr Ken and Nurse Barbie, Ken the pilot and Barbie the stewardess.

True, Barbie has no nipples or hips, her eyes are twinklingly blue, her hair is perfectly blonde and, most bizarre, her feet are permanently on tip-toe

Indeed, American plastic surgeons have reported that some women come to them in a desperate effort to look like Barbie

But Mattel has taken some of the criticism on board Twenty years ago, Barbie's career aspirations may have gone no further than beauty queen and the vague 'career girl', but since the Seventies, she has attained eminently more sublime job titles, including surgeon, business executive, paediatrician, scuba diver, firefighter, Unicef amabassador, summit diplomat and even presidential candidate

Then there is the faintly ridiculous rap musician, rollerblade skater, Radio City Music Hall rockette, Air Force Thunderbird squadron leader and Ice Capades star

And since 1980, Mattel has sought to redress Barbie's racial bias by manufacturing a multi-cultural range, including the Native American Barbie, Oriental Barbie, Nigerian Barbie, Russian Barbie, and even a Royal Barbie of England

Ironically, the debate over Barbie's politically correctness seems to matter not one iota to the children who adore her, regardless.

Two Barbie dolls are sold every second somewhere in the world, and last year more than 1 5 million of the plastic paragons of feminine virtue were sold each week

Indeed, American girls between the age of three and 10 own on an average of eight Barbie dolls each In Italy it is seven, and in both France and Germany, it is five

It seems that in the Nineties, the whole world is ripe for Barbie

(Asia Features)

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

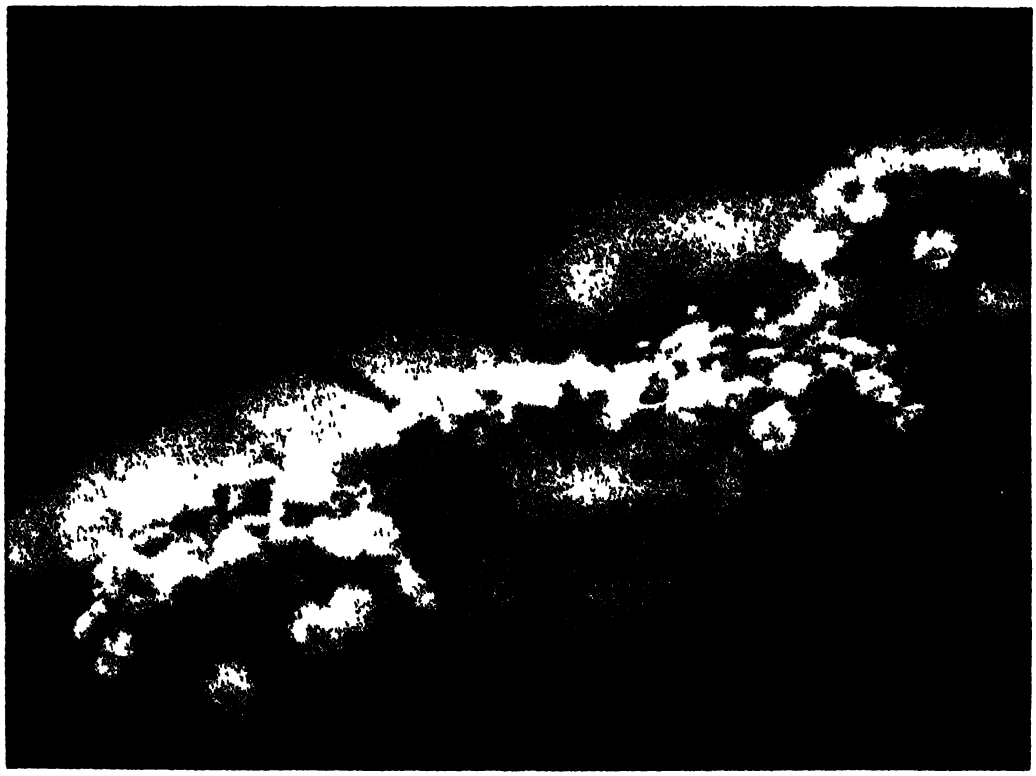
Wildflowers

Are you too doomed to haunt these sands?
They too passed this way
On their way to the desert mirrorland
Mirror Mirror on the wall
Do you recall?

It was a caravan to another time
Spurred on
By the Vision luring minds

Through hail and mists
Deserts of snow
Through the forests of iron trees
On the craggy highland silences
Few returned
Of their trials upon the Lake of Fire
Of their climb up the Crystal Mountains
There remain no traces,
Between the Then and Now
There lingers scattered
A few stubborn bleached bones
And handfuls of wildflowers here and there
Caught amongst the weeds and stones

Bibhash Choudhury



Aarn Roy

Submerger

(. So, a spirit without roots is an injustice
It rejects the beauty that is offered it) — Pablo Neruda, (Exile)
I toddled a winded path yesterday
Through a forest of voices,
Burrowed landscapes, strange hats, funny lingo
(Did I choose? Was there any choice?)
Bubble feet rising to the crest
And dreaming another man's dream
We became such agreeable exiles in our own land
In this surge of time
The ocean tides climb the mountains
Are we to be submerged in the sea forever, brother?
What hands played the cosmic dice
To chance this harsh sarcasm
That tonight I stand amidst the waters
A shell in hand
Trying to trap a lost wind of the hills
From uncertain leagues under the sea.

Guru T. Ladakhi

Anatomy of Terror

It is the day of the jackal
The red hot eyes the sun of the day
A corpse lies in the street
His face away from this greedy world
A lot of blood smears the road
Witness to the fire in his heart

Silence reins as the blank faces
Look down the road,
They have learnt to disdain at heart
But respect in open, the fearsome God
The deadly God is omnipresent,
It looks down upon them with its
Thousand heads and numerous hands
An army of weapons,
Out terrorising people,
The minds of whose have been
Dumb since the last blast of ideals
The silence of the lambs
Deafens my mind,
I want to speak aloud my terror.
And my disdain for those
Who practise it and their kind.
But the fear is grippening
And the lambs are silent

Jaiprakash Singh

Politics

When they speak of food,
I see, hunger
When they talk of wine
I see thirst,
And,
When they promise of god,
I see a
pictureless mirror
reflecting sunlight

Uddalak Mukherjee

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

The Net This hi-tech thriller is about the disastrous effects of the computer era

Sandra Bullock stars as Angela Bennett, an expert computer analyst who runs into a conspiracy only



to run for her life

The killer Jack (Jeremy Northam) has been hired by the government to get back an incriminating floppy disc from Angela and then to eliminate her

She gives the slip to him after falling hopelessly in love and lands up in Los Angeles Here, she fights to get back her credit card then her identity and finally her life

The film is a comment on modern man's isolation and on the issue of eroding privacy in an age of electronically encoded personal information

BOOKS

Brando sings at last!: **There must be at least a dozen books on Marlon Brando, one of the greatest actors of our times (some nasties call him one of the greatest mumblers of our times). But they were largely dismissed as inaccurate, based on hearsay, sensationalist or plain prurient.**

But *Brando: Songs My Mother Taught Me*, written in collaboration with Robert Lindsey (Random House; distributed in India by IBD (Bombay) Limited; Rs 675) will be the most definitive work on the intriguing star. Lindsey, chief West Coast correspondent for *The New York Times*, previously collaborated with Ronald Reagan on his autobiography, *An American Life*.

Here, Brando narrates his life in his own words "so that my children can separate the truth from the myths that others have created about me, as myths are created about everyone swept up in the turbulent and distorting maelstrom of celebrity in our culture".

Apart from brutally frank accounts of career and life, there are a whole lot of fabulous and rare pictures right from a nine-month-old Marlon and his house. A fascinating read and, as Brando says, "I never get tired of waiting for the next magic."

FASHION

Worth in Gold For that rich, rich look this winter, Christian Lacroix put up a dazzling display in gold The venue was a fashion show in France

An intricately worked off-shoulder bodice opened into a billowy gown



which had delicate self-designs woven in

The broad loop-like belt was a classic item of jewellery not to forget some heavy chunky accessories, gold-tinted, made to sync with the gorgeous top

Hair cropped short accentuated the high cheekbones of the model A golden brown mantle lent sophistication to the regal ensemble

LIFESTYLE



Watch Out: **Piaget, the makers of luxury watches is now adding extra glitter to their range. Yes, they are out with their jewellery time-pieces in India.**

The new international range includes such lines as Tanagra, Governeur, Georges Piaget limited series, Piaget Polo — Sports line and the Dancer line for both men and women.

Catering to exclusivity, the watches will be distributed through official service centres in Bombay, New Delhi and Calcutta. They are priced between US $65,000 and $30,00,000.

Fine edge: **How many times did you feel like tearing your hair when you entered your kitchen to cook a quick meal and the knife refused to slice or peel?**



Here is a unique tool that's both handy and useful. This sharpener will add an incredible edge to all your knives at

There are two butcher steel rods to sharpen while two others hone for professional results! Neat, isn't it? The tool is priced at US $11.95 and you'll just have to ask your NRI pals to get one for you!

FIRST PERSON

***UMA SHARMA**, one of the finest exponents of Kathak, is widely known for her innovativeness and her search for the roots of dance. Trained by Shambhu Maharaj and Sunder Prasad, her forte is* abhinaya *A Padma Shri, she has expanded the Kathak repertoire with her new dance numbers and dance dramas on a variety of themes. Stree, her dance creation, has won acclaim for its thematic and artistic presentation. She runs her own music and dance school in Delhi.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
When I have danced a good dance and my soul is satisfied.
What is your greatest fear?
That I may go from this world after doing a bad deed.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My Guru, Shri Shambhu Maharaj and Naina Devi, the guiding force in my life.
What do you dislike most in others?
Cleverness; when they try to be oversmart
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My anger.
What is your most precious possession?
My dance I cannot be without it
What objects do you always carry?
My awareness of God's existence
What makes you most depressed?
When I see old people begging



What do you dislike most on your appearance?
When I am loaded with jewellery I love to be simply dressed.
What is your favourite word?
My God!
What is your favourite journey?
To the mountains
What is your favourite dream?
To go on serving the *Gurujans* and elders
What is your nightmare?
When my dance goes awry on stage and I have sleepless nights
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
My little adopted daughter, Radhika, and my dance school
What is your source of sustenance?
My dance That is what keeps me alive
On what occasions do you lie?
When someone starts doing *ishkiya* talk (flirting) with me

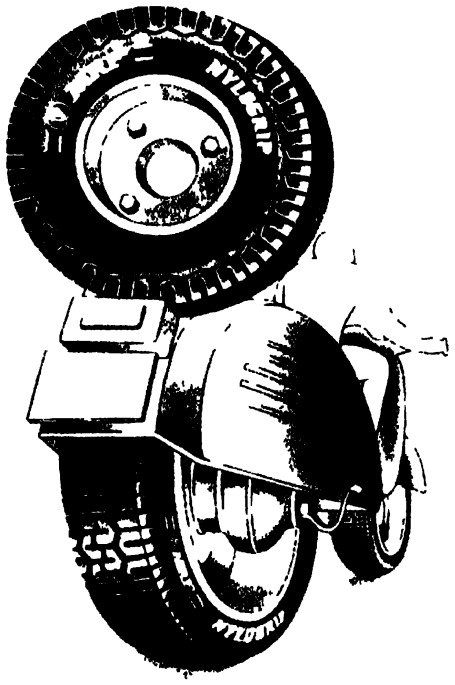
On what occasions do you lie?

When someone starts doing *ishkiya* talk (flirting) with me

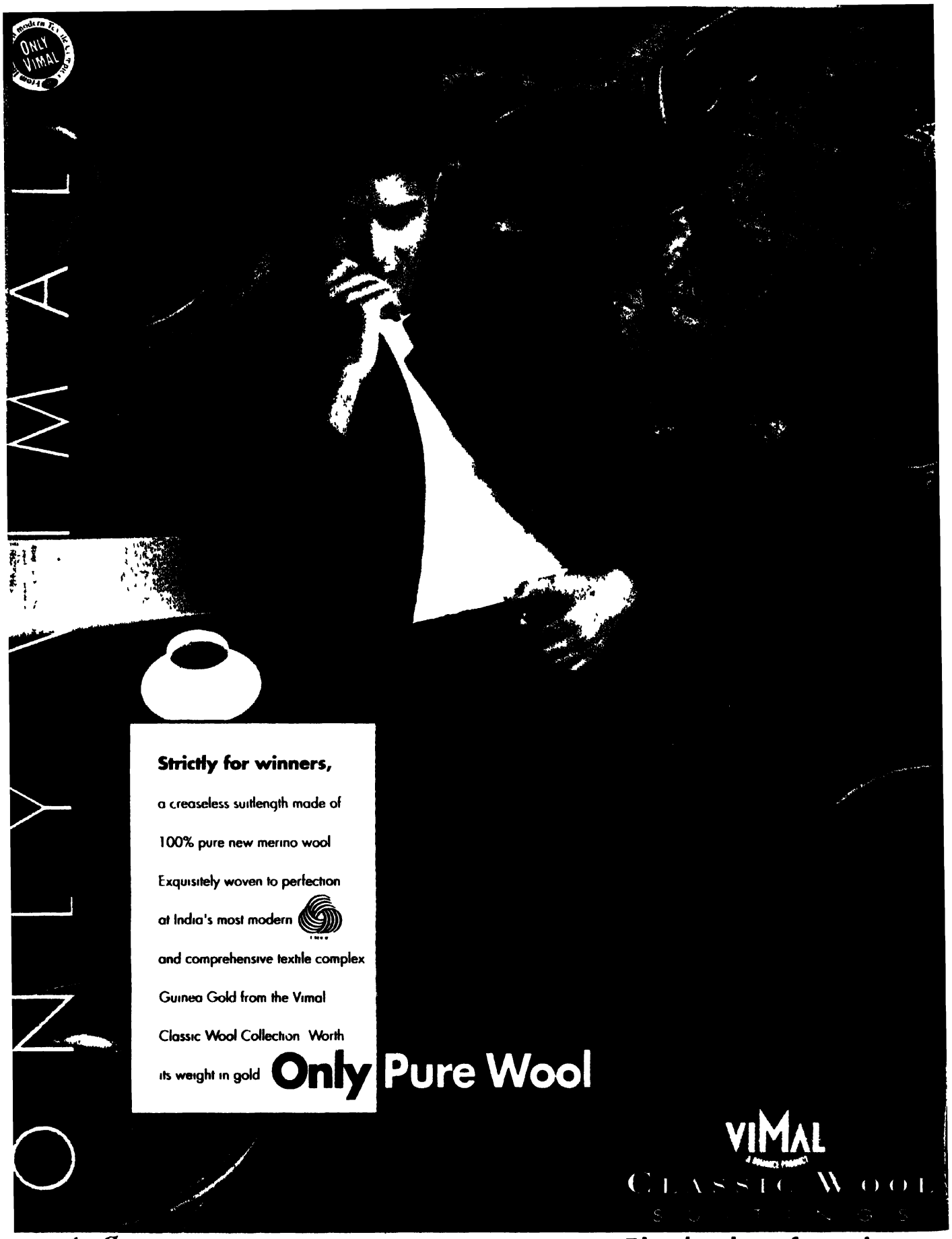
What is your greatest regret?
That I could not learn much of music, either from my father or from Naina Devi.
What has been your happiest moment?
When my compositions that I put my heart and soul into, become successful and are appreciated
What brings tears to your eyes?
When I visit the temple
How do you relax?
When I do *riyaz*
What do you envy most in others?
When I find somebody more beautiful than me.
How would you like to be remembered?
As a Kathak dancer with *abhinaya* as her *forte*
How would you like to die?
Collapse while dancing on stage

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CLASSIC WOOL
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19 NOVEMBER 1995 ●

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Hallmark: Harmony

■ Chandan Mitra's tribute to Salil Chowdhury was excellent ('Symphony No More', September 24).

Salil Chowdhury's hallmark was his vibrancy and lilting tunes. Each of his compositions bears his distinct stamp: that of harmony.

During those halcyon days of the IPTA movement the musical master discovered that music was a juxtaposition of tune and rhythm. And so his *Alor patha jatri* and *Runner* have this harmony at their core

In the sphere of Bengali modern music *(adhunik gaan)* Salil Chowdhury brought out the best from talented singers like Shyamal Mitra *(Jak ja gachche ta jak)*, Dhananjay Bhattacharjee *(Jhanan jhanan baje)*, Dwijen Mukhopadhyay *(Pallabi go sancharini)* and Subir Sen *(Aei ujjwala din)*.

Some of Salil Chowdhury's compositions with Hemanta Mukhopadhyay and Lata Mangeshkar have greatly enriched the repertoire of Indian music.



Salil Chowdhury with Lata Mangeshkar: Magical melody

The genius and his music will forever be a source of great inspiration
Jayanta Mitra,
Calcutta

■ I cannot agree with your headline, 'Symphony No More'. Music is immortal and as long as man lives symphony will be there

Also, I dispute a particular fact in the cover story It says Salil Chowdhury introduced Lata Mangeshkar to Bengali songs in 1959

To the best of my knowledge it was Satinath Mukhopadhyay who introduced Lata to Bengal with that unforgettable number, *Aakash pradip jwale doorer tarar pane cheye...*
Nirmalendu Chakraborty,
Cooch Behar

■ Never one to be swayed by lucre, the communist Salil Chowdhury believed in simple living and high thinking
Sujit Banerjee,
Calcutta

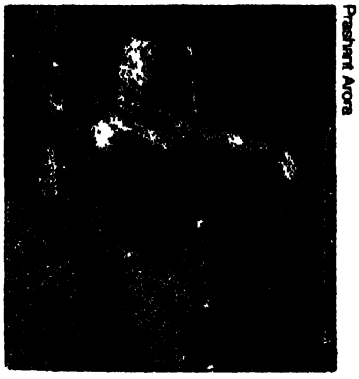
■ One by one the best names in the music industry are passing away Mohammad Rafi, Kishore Kumar, Mukesh, Hemanta Mukhopadhyay, R D Burman, Salil Chowdhury the men who could enthral listeners and move them to tears

Singers with such mellifluous voices or music directors with such rare talent will not be born again. We will have to live with their clones
Arpita Ghosal,
Calcutta

Hands for Clay

■ The idea of featuring sculptor Ramesh Paul for First Person was marvellous (October 1) He is one of those unsung masters of the art, living in his cocooned world of clay and sand
Sunil Banerjee,
Calcutta

INSIDE



Prashant Arora

PAGE 4

NO MATTER what the purists say popular English and Gujarati theatre, the middle class weekend entertainment, has come to stay in Bombay, with all its crudities

PAGE 26

MAHABHARATA'S MOST dynamic character, Draupadi, bares the conflicts in her mind An extract

From *Bottoms Up*

SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
18 RUSKIN BOND
21 JUNIOR WHIRL
22 COMICS
26 EXTRACT
29 PINUP
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Prashant Arora

COVER STORY

The LOW-DOWN

A good evening out for most Bombayites seems to be the popular theatre, either in English or in Gujarati Most of it, however, is nothing more than two hours of smutty one-liners of the tritest variety, with some cheesecake thrown in for added spice ***Vaishali Honawar*** *checks out its hold on the teeming audiences*

Photographs by Prashant Arora

IT IS THEATRE THAT THE PURISTS CLAIM they "wouldn't touch with a bargepole". Theatre that no critic wants to write about in the papers because "it's just not theatre". Theatre that is all about *double entendre* and girls strutting around in hotpants, leaving little to the imagination as they tell a story that is best forgotten, if it is absorbed at all, by an audience that is too busy looking and laughing.

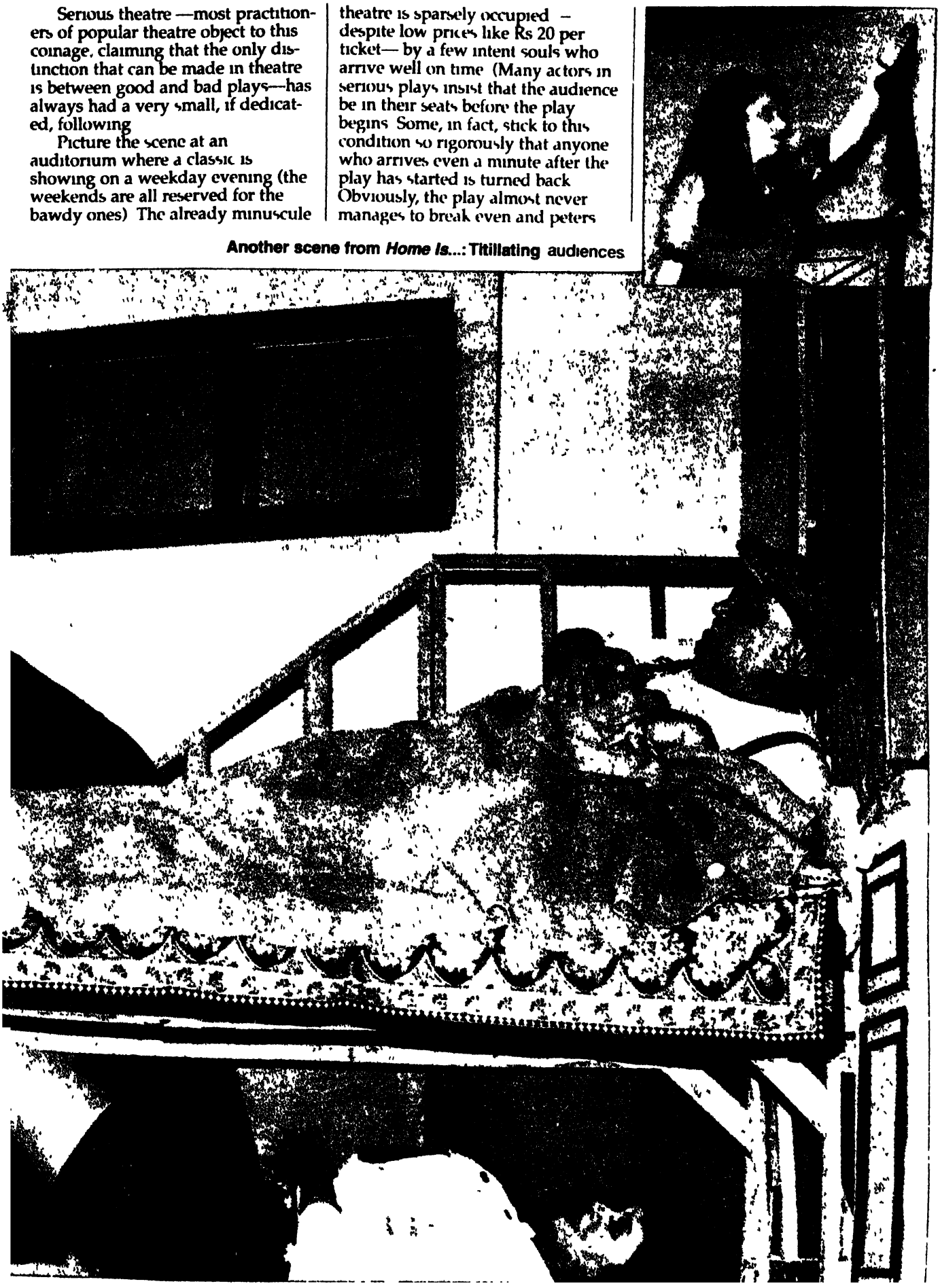
Popular theatre often, if not always, a euphemism for laugh-a-minute sitcoms with some bare flesh thrown in may be shunned by the classes, but who cares? Certainly their makers do not. Who wants a few lines or a review in the papers when the ticket sales could not be better? Whether the classes like it or not popular theatre is here to stay And to flourish, say the statistics.

Home Is Where Your Trouser Is **: Light-hearted fun**



Serious theatre —most practitioners of popular theatre object to this coinage, claiming that the only distinction that can be made in theatre is between good and bad plays—has always had a very small, if dedicated, following

Picture the scene at an auditorium where a classic is showing on a weekday evening (the weekends are all reserved for the bawdy ones) The already minuscule theatre is sparsely occupied – despite low prices like Rs 20 per ticket— by a few intent souls who arrive well on time (Many actors in serious plays insist that the audience be in their seats before the play begins Some, in fact, stick to this condition so rigorously that anyone who arrives even a minute after the play has started is turned back Obviously, the play almost never manages to break even and peters



Another scene from *Home Is...*: Titillating audiences

out after a few shows)

Compare this with the bustling, lively crowd that descends on a 700-seat auditorium in a city suburb late on a Sunday night where *Monkey Business*, written and directed by Bombay's most-loved name in popular theatre, Bharat Dabholkar, is showing Tickets, as a rule, have to be booked in advance for even Lady Luck cannot work her miracle for you in case you are the 11th-hour type This, despite the fact that the cheapest ticket costs as much as Rs 50 Even the Rs 200 rows are full

The crowd, hold your breath is not made of single, lecherous males as you expected, but of bubbly Gujarati and Parsi families with their brood of five and 10-year-olds, or teenagers out for an evening of mirth and, perhaps, a little titillation Single males account for as little as one per cent of the audience As Bharat Dabholkar, the man whose pen and directorial wand weave this Sunday-night spell, says "Theatre has become a family outing"

So it has The scene before the curtains go up resembles that at a party as people spot friends and chat over cups of hot tea and *batata wadas* in the lobby Visibly, this is a regular pastime No wonder, then, that while *Monkey Business* itself is into its 50th show and thriving, others of this genre have done as many as 500 runs

Significantly, all these plays are staged in theatres in the suburbs where the family audiences are, while shows in the city areas are kept to a minimum

"Theatre is the only form of live entertainment available to people in the city today," says Marzban Patel of Burjor Patel Productions, which has produced such popular plays as

Pooja Bedi: The leggy attraction in *Carry on Papa*; (right) Viju Khote and Harish Patel in *Bottoms Up*





All that the audiences here seem to demand is two hours of one-liners about the plumber coming home to screw the right one... that will have them in splits. And, of course, the current box-office siren or leggy girl thrown in for a bit of sizzle and sparkle

Run For Your Wife, My Darling Daughter, the *Bottoms Up* revues, the *Carry On* series and *Monkey Business*

"Marathi theatre is popular even in small towns and Gujarati theatre is doing extremely well too," he says. In Bombay, particularly, popular theatre (English and Gujarati) seems to be the undisputed king of the marquee. "It is the only kind of theatre people want to watch," says Dabholkar who, in his 10-year involvement with popular theatre, has churned out 13 hits, including two children's plays. His other successes include the *Bottoms Up* revues, the *Carry On* series, *Run For Your Wife* and now, *Monkey Business*. *Good Night Baby Dino*, one of his children's plays, is running to packed houses currently and is an "experimental" popular play where the players are all puppets. "Serious theatre is not the only experimental and artistic form of theatre in existence. We, too, have done a lot of experimentation in our plays," says Dabholkar. "I once did a Marathi classic called *Purush* which was running alongside a popular play of mine called *The Last Tango In Paris*. But we found that *The Last Tango* was doing better in its 50th show than *Purush* in its 10th!" An incident that seems to have strengtheshened his belief that theatre is for entertainment, for people to enjoy.

"There really is nothing like serious and popular theatre," he says. "The only difference is between good and bad theatre. If a play doesn't work, you cannot say that the audience is stupid. Good theatre is something that people want to see and something which has not been done before. They want to see something entertaining, something different and not just something which only the director and writer will understand."

He cites here the words of the noted Maharashtrian playwright, P.L. Deshpande, who once said that "if a director says that his theatre is something that everyone cannot understand, then he shouldn't be advertising it." "Instead, he should just stage it for his few friends and family members who he feels will understand it."

Says Alyque Padamsee, theatre director who has done such 'straight' English plays as *Evita*, *Othello* and *Roshni*, "Theatre covers a wide spectrum and the key to theatre is involvement. If puns and jokes with double meaning involve the audience, there is nothing wrong with it."

He cites the Phallus Comedies of the ancient Romans where the actors hit each other with penises, and Shakespeare's plays which often had bawdy jokes. "Theatre can only exist between the actors and the audience and if one of the parties is missing namely, the audience, then there is no theatre, high-brow or low-brow."

But what about the fact that popular plays often do not follow a storyline worth mentioning, concentrating only on titillation and puns? Dabholkar denies this is the case with most popular plays. "I myself have done different kinds of things, including topical revues such as *Bottoms Up*. We would weave in such issues as politics, the airlines, MTV songs and even Rabindrasangeet, with humour being the mainstay. In fact, no two shows of *Bottoms Up* were ever similar."

Darling Darling: A big hit



Director-writer Shafi Inamdar feels that people come to the theatre after a long, hard day's work to be entertained. And that is what he will give them. Inamdar himself has done quite a few serious plays like *Anjan Shaher*, *Ekshuff* and *Neela Kamra* in addition to comedies such as *Baa Retire Thaye Chhe* which did as many as 500 shows, and *Doctor Tame Pan* which did 150 shows. And while his serious plays, he claims, did almost as well, he prefers to do popular plays more often "because I would like to perform before maximum audiences."

He finds the clearcut distinction between popular theatre and serious theatre not too correct. "When Samuel Beckett's *Waiting For Godot* was staged for the first time, it was performed in a jailhouse. And it was

widely appreciated That just goes on to show that something need not be titillating or funny to be popular"

Unfortunately, that is not the way the wind blows back home All that the audiences here seem to demand is two hours of one-liners about the plumber coming home to screw the right one (most of them trite and as stale as the schoolboy jokes of your father's times· perfect recent example being Dinyar Contractor's *Home Is Where Your Trouser Is)* that will have them in splits And, of course, the current box-office siren or leggy girl or two thrown in for a bit of sizzle and sparkle (cinema cabaret artistes like

A scene from *Hotel Motel Patel*



Poonam Dasgupta/great bods like Pooja Bedi, or a pretty young thing holding up a bra accompanied by a smutty wisecrack)

"When we used to do straight English plays, we found that after doing 50-60 shows the audiences would peter out," says Marzban Patel "Now we prefer doing Hinglish theatre with Bharat Dabholkar which the audiences love"

This, he is quick to add, does not mean that straight English plays are not doing well at all He points out, as an example, Hosi Vasunia's *Sound Of Music* which has been doing very well and is said to be the number one play in the city today

Inamdar feels that the popularity of comedy can be used by the director and writer to put across a message "If I have something to say, something with a popular appeal, I can tell the story in my own way After all, people see the situations that arise in a play going on around them all the time What they are interested in is your side of it, in your approach"

Says Dabholkar, "Often we take up a serious subject and try to take it to the masses in a language they can understand We Indianised Evita as Savita and used a lavani as the opening song The audience was thrilled," he recalls

Inamdar points out that his Hindi comedy, *All The Best*, which is another runaway hit, is also a different subject and is devoid of any double-meaning dialogue But does this mean that he keeps away from dirty puns all the time? "I rarely use them," he says "What I do is give the actors a situation and leave it to their imagination to interpret it Actors themselves tend to catch on to what they feel was popular in the previous show"

But he has, he admits, used bedroom scenes and double entendre in his comedies like *Chungching*. "That play had a different rhythm and required that kind of handling People liked it a lot" That is certainly the response to most popular plays The crowds, as Marzban Patel says, "simply lap up all the stuff", puns and all The dirty lines have them rolling in the aisles And the parodies evoke hearty applause

But how artful is it, one wonders, to use dirty puns and titillation to entertain people for a price -- an expensive ticket?

"Our plays never cross the vulgarity line," says Patel in defence "I have heard of theatre-owners asking directors to tone down their lines and of people walking out when the vulgarity gets overbearing, but that has never happened with us"

The punning itself, he says, has to be done artfully "We have different writers doing different kinds of work We often stage plays by the British playwright, Ray Coony, and he has his own style of punning while Dabholkar has his own style It is difficult to come by a comedy which does not use double-meaning dialogue But the audiences love it, so what's wrong?"

Padamsee feels that the only danger with the growing popularity of these kind of plays is that an audience that is constantly titillated (instead of undergoing a deeply felt human experience) gradually loses its sensitivity to appreciate serious theatre

There is here, perhaps, a lesson for the makers of serious theatre who often churn out boring, heavy stuff under the name of classics or meaningful plays Says Padamsee, "The answer lies not in doing plays that turn off the audiences, but in doing plays that have serious themes which also grip the audience's imagination"

His advice to young playwrights, then, is to "not just grip the mind, but the hearts as well"

He himself watches popular theatre and enjoys it, he says, citing the skits in the *Bottoms Up* series which he found very satirical and revealing "in the best sense of the word" "I believe Bharat Dabholkar is a perceptive satirist and not just a libidinous satirist," he says

Personally, however, Padamsee prefers doing theatre "that engages not just the senses, but the mind as well I'm quite prepared to see any theatre, but when it comes to making plays, I'd rather do the Theatre of Ideas"

One finds that the Gujaratis and Parsis constitute nearly 90 per cent of the audiences of popular plays which is, perhaps, one of the reasons why, as some critics point out,

Gujarati theatre is mostly dirty theatre Paresh Rawal, Hindi film actor who also acts in and directs Gujarati plays of the serious kind, denies this "Gujarati audiences are quite discriminating when it comes to good and bad theatre I have been in this field for 20 years and despite my third-rate reputation as a Hindi film villain, my Gujarati viewers have always given my plays a fair judgment," he says He points out, as an example, Sujata Mehta's serious play, *Chitkar*, which has done as many as 450 shows

'The answer lies not in doing plays that turn off the audiences, but in doing plays that have serious themes which also grip the audience's imagination.' Alyque Padamsee's advice to young playwrights, then, is to 'not just grip the mind, but the hearts as well'

But no matter how well the serious theatre*wallahs* do, the pop theatre*wallahs* do better After all, the masses are with them Which is what seems to keep them going despite the fact that most of them are busy balancing their theatre work with other professions

That is a necessity, says Patel, for English theatre in this country is just not professional enough for one to make a living out of it Even the staggering amount brought in by the ticket sales and the fact that most of the actors' clothes are sponsored is not enough to earn the director, writer and actors their bread and butter "All we seek to do is break even in the long run," says Patel "We're not into theatre for the money"

Which is also the reason why they have not yet got around to getting their plays fully sponsored "as we're too busy from nine to nine" But that is an area he would certainly like to look into as the "shows offer invaluable sponsorship opportunities for 900 quality people every week"

But until the money comes in, the sheer excitement of pulling in the audiences and giving them two hours of laughs keeps the mare going

Entertainment is all



SCENE? OR OBSCENE?

And what's it like in Calcutta? The set kind, says ***Anil Grover***

What's entertainment? At the best of times, entertainment is a nebulous word What was entertainment, certainly not plain hard work, for Hugh Grant in the backseat of his BMW, was merely a "lewd act" for most others Ditto for the cabaret artistes (accent on the noun) who were arrested by the Calcutta Police while performing and, no doubt, entertaining a packed Minerva theatre audience last fortnight which was there ostensibly to see a play, *Madame X* And with them went the entire ensemble, producer, director and all

Where does one draw the line, as many concerned parties have asked And a very valid point is how is the police competent to be our moral guardians? What, after all, is a 'lewd act' (at the Oscars next time, Hugh Grant will be thanking his mom, dad and family dog while the rest of the world will be thanking him for adding a new phrase to international entertainment vocabulary)? A vamp in a play throwing off her clothes one by one to show how terrible such girls are in society? A fat old businessman character mouthing obscenities, slang and *double entendre* for a belly laugh? Or a traffic constable hauling up a truck driver with a baton raised in one hand and the other palm extended towards the driver's shirt pocket?

It also reminds one of a Khushwant Singh crack in one of his columns ages back in *The Illustrated Weekly of India* A great defender of non-censorship and anything even remotely lewd, he was writing about customs piling on to people coming from abroad and grabbing cigarettes, foreign liquor (those days, electronic goods hadn't really been invented) and pornographic magazines known basically through two names, *Playboy* and *Penthouse*

During that time, Al Goldstein had come out with the mother of all porn literature called *Screw* Khushwant Singh narrated a story of how they



Debashish Chowdhury

Cabaret dancers being arrested from Minerva Theatre

allowed that magazine to pass, mistaking it to be an engineering magazine!

But the people who read or see such stuff know In the Seventies, a play, *Baar Bodhu*, had become a sensation because of its daring presentation and theme, and hoardings showing its nubile heroine, Manju Chakraborty, in a bedroom scene with the director-hero, Ashim Chakraborty, and her black bra strap showing on a bare shoulder from which the negligee had slipped It had become a *cause celebre*, banned, unbanned, blah blah

Since then, the Left Front became our moral guardian Jumping up from the lewdest of lewd acts, that is, politics, they summarily banned cabarets in hotels, including five-star ones So, the famous Lido Room at the Grand Hotel stopped presenting Luscious Lola, who had become the heartthrob of the cocktail circuit then, and soon stopped existing, too Now, you have the Firpo's Market there selling office shirts at Rs 135, fixed price

But cabarets and other allied art forms are like a piece of cork you push it deep down into the water, but it has a bad habit of jumping up elsewhere So, cabarets were introduced to Bengali commercial theatre as their highlights and something where the Miss Shefalis and Miss Js could continue their art form and survive

And what was the audience like? The middleclass *bhadro* families, who also pride in entertaining themselves through intellectual pursuits only such as dance, Rabindrasangeet, theatre (of all kinds — one wall, jatra, dance dramas, Group Theatre, Third Theatre, commerical theatre, adda)

At the commercial theatres, the middleclass families (sometimes the top cops and their families were special invitees when scenes would be cleverly edited to get an approval and recommendation) fool themselves that they are watching theatre, that most intellectual of pursuits, and therefore entertaining themselves fruitfully unlike the philistine non Bengalis There were some plays which were watched even by children of the family, but they had been taken to watch theatre, not cabarets, so there But it was titillation in the garb of intellectualism, that's socialism, after all

To extend the political argument further, cabarets in the Lido Room were watched by the upper crust and in a sort of exclusive surrounding Cabarets in the seedier joints were watched by those who will ferret out such items or equivalents anywhere in the world, they still do in the *patli gali* restaurants in the name of gyrating to the tune of Hindi film music being blared out by Kumar Sanu and Mohammad Aziz clones

But children and family is out unless approved by themselves (as in the Lido Room) and only for the well heeled (who would also be able to afford it in some other form anyway) That sort of 'self censorship', in fact was stopped by the act of banning cabarets in hotels Instead, cabarets were offered for Rs 10 for family and children in commercial theatre Plus, a clean conscience you didn't have to look over your shoulders, first right, then left, and right again, and then slink into the joints You could now proudly take your family and children for theatre, not titillation (it is a moot point whether those lower division clerks now more of that on Zee TV's Hindi film countdowns or Doordarshan's MTV telecast showing Prince mouthing, "Put your pussy on my face")

Well, that's entertainment, folks Intellectual, with-it entertainment ■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Arun Ganguly

Women — 5: Cityscapes

(1)
New Delhi, is a young socialite
who has all the string pullers,
the power-peddlars, brokers,
middlemen and pimps tied
to her apron strings
She has her acne, you'd never know
under the layers of make-up
and foundation
A nip here, a tuck there
to rejuvenate her sagging assets
Always ready to dazzle you
with the latest accoutrements,
and push the old, forgotten
patrician lady, Old Delhi
into permanent eclipse

(2)

Calcutta is a woman
at a dangerous age—
menopause Not yet decided
whether to look young or old
be fertile or barren
remain virtuous or
go the way all flesh
But when the sun is down
and the light kindlier
you can get a glimpse
of what was
You either love
or hate her

(3)

Bombay is a transvestite,
Neither here nor there,
ready for all takers
as they come, all
The sum of the parts not
adding up to the whole
In spite of all the bounties
a poor substitute
the real thing

(4)

Madras, middle aged
Amma
she has traditions, yes
and education too and
dignity that goes along
Ready to change, to
jump ahead
but only so much that
the nine yard sari
is as unruffled as
her calm

(5)

Bangalore, frivolous teenager
transformed into a young lady
businessslike,
microchips in her head
Vibrant, lively and her horizons
constantly expanding
Chic
in her after hours combining
business with pleasure,
life with laughter

Gautam Sinha

ESSAY

MISTER BHARAT: HOW MAHAAN?

***Ramendra Kumar** holds forth on a 'beauty pageant' to decide on the man of substance...*

Deb Nair, the high-profile editor of Bharat's first adult magazine, *Threadbare*, and Randy Joshbhare, the publisher, were sitting in a five-star Irani Hotel, in the heart of Mumbai, sipping one-by-two *chai* and munching bun-*maska*

Both were feeling depressed The copies of the last issue of their magazines had been seized by the Government of Mumbai and burnt at street corners Bal Thoko Rav, the super CM of Mumbai, had found the contents obscene He felt the magazines reflected a culturally bankrupt and a morally moribund society and were against the high moral standards set by Chhatrapati Shivaji and Maa Jeejabai

Thoko Ray was particularly upset by Joshbhare since he was a Maratha "How could a true blood Maratha indulge in such depravity?" he had thundered in chaste Marathi

In the latest issue, Nair and Joshbhare had not included any human nudes Instead they had printed photo-photographs of the Khajuraho and Konark sculptures and detailed extracts from the *Kamasutra*

But how long could they sustain the magazines on mythological and historical porn? They wanted fresh 21st century stuff

Suddenly, Nair jumped up "I have got a terrific idea We should, perhaps, follow *Femina*?"

"What? You mean we should start writing about nail polish, negligees and *nariyal barfee*?"

"No, stupid We should organise beauty pageants for men "

"I can't imagine men strutting around in evening gowns and two-piece bikinis And, moreover, they already have a contest called Adonis or something "

"Let me explain It will not be a beauty contest in the typical sense The contest will be for men of substance It will judge not physical beauty, but qualities like charisma, intelligence, wisdom and leadership. The winner will be given the title of Mister Bharat "

"But what will that give us?"

"It will be organised by *Threadbare* and *Blue Flicks* This will give our magazines terrific publicity and also some respectability Our sales will zoom and any politician will think twice before burning copies of our magazine "

"It is a great idea But how do we select the contestants?"

"We'll form a committee and finalise the contestants "

Two months later the finals of the Mister Bharat contest began in the Maa Jeejabai Auditorium in Mumbai

The comperes were the famous couple, Madhu Supari and Milind Moron Moron and Supari wanted to appear on the stage dressed only in Stuff shoelaces, but Thoko Ray had objected "How can a Maratha couple indulge in such indecency?" he had screamed As a result Madhu was wearing *Nau vari*, the traditional Maharashtrian saree and Milind was sporting dhoti kurta As a final obeisance to their Maratha roots both were wearing Kolhapuri chappals

Moron introduced the judges to the audience Kaya Palti (the Queen Minister of Andhra Pradesh), Thobda Day (the Porn Queen of India), Jhoolan Devi (the bandit queen), Lachmi Saraswati (the dethroned Queen of Telugu Nadu), Madari Fixit (the Queen of Hearts) and Joy Lolita (the Empress of Idlypuram)

"The only round in today's finals is the question-answer cum favourite dress round The contestants will be judged on the basis of their answers as well as their attire The first contestant is the daring, dynamic and deadly Bal Thoko Ray, the super CM of Mumbai," declared Moron

Thoko Ray marched onto the stage in the attire of a Maratha warrior It was Kaya Palti's turn to ask him a question

"Mr Thoko Ray, who is the person you admire most and why?"

"My hero is Adolf Butler, the great dictator I admire him for his convic-



tions and ideals Like him, I too want to indulge in ethnic cleansing I do not want any non-Hindu to pollute this sacred land of ours I'll drive all of them away and rename our country Hindia," Thoko Ray declared, and after glaring at Moron, strode back to the strains of a Marathi battle song

The next contestant was T N Tension, the chief *de la* chief election commissioner He walked on to the stage bare-chested, dressed in dhoti and munching a cucumber

Thobha Day looked at him adoringly and purred, "Dear Mr Tension, I'll ask you three simple questions— 'What is your idea of perfection?'"

"T N Tension"

"What is the single most important event in the history of our country? Why?"

"T N Tension and the answer again is obvious"

There was polite applause Tension removed a carrot from the folds of his dhoti, bit it, and declared, "*Gajar khao, accha hai*" With these immortal words he waddled off

Suddenly, there was a kind of hush Shuffling of tired feet could be heard The lights had dimmed A tall, portly figure could be seen entering As the figure reached the centre of the stage the lights brightened and the audience stared mesmerised at Empty Trauma Rao clad in a bright red saree and sporting a red earring in his right ear There was some movement where the judges were sitting As the audience craned their necks to look they could see Lachmi Saraswati swaying from side to side and singing, "*Mera piya ghar aya, o' Ramjee, mera piya ghar aya, o' Ramjee*"

Lots were drawn and it was the turn of Saraswati to ask questions

She got up, made an elaborate *namaskaram* and said, "Oh! My Brahma, my Vishnu, my Mahesh, my Lord, my Swami, please accept the most respectful obeisance of your most humble *daasi* With your kind permission I take courage to offer my questions as petals at your mighty feet My first question is— 'Who is the person you love the most?'"

"You, my dear Lachmi, you"

"What was the happiest moment of your life?"

"When I first saw you"



"If you were granted a wish by the Almighty, what would you ask?"

"I would ask for a hundred rebirths in each of which you would be my wife and Chandranana Naidu my pet chimp"

"Oh! My Lord, you are simply divine" With these words Saraswati rushed onto the stage and fell at Trauma Rao's feet He picked her up and embraced her The two of them then walked away, arm in arm, singing, "*Khullam khulla pyaar karenge hum dono, is duniya se nahin darenge hum dono*"

The next contestant was Laddoo Yadav, the monarch of Patli Putra He was dressed nattily in a bright green two-piece, dark maroon dhoti and yellow tie He was wearing dark glasses, ankle boots and smoking a pipe

"Laddooji, what is your ambition in life?" asked Jhoolon Devi

"I want to export the philosophy of Mandalism to the West In America, they will soon have Blacks, Blacker Than Blacks, Somewhat Blacks, Some Other Blacks, Blacker Than Whites, Creamy Blacks, Whites, Some Other Whites, Somewhat Whites, Whiter Than Blacks, Whiter Than Whites and Creamy Whites I will also ensure the Yadavisation of India In every state, the governor and chief minister will be a Yadav, Bhoputi will become the grandmother tongue and milk will become the national drink"

There was a deafening applause from one section of the crowd Laddoo took an elaborate bow and walked out swinging to the tunes of Apache Indian's *Chock There*

Macbull Faiyda Husain entered He was clad in a spotless white kurta and dark blue jeans He was as usual barefoot

It was Madari Fixit's turn to ask questions

"Mac, or should I say, Bull*jee*, what has been your greatest achievement?"

"Painting you, my dear Madari Through you I have rediscovered my genius Now I want to paint you on the backs of buses, on trash can lids, on the bald pate of T N Tension, in fact, on any bare surface"

"Then you can paint her on my backside as well as Moron's backside when we are, unlike today, more conventionally dressed," giggled Supari

"Painting Madari on your backside would be a pleasure For painting Moron's backside I can guide Ashok Gay Kavi," retorted Macbull

"What is your message to the common man?" asked Madari

"My message is quite simple Each

one should see *Hum Aapke Hee Hain* at least 50 times In fact I would advise you, my dear Madari, to contest in the presidential elections Before that, of course, the Bharatiya system should be changed from the parliamentary to the presidential one Once you get elected, as you are bound to, then you will be able to solve all our problems "

"How is that, Bull*jee*?" asked Madari

'Quite simple, really When you go to the White House and sing *Dhak, dhak karne laga* in front of Bill, he will stop peddling arms to Pakistan and run after you singing, *Choli ke peechhey kya hai, choli ke peechhey* And when you go to Pakistan and sing, *I k din banoongi main Nawaz ki rani*, in the ears of Nawaz Badmash, he will stop screeching at Bharat and instead sing, *"Madari de do, I 16 le lo"*

Madari blew a kiss, Macbull bowed and walked out singing, *Pehla pehla pyaar hai* "

Elkay Oddvani, the *the pujya pitamah* of Bhajan Mandali, the powerful Hindutva party, walked in dressed in a dhoti and kurta I here was a bow slung over across his left shoulder and he was sporting a quiver full of arrows around his waist He carried a *trishul* in his left hand and a *kamandal* in his right In the background could be heard shrieks of *Garv se kaho hum Muslim nahin hain* and *I hum se jo takrayega Barbari Masjid mein mil jayega*

Joy Lolita, clad in a golden cape, who was sitting behind her own cutout, got up "Odd*jee*, if you were made the emperor of Bharat for a day what would you do?"

"In the name of positive and constructive secularism I would destroy all the mosques and churches I would formulate an ordinance as per which executives would wear dhoti and kurta to their offices and carry *kamandals* instead of suitcases The army would fight with bows, arrows and *gadas* instead of the silly weapons they are using now I would also rename all cities and major streets and business centres Delhi would become Indraprastha, Mumbai Hastinapur, Calcutta Ashwattamanagar and Madras Eklavyapur Connaught Circus would be renamed Kekayi Chowk and Connaught Place, Bharat Chowk Juhu Beach would become Angad Udayan and Cuffe Parade Jamvant Sarani, *ityadi ityadi* "

There were cries of *Jai Shri Ram*, as Oddvani bowed and strode off

"With this we come to the end of the Mister Bharat contest While we wait for our analyst to compute the points and declare the winner, we have a presentation " Supari stopped suddenly There was a commotion backstage and a middle-aged man entered He was wearing a shabby kurta and dhoti, his feet were bare, he sported a stubble and his face was drawn and tired

"Who the hell are you and what the hell are you doing here?" demanded Moron advancing menacingly

"I I , the man stuttered "My name is Bechara Seedha, I am a common man Someone told me that there was *tamasha* going on here I came hoping to get some food for my wife and two children We haven't eaten for days "

"What do you do?"

"I was a teacher I've done my MA in history and won a gold medal I was working as a *maali* in a government-run school The school closed down



due to lack of funds and I was thrown out Since then, I am jobless "

Moron looked at the the audience and declared, "Ladies and gentlemen, I have had a brilliant idea While the analyst computes the scores why don't we request our judges to ask this common man the question they asked our honourable contestants That way we can compare and find out how uncommon our brilliant contestants are "

The suggestion was greeted with a burst of applause Moron handed the mike to Bechara and the questions came hurtling at him

"What is your idea of perfect happiness?"

"A full stomach, a roof over my head and a warm quilt in winter "

'Whom do you admire most and why?"

"A politician because without any intelligence, sincerity, honesty and hard work, he can make millions and rule the country for years "

"If you are granted a wish, what would you ask for?"

"I would ask never to be born again in Bharat as a common man "

"What has been your greatest achievement?"

"My greatest achievement is that in spite of the best efforts of politicians I have still been able to adhere to my principles of honesty and integrity and survive "

"If you were made the emperor of Bharat for a day what would you do?"

"I would jail all the politicians for the rest of their lives and make the common man the emperor for life "

I here was a thunderous applause

Moron took the mike and declared, "Ladies and gentlemen, after this humour break, we have the results and the winner is "

"We know the winner," there was a shout from the crowd Moron looked up surprised

"Yes, we know who should win this contest ," yelled a man getting up and waving his hands

"W who?" stammered Moron

"Bechara Seedha the Common Man," the first man shouted

"Yes yes yes ," roared the crowd rising to its feet and surging ahead

Moron and Supari backed away, as the judges and the honourable contestants huddled in a corner

There were hurried consultations between Deb Nair and Joshbhare Nair rushed forward and whispered in Moron's ear, "Moron, just do as the crowd says or else they will tear us to pieces And it is safer this way in the long run If we declare any one of our contestants as the winner, the other five will make our lives miserable So go ahead and announce the name of Bechara "

"L ladies and gentlemen, as you all have rightly chosen — the winner is Bechara He is conferred the title of Mister Bharat and presented a cheque of Rs 10 lakhs "

"I ten lakhs " stammered Bechara and slumped down

Moron rushed forward and tried to make him get up After a few minutes of fruitless efforts, he checked his pulse

Moron then got up and shaking his head sadly said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I announce the demise of the winner of the title of Mister Bharat, Bechara Seedha, due to heart failure " ■

INNEREYE

BEJAN DARUWALLA

Aries
March 21 - April 20



Ganesha says journey, research, collaborations and the luck of the draw for Ariens Many of you will be in for a promotion, a terrific chance to make good in business or open a new office For the eligible, an excellent chance to get engaged Travel and trips are foretold

Taurus
April 21 — May 20



The sun Uranus sextile, fine formation, leads to an augmentation of money through different sources You will run into interesting characters, who could become life or business partners Many Taureans will be in for loans and funds heavy investments, buying and selling

Gemini
May 21 — June 20



Yes for Geminis it all be is down to feelings and sensitivity Love and affection could well lead you to the altar of matrimony Of all the signs, Geminis will have to rely most on others or interact intensely with others in the next two months That is for sure I earn to trust

Cancer
June 21 — July 20

Hardwork, excellent results a wee bit of a fling and merry-making for Cancerians Venus-Mars conjunction helps you to have boundless enthusiasm and the charisma to make it happen The result is sparkling success in whatever you do and that is saying the world Go ahead

Leo
July 21 — August 21



The goodies of life for Leons There will be entertainment, romance of the high voltage variety and passion, inspiration, an opportunity to move mentally ,physically and intellectually in the form of shifting/travelling/commuting Home and property affairs could once again take pride of place Great week

Virgo
August 22 — September 22



Play your cards sensibly and you will make a killing in work and leisure activities You may please expect visitors, foreigners and relatives to descend upon you, alternatively, you will reach out and meet them, all to the good This is a week to buy/sell/renovate/decorate/invest

Libra
September 23 — October 22



The sun-Pluto conjunction helps you to take wild chances in life and come out on top This is the time for a new venture, undertaking and enterprise Those in communication, teaching, preaching, acting, editing, propaganda and publicity do a scintillating job This is the right time to travel

Scorpio
October 23 — November 22



For tourists, travellers, salesmen, brokers, traders, manufacturers, producers, a great week to open out Loans and funds can be had Buying , selling, funding, mortgaging are highlighted for you This could easily be a hectic week in terms of socialising and entertaining on a massive scale

Sagittarius
November 23 — December 20



The sun enters your sign on the 23rd making life easier and happier for you which, naturally, is what you want and deserve Dealings connected with property, money, import, export, foreign affairs and distant places should be eminently successful for you This is a go-ahead week

Capricorn
December 21 — January 19



Ganesha says, the new moon helps you to take chances in life and get what you do desire While you will see a lot of people, you could feel lonely at heart for an inexplicable reason Travel stars will be in the ascendant for a month or so Heavy expenses Trips and ties are definitely on the cards

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18



Your pole-vault to fame and fortune is certain, because Venus, persuasion and tact, connects superbly with Mars, energy and enterprise Now is the time to show the world how good you really are Now is also the time to fan out to people and places, be it platonic or personal or professional

Pisces
February 19 — March 20



You should be right on top of a given situation and come out a clean winner Mercury, planet of intelligence is in excellent positioning with Uranus, planet of happening and occurrences You will contrive and conspire with the best in the land Position and power for you Try and concentrate on the homefront

BIRTHDAYS

November19: **Venus conjuncts Jupiter, promising a wish-fulfillment Your action now helps you to win the game Be it love money, power or just wholesome fun.**

November 20: **Sun sextile Uranus makes you slightly unconventional and therefore, remarkably successful Expenses will be exceptionally heavy.**

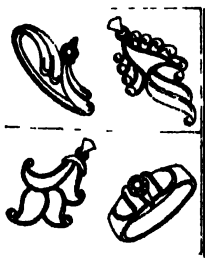
November 21: **Mercury sextile Uranus gives you skills dexterity and a hefty slice of luck It is an unbeatable trio Scorpios will be able to grab many opportunities.**

November 22: **The new moon encourages you to take chances. You will have the confidence too for it. Thus placing of the new moon means money.**

November 23: **The sun Pluto conjunction leads to good money, great fame , excellent connections, mighty good health. It is clearly up to you to make the most of this conjunction.**

November24: **Moon conjunction Venus, Mars Jupiter gives terrific drive and energy which can and should be used for the good of self and people at large.**

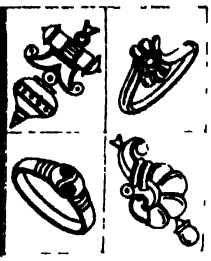
November 25: **Moon sextile Saturn assures a steady progress You will be in a position to carry out your plans and that is what matters.**



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P. C. CHANDRA
JEWELLERS

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TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code: ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

FLIGHTS

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0800	1 2 3 6	IC 742	1030	1 3
			IC 742	1250	4 7
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
AHMEDABAD					
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
AMRITSAR					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
BAGDOGRA					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1210	1 3 5	IC 722	1450	1 3 5
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 181	1600	daily
BHUBANESHWAR					
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
BHUBANESHWAR					
D5-402	0600	3 5 7	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
9W 202	0905	2 3 4 5 6	9W 201	0835	1 2 3 4 5 6
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	2000	daily	9W 211	1925	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
M9 305	0600	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 306	1140	1 2 3 4 5 6
M9 307	1700	daily	M9-308	2230	daily
CALCUTTA					
IC 263	0630	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9 303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1135	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	1930	1 3 5
S2 006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
IC 856	1830	4 7	IC 855	1005	4 7
CHANDIGARH					
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 702	1630	1 3 5 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1340	1 3 5 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
CHENNAI					
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 257	1145	1 4	IC 257	1540	1 4
COIMBATORE					
S2 026/021	0850	1 2 3 4	S2 022/00	2005	1 2 3 4 5
DEHRADUN					
D5-601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 703	0810	1 3	IC 704	1120	1 3 5

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 230	1620	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 703	0830	4 7	IC 704	1120	2 6
HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 776	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
IMPHAL					
D5 601/603	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
JAIPUR					
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
JODHAT					
IC 257	1145	1 4	IC 257	1540	1 4
LEHRANI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
MADRAS					
D5 402	0600	3 5 7	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1030	1 4 6
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
D2 172	1640	daily	D2 171	1155	daily
IC 765	1720	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
PATNA					
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5- 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	1 3 5	IC 286	1100	1 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1930	1 3 5
SILCHAR					
D5 601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
PF 705	073	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
D5 601/605	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 253	0745	2 4 6	IC 254	1025	2 4 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
VIJAYAWADA					
PF 73	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
VISAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1030	1 4 6
ZERO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

BANGLADESH					
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
KUALA LUMPUR					
KL-876	0345		KL 875	0135	7
BANGKOK					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 5	TG 313	1240	1 3 6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC 855	1105	4	IC 856	1	1
TG 314	1	1 3 6	IC	1505	
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309		
BUCHAREST					
RO 076	2150	5 7	RO 075	1	
CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	0800		IC		
BG 698	1735		BG		
DHAKA					
BG 090	0850	1			
BG 092	1150				
IC 723	1250				
BG 094	1905				
BG 094	1910	4			
BG 096	2100				
DUBAI					
BI 107	100				
KATHMANDU					

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
RA 11	1 1	1	RA 213	1130	2 4 6
	1	1 3 6	IC 718	1435	1 2 4 6
LONDON					
BA 11	11		BA 141	1450	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU	1		SU 53	1555	4
PARO					
			KB 105	0810	2 6
SINGAPORE					
			SQ 116	2230	2 5
			BI 102	2000	6
SOFIA					
	17	1		1650	4
TOKYO					
	900		JL 709	18	6

AI Air India ● **BA** British Airways ● **BG** Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● **BI** Royal Brunei Airlines ● **D2** Damania Airways ● **D5** NEPC Airlines ● **IC** Indian Airlines ● **KB** Druk-Air ● **KLM** Royal Dutch Airlines ● **LZ** Balkan Airlines ● **M9** Modiluft ● **PF** Vayudoot ● **RA** Royal Nepal Airlines ● **RJ** Royal Jordanian Airlines ● **RO** Tarom Air Transport ● **S2** Sahara India Airlines ● **SQ** Singapore Airlines ● **SU** Aeroflot ● **4S** East West Airlines ● **TG** Thai Airways International ● **9W** Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	Delhi-Kalka Mail		
3005	19 20	Amritsar Mail		
3003	20 00	Bombay Mail		
2381	9 15	Poorva (New Delhi) Express		
		Dep West Tue		
		Arr		
2303	9 15	Poorva (New Delhi) Express		
		Dep Mon Tue Thu Fri		
		Arr Mon Tue		
2401	16 30	Rajdhani Express		
		Dep Fri		
		Arr Mon		
2305	15 15	Rajdhani Express		
		Dep Tue Wed Thu Sat		
2307	23 30	Jodhpur Express		
2019	6 40	Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express		
		Dep & Arr		
3073	23 00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express		
		Dep Tue		
3045	22 00	Guwahati Express		
		Dep Wed		
5049	23 00	Gorakhpur Express		
		Dep & Arr Thursday		
5047	13 00	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express		
		Dep & Arr Sat Mon		
3009	20 30	Ocon Express via		
3007	9 30	Udyan Abha Toofan Express		
3049	13 20	Amritsar Express		
3019	21 00	Kathgodam Express		
3021	16 05	Mithila (Raxaul) Express		
5659	17 35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express		
3317	6 10	Black Diamond Express		
3029	17 11	Coalfield Express	10 30	3030
3035	19 20	Asansol Express	8 45	3036
3031	21 05	Danapur Express	5 30	3032
3071	22 30	Jamalpur Express	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	Santiniketan Express	14 40	3016
1159	15 25	Chambal (Gwalior) Express	7 55	1160
		Dep Mon Tue & Thu Arr Mo Thur & Fri		
1171	15 25	Shipra (Indore) Express	7 55	1172
		Dep Wed Sat & Sun		
		Arr Sun Wed & Sat		
3327	14 30	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express	1 50	3328
1181	15 25	Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express	7 55	1182
		Dep Friday Arr Tuesday		

Sealdah

Up	Time		Time	Dn
3141	13 40	Teesta-Torsa Express	6 35	3142
3143	19 15	Darjeeling Mail	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	Delhi Express via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6 25	Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express	20 35	5656
3153	22 00	Gour Express	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	Katihar Express	4 15	5664
3151	11 20	Jammu-Tawi Express	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	Mughal Sarai Express via Howrah Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 20	Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express	10 25	3104
5085	12 40	Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express	4 15	5086
		Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat		

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6011	21 40	Madras Mail	6 55	6004
8001		Bombay Mail via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2859		Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15	2859
2021	1 50	Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express	21 00	2022
		Dep Arr Except Saturday		
8033	6 1	Ahmedabad Express	5 1	8033
8029		Kurla Express via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2842	13 10	Coromandel (Madras) Express via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7004	8 10	Falaknuma (Secunderabad) Express	19 40	7004
		Dep Mon Tues & Fri		
		Arr Mon Thurs & Sat		
6312	7 45	Bangalore Express	13 45	6312
		Dep Sunday		
		Arr Sunday		
8014	1 40	Tata Steel Express	10 20	8014
8112	6 00	Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express	21 25	8112
8006	0 55	Titlagarh Express	5 00	8006
8016	21 30	Ranchi Hatia Express	6 10	8016
8008	1 15	Puri Express via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8410	19 00	Jagannath (Puri) Express	8 40	8410
2822	0	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express	22 05	2822
8046	0 30	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	15 10	8046
8018	16 1	Purulia Express	11 35	8018
		Dep Except Saturday		
		Arr Except Sunday		
	6 10	Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (via Howrah) Sunday only	16 10	
2422	1	New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (via Howrah) Saturday only	10 45	2422
	1	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express Monday only	22 15	
6321	11 0	Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express Saturday only	13 45	6321
6313	11 0	Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
	2 35	Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visaknapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6315	2 35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
	22 3	Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
6519	11 0	Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains, 2208535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203498-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3509535-37

When Nathu Broke the Bank



Nathu grumbled to himself as he swept the steps of the Pipalnagar Bank, owned by Seth Govind Ram He used the small broom hurriedly and carelessly, and the dust, after rising in a cloud above his head settled down again on the steps As Nathu was banging his pan against a dustbin, Sitaram, the washerman's son, passed by

Sitaram was on his delivery round He had a bundle of freshly pressed clothes balanced on his head

"Don't raise such dust!" he called out to Nathu "Are you annoyed because they are still refusing to pay you an extra two rupees a month?"

"I don't wish to talk about it," complained the sweeper-boy "I haven't even received my regular pay And this is the 20th of the month Who would think a bank would hold up a poor man's salary? As soon as I get my money, I'm off! Not another week I work in this place" And Nathu banged the pan against the dustbin several times, just to emphasise his point and giving himself confidence

"Well, I wish you luck," said Sitaram "I'll keep a lookout for any jobs that might suit you" And he plodded barefoot along the road, the big bundle of clothes hiding most of his head and shoulders

At the fourth home he visited, Sitaram heard the lady of the house mention that she was in need of a sweeper Tying his bundle together, he said, "I know of a sweeper boy who's looking for work He can't start from next month He's with the bank just now but they aren't giving him his pay, and he wants to leave"

"Is that so?" said Mrs Srivastava "Well, tell him to come and see me tomorrow"

And Sitaram, glad that he had been of service to both a customer and his friend, hoisted his bag on his shoulders and went his way

Mrs Srivastava had to do some shopping She gave instructions to the *ayah* about looking after the baby, and told the cook not to be late with the mid-day meal Then she set out for the Pipalnagar market place, to make her customary tour of the cloth shops

A large shady tamarind tree grew at one end of the bazaar, and it was here that Mrs Srivastava found her friend Mrs Bhushan sweating in the heat Mrs Bhushan was fanning herself with a large handkerchief She complained of the summer, which she affirmed, was definitely the hottest in the history of Pipalnagar

She then showed Mrs Srivastava a sample of the cloth she was going to buy, and for five minutes they discussed its shade, texture and design Having exhausted this topic, Mrs Srivastava said, "Do you know, my dear, that Seth Govind Ram's bank can't even pay its employees Only this morning I heard a complaint from their sweeper, who hasn't received his wages for over a month!"

"Shocking!" remarked Mrs Bhushan "If they can't pay the sweeper they must be in a bad way None of the others could be getting paid either"

She left Mrs Srivastava at the tamarind tree and went in search of her husband, who was sitting in front of Kamal Kishore's photographic shop, talking with the owner

"So there you are!" cried Mrs Bhushan "I've been looking for you for almost an hour Where did you disappear?"

"Nowhere," replied Mr Bhushan "Had you remained stationary in one shop, I might have found you But you go from one shop to another, like a bee in a flower garden"

"Don't start grumbling The heat is trying enough I don't know what's happening to Pipalnagar Even the bank's about to go bankrupt"

"What's that?" said Kamal Kishore, sitting up suddenly "Which bank?"

"Why the Pipalnagar bank of course I hear they have stopped paying employees Don't tell me you have an account there, Mr Kishore?"

"No, but my neighbour has!" he exclaimed, and he called out over the low partition to the keeper of the barber shop next door "Deep Chand, have you heard the latest? The Pipalnagar Bank is about to collapse You'd better get your money out as soon as you can!"

Deep Chand who was cutting the hair of an elderly gentlemen, was so startled that his hand shook and he nicked his customer's right ear The customer yelped with pain and distress, pain, because of the cut and distress because of the awful



news he had just heard With one side of his neck still unshaven, he sped across the road to the general merchant's store where there was a telephone He dialled Seth Govind Ram's number The Seth was not at home Where was he, then? The Seth was holidaying in Kashmir Oh, was that so? The elderly gentleman did not believe it He hurried back to the barber's shop and told Deep Chand "The bird has flown! Seth Govind Ram has left town Definitely, it means a collapse " And then he dashed out of the shop, making a beeline for his office and cheque book

The news spread through the bazaar with the rapidity of forest fire From the general merchant's it travelled to the shop, circulated amongst the customers and then spread with them in various directions, to the betel-seller, the tailor, the free vendor, the jeweller, the beggar sitting on the pavement

Old Ganpat, the beggar, had a crooked leg He had been squatting on the pavement for years, calling for alms In the evening someone would come with a barrow and take him away He had never been known to walk But now, on learning that the bank was about to collapse, Ganpat astonished everyone by leaping to his feet and actually running at top speed in the direction of the bank It soon became known that he had a thousand rupees in savings!



Nathu arrived next morning to sweep the steps of the bank. He saw the refuse and the broken glass and the stones cluttering the steps. Raising his hands in a gesture of horror and disgust he cried: 'Hooligans! Sons of donkey! As though it isn't bad enough to be paid late, it seems my work has also to be increased!' He smote the steps with his broom scattering the refuse

Men stood in groups at street corners discussing the situation Pipalnagar seldom had a crisis, seldom or never had floods, earthquakes or drought, and the imminent crash of the Pipalnagar Bank set everyone talking and speculating and rushing about in a frenzy Some boasted of their farsightedness, congratulating themselves on having already taken out their money, or on never having put any in, others speculated on the reasons for the crash, putting it all down to excesses indulged in by Seth Govind Ram

The Seth had fled the state, said one He had fled the country, said another, he was hiding in Pipalnagar, said a third He had hanged himself from the tamarind tree, said a fourth, and had been found that morning by the sweeper-boy

By noon, the small bank had gone through all its ready cash, and the harassed manager was in a dilemma Emergency funds could only be obtained from another bank some 30 miles distant, and he wasn't sure he could persuade he could persuade the crowd to wait until then And there was no way of contacting Seth Govind Ram on his houseboat in Kashmir

People were turned back from the counters and told to return the following day They did not like the sound of that And so they gathered outside, on the steps of the bank shouting "Give us our money or we'll break in!" and "Fetch the Seth, we know he's hiding in a safe deposit locker!" Mischief makers who didn't have a paisa in the bank,joined the crowd and aggravated their mood The manager stood at the door and tried to placate them He declared that the bank had plenty of money but no immediate means of collecting it, he urged them to go home and come back the next day

"We want it now!" chanted some of the crowd "Now, now, now!"

And a brick hurtled through the air and crashed through the plate glass window of the Pipalnagar Bank

Nathu arrived next morning to sweep the steps of the bank He saw the refuse and the broken glass and the stones cluttering the steps

Raising his hands in a gesture of horror and disgust he cried

"Hooligans! Sons of donkeys! As though it isn't bad enough to be paid late, it seems my work has also to be increased! He smote the steps with his broom scattering the refuse

"Good morning, Nathu," said the washerman's boy, getting down from his bicycle "Are you ready to take up a new job from the first of next month? You'll have to I suppose, now that the bank is going out of business "

"How's that? ' said Nathu

"Haven't you heard? Well you'd better wait here until half the population of Pipalnagar arrives to claim their money" And he waved cheerfully he did not have a bank account and sped away on his cycle

Nathu went back to sweeping the steps, muttering to himself When he had finished his work, he sat down on the highest step, to await the arrival of the manager He was determined to get his pay

"Who would have thought the bank would collapse!" he said to himself, and looked thoughtfully into the distance "I wonder how it could have happened "

(Sanctuary Features)

The Voice of Ram



I have often heard Bengalis express their distaste at the fact that India since Independence has been dominated by the "cow belt" They will, therefore, be gratified to hear of at least one way in which the Bengali ethos has fought back in the Hindi heartland through Durga Puja

Durga Puja, of course, does not belong to Bengalis In UP, the worship of the goddess is ancient too, but Tulsi Das made the *R mayan* the focal point of faith, devotion and culture In villages and cities, Ram Lilas based on his *Ramayan* were sponsored by rajas and zamindars, with all communities co-operating with arrangements

Nevertheless, "fortresses" of Bengali culture grew up in the cities of Varanasi, Allahabad and Lucknow Well organised committees of educated Bengalis collected donations to ensure that Durga Puja was a big event and with time that puja has spread

In Varanasi, pandals are found the length of the city, impeding the movement of traffic at every turn Huge images stand surrounded by flashing multi-coloured illuminations at the end of avenues of tubelights sponsored by the manufacturers of ayurvedic medicines This modernity, sophistication and organisation appeals to Bengalis and non-Bengalis alike, attracting upwardly mobile urbanised and urbanising Hindus, the educated Hindu middle class and the new rich

The celebration of this urban Durga Puja has gained ground throughout the state In Gorakhpur, even the smallest crossroads seems to have its pandal

In Faizabad, next to Ayodhya, contributions are collected from shopkeepers, hotels and hotel guests for Durga Puja but not for Ram Lilas which take place at the same time

Ram Lilas are closing down In the rush for modernisation and a smart materialistic life Durga appears glamorous while Ram, who fought the greatest demon of his age on foot and barefoot, appears in danger of being dismissed as ganwar or contemptibly rustic, only fit for the village

Even in villages all is not well with Ram Lilas One of my best friends is called Ram but used to play Lakshman in his own village near Allahabad, and is a natural for the part His village players use the lilting verse of the *Radheshyam Ramayan*, but he says there are no longer any good actors to be found to take the Lila seriously The Ram Lila committee itself is beset with arguments

In many other villages, the situation is the same The political awakening of the Dalits, giving them now a new hero in Periyar Ramaswamy Naicker, has led them to challenge upper castes and the traditional concepts of God and helped to destroy the community spirit of the Lila

The abolition of the zamindari has robbed the Ram Lilas of patrons and space to perform A good Ram Lila is nothing less than a mela with thousands of spectators Space is essential and now land has been carved up between owners who have fenced their boundaries

And then there is law and order In places where 20 years ago people did not think twice about walking home at midnight, they now fear robbers, dacoits and murderers And the Ram Lilas are still mainly in the hands of old "pandit-types", rural and traditional, who do not appeal to the young The brighter, better educated boys in any case take to the cities and don't stay at home to play Lakshman any more

The maharaja of Benaras, then, is all the more to be congratulated for maintaining in this new age the most beautiful, and intellectual of all Ram Lilas You need the self-discipline born of culture to appreciate his Ram Lila at Ramnagar otherwise you can't hear anything

At Ramnagar there is no blaring music, there are no tubelights, no loudspeakers or microphones stylised sing-song to carry to the back of the audience, complemented by priests who sing together the words of Tulsi's Ramayan, sitting at the feet of the elephants of Kashi Naresh

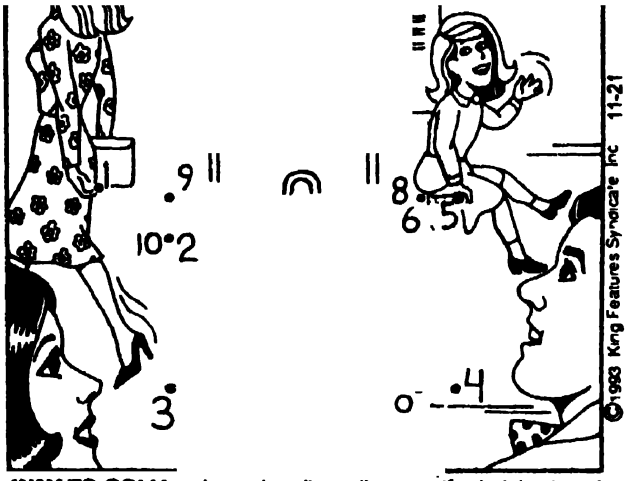
The Lila isn't as grand as it once was The gold crowns of Ram and his brothers are dulled with age The monkey and demon armies are a fairly ragged bunch But the maharaja ensures there are enough funds to perform the 31 nights of the Lila and himself attends every single one

His Ram, too, though, is under threat from modernity Audiences are increasingly restless Stallholders who set up shop near the performance are increasingly intrusive And the greatest threat of all is symbolised by the new road bridge rising to cross the Ganga at Ramnagar The new Varanasi bypass will come to Lanka, where the climax of the story is played Then the voice of Ram may well be forever drowned in the roaring of the demons of the road *(Sanctuary Features)*

The abolition of the zamindari has robbed the Ram Lilas of patrons and space to perform. A good Ram Lila is nothing less than a *mela* with thousands of spectators. Space is essential and now land has been carved up between owners who have fenced their boundaries.

JUNIOR WHIRL

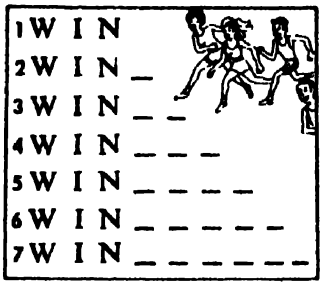
HAL KAUFMAN



WAY TO GO! Mom has a handle on things in this holiday travel scene. To complete picture, add lines dot to dot.

WORD PLAY! "How can you make TEA HOT in five steps?" asked Lewis Carroll. That is to say, change one letter in each step to form a new word. Can you comply?

TEA, ten, ton, tot, HOT is one way.



WINNING WAY WITH WORDS

YOU CAN WIN every step of the way in this exercise. Object is to find stepped-off WIN words in accord with these definitions.

1. **Take all the marbles (WIN, in place)**
2. **Eye-flicker signal**
3. **Show pain with a grimace**
4. **Snowy time**
5. **Blowhard's twin**
6. **Aeroplane measurement**
7. **Largest lake in Wisconsin**

How quickly can you find all of the words?

Time limit: 2 minutes.

1 Win 2 Wink 3 Wince 4 Winie 5 Wind bag 6 wingspan 7 Winnebago

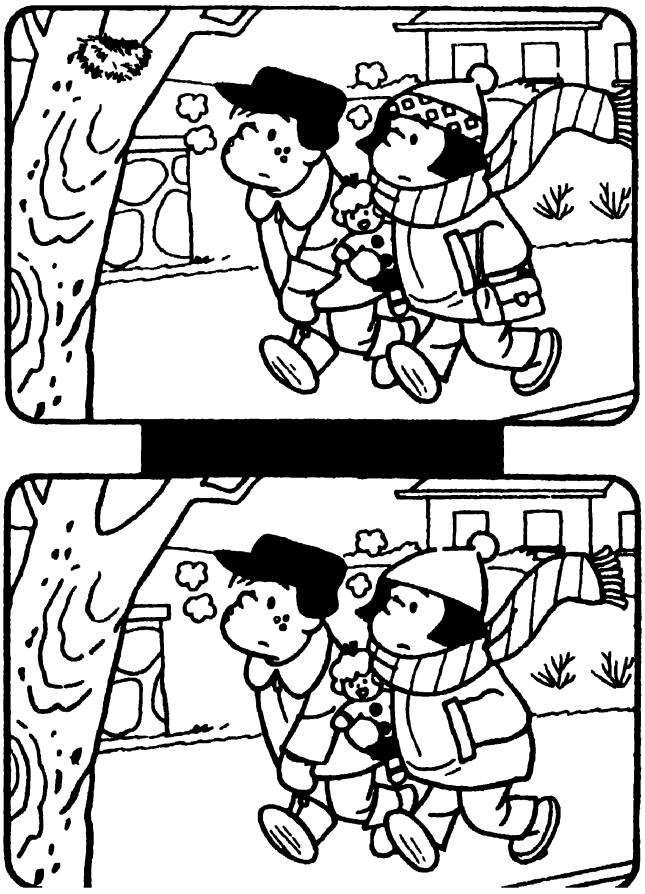
SUM UP! You are asked to complete the addition problem below by inserting digits 1-7 in such a way that each digit in the lower three rows is one more than the digit immediately above it. To begin, for instance, insert 2 under 1,3 under 2 etc. (repeating digits as necessary) until all blanks are filled. What is the sum?

It is simply a matter of digit positioning.

See if you can work it out?

	1	2	3	4
	_	_	_	_
	_	_	_	_
+	_	_	_	_
	1	_	6	_

HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

DIFFERENCES: 1 Nest is missing. 2 Wall is shorter. 3 Mitten is different. 4 Hat is different. 5 Scarf is shorter. 6 Pocketbook is missing.

FUNSPOT



TEE FOR TWO! What has two arms, two heads, and two seats? See above Code. 1—Red. 2—Blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Maroon. 9—Purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

PLATEFUL

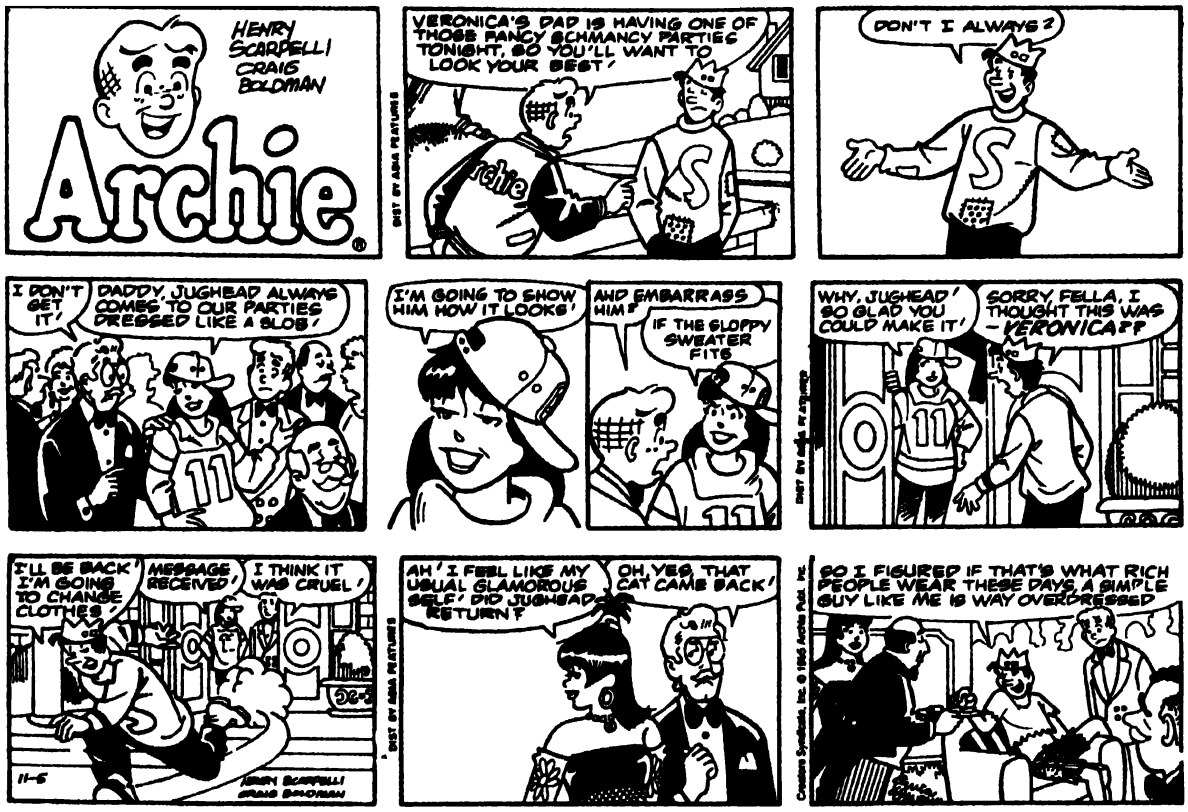
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

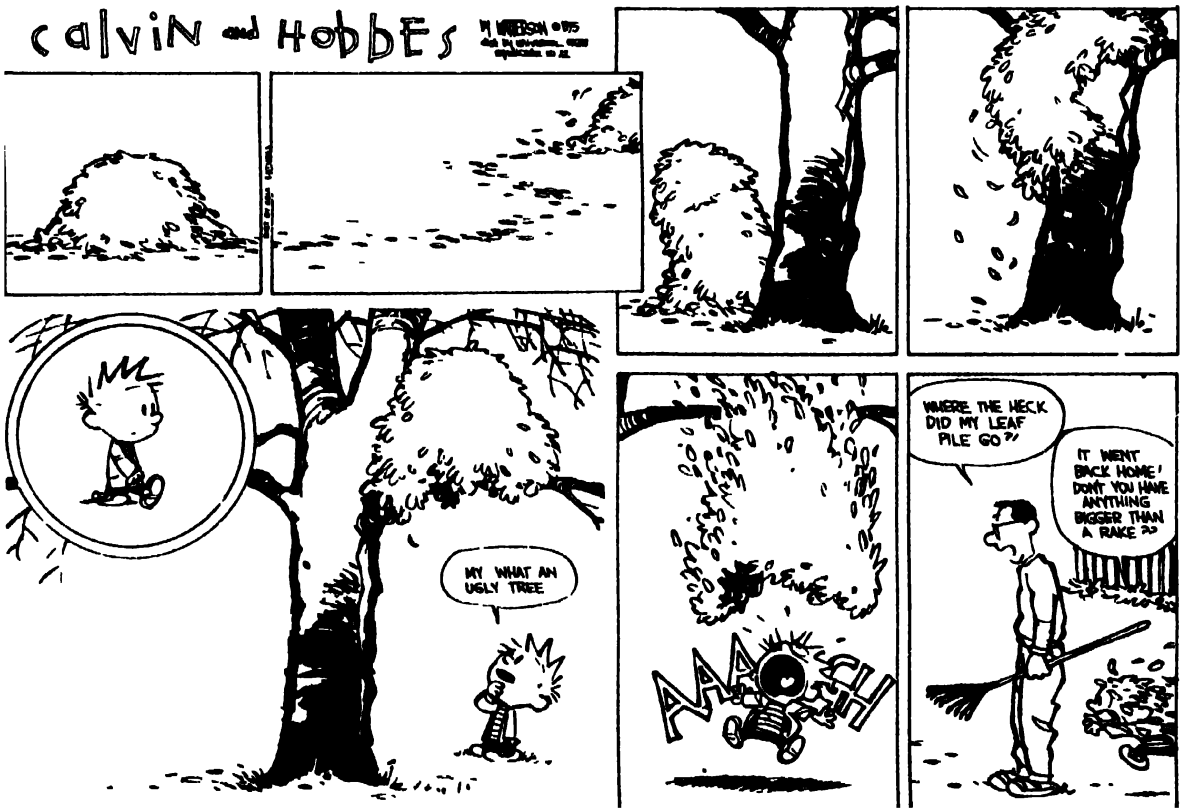
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COMICS

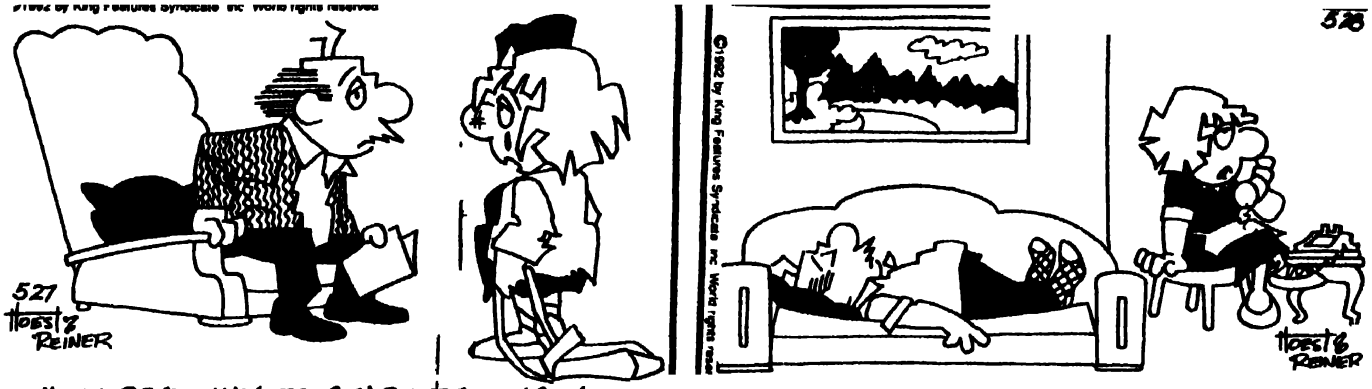
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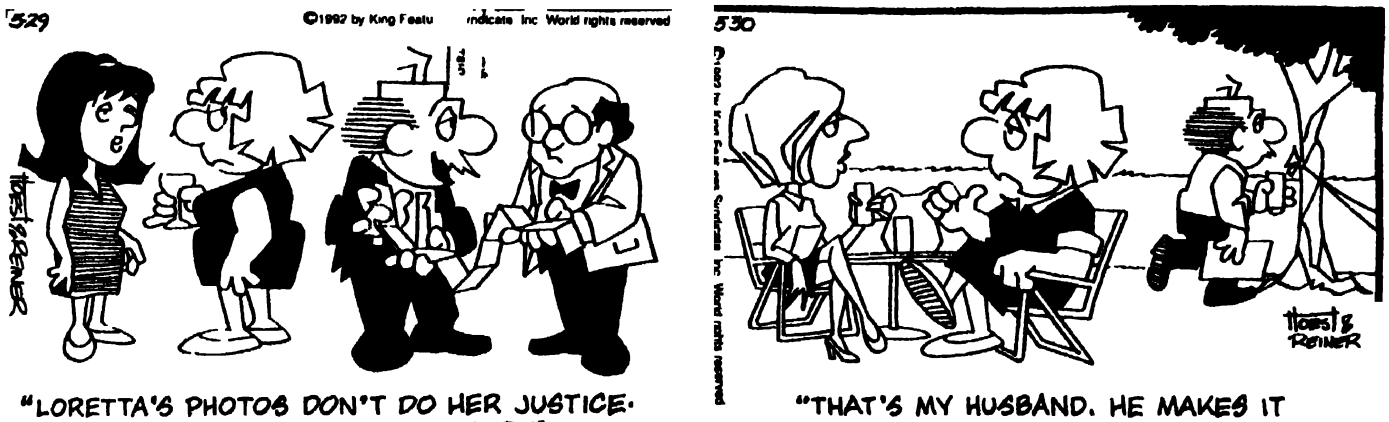


CALVIN AND HOBBES — WATTERSON

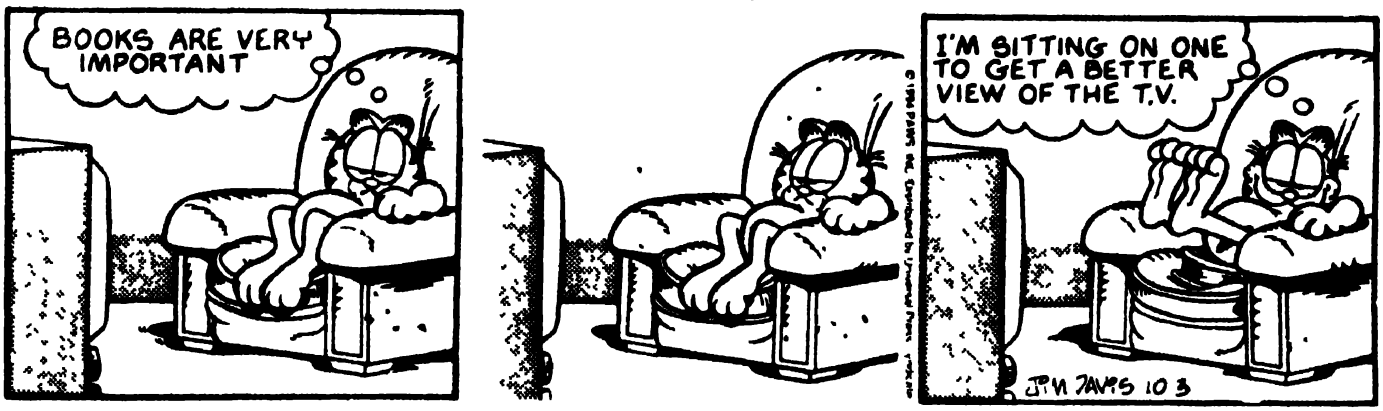


THE LOCKHORNS





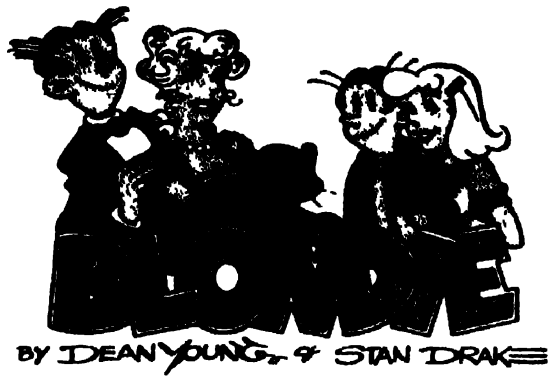
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



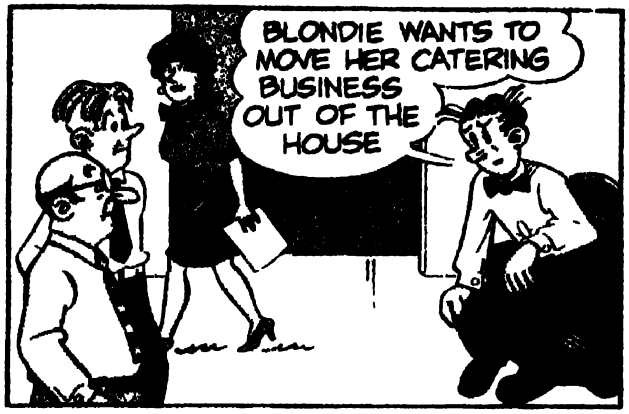


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



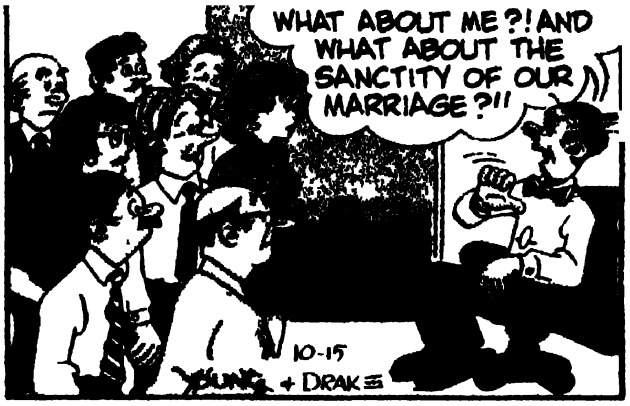

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


I'M HAVING PROBLEMS AT HOME


BLONDIE WANTS TO MOVE HER CATERING BUSINESS OUT OF THE HOUSE


AND I DON'T WANT HER TO! IT'S ALL WRONG! IT'S JUST NOT FAIR!


WHO'S GOING TO BE THERE FOR THE KIDS WHEN THEY GET HOME FROM SCHOOL?!


WHAT ABOUT ME?! AND WHAT ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF OUR MARRIAGE?!!
10-15
YOUNG + DRAKE


DAGWOOD, MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO SEE A MARRIAGE COUNSELOR
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ARE YOU KIDDING?! AND BLAB ALL MY PROBLEMS TO ANOTHER PERSON?!

EXTRACT

The Dilemma of DRAUPADI

Like Nakul, Sahadev was modest and gentle, but sparing of speech He did not speak unless it was necessary Was talking indispensable? Lines of poetry were written in his very limbs Dreams gathering thick in his eyes conjured up the love-tryst Though he was ever immersed in profound thought, on looking at him it would seem as if you were hearing the rhythm of poetry

The moment he saw me poetry bloomed in his dreamy eyes For some moments he kept staring at me unblinking Drowned in embarrassment, I sat stiff He kept gazing, enamoured, lost Then, somewhat sadly, sighed deeply I got worried What was his grief and why?

He said nothing Should I speak first on the wedding night?

He spoke first "Krishnaa! On earth man alone is aware of death and conscious of the future Therefore, he is afraid, is anxious, has dreams, gets lost in thoughts of the future He suffers too The beast has no worry about the future, the present is its supreme moment This is the difference between man and beast Man planning for the future commits sins as well as virtuous deeds Since the ancient times man's mind has been filled with irrepressible curiosity and anxiety regarding the future Your future flashed before my eyes the moment I saw you in the *swayamvar* hall Your future is so romantic that on that very day I wished to make myself a partner in it We are princes of Hastinapur but are facing a severe trial What his purpose is in uniting you with our lives, only Govind knows I know only this that you can become a fitting companion on our life-paths On knowing this, the irrepressible desire to get you that had arisen in my heart has been fulfilled But remember one thing when I speak I cannot be wholly frank because since childhood I have been over-sensitive We are twin sons of mother Madri . Nakul is more handsome than me, lively and strong Therefore, he leaves me behind in everything So much so that even in getting the love of our parents I used to be left behind

"Father left us in childhood Ma Kunti filled that vacancy As a child, being quiet by nature, I was not able to think about myself Bhim used to keep Ma Kunti so preoccupied that I did not feel like bothering her much Therefore, I remained content with whatever I got You are my wife, but the other four brothers have equal rights over you Because of their power and strength if all leave me behind in the race for your affection, respect, intimacy, I will not blame you I will not assert my rights by force either My principle is to remain content with whatever comes my way But it is the duty of the wife to understand her husband's mind If you keep performing your duties properly, I will never have to speak my mind about anything"

I sat quiet Why did God give me so many qualities that all five brothers had found their various inclinations and likes in me? What if I failed to satisfy everyone fully?

Can anyone please everyone? Even God cannot satisfy everyone If you try to satisfy everyone no one gets satisfied Your own mind gets weighed down Merely on thinking of this, you lose confidence in yourself I felt helpless and distressed I asked myself, "Who will help me? On whom shall I depend? Govind, who has turned my life into a joke? Does he find happiness in this? All right, Govind, I, too, will find happiness in this Because you are my husband's dear *sakha* If you are happy, then my husband will be happy It is just in this that my life will become meaningful"

For five days the marriage festivities went on Music, lights, dance and songs, gifts, feasting with all this the Panchal capital echoed with joy like Indra's palace

The weddings were over Now the bridegrooms and the bride were



BY PRATIBHA RAY

Extracted from** Yajnaseni The Story of Draupadi* ***by Pratibha Ray; Rupa & Co., Rs 145

to be sent off It was my misfortune that my husbands had been driven out of their kingdom To save themselves, they were roaming in the forests Where, in which forest, would they keep the gifts given by Father? He had given each son-in-law a thousand begemmed, gold plated chariots with pennants, a thousand sand white elephants decked with gold ornaments, loaded with jewels, many types of luxurious items and beautiful slaves and maids For each son-in-law expensive garments had been given as presents For me, specially, pots of my favourite flowers on a thousand chariots, my pets, my library, my musical instruments, various types of clothes and jewellery Much had come as gifts from Father's allies Krishna, ruler of Dvarka, had sent many presents Among them was a ring set with a blue sapphire and also a maid named Maya

Then Krishna had said, "These two are my favourite things I give you this blue-sapphire ring as my blessing It is my most precious ring I have been wearing it personally There is a special quality in it On gazing at its centre concentratedly for some time many dilemmas are resolved "

Indicating the extremely lovely maid Maya, Govind said, "Since childhood she has been with me She has always taken full note of my needs She loves me so much that she cannot tolerate anyone else serving me In case anyone bothers me, she is ever alert by my side But, whoever stations her in her heart, she envelops him with her love to such an extent that nothing else is visible to him This maid of mine, Maya, is as much the cause of grief as the remover of grief Several tasks of mine are achieved through her If she did not exist, it would have been difficult to resolve the many problems of Dvarka, Hastinapur and these Pandavs Arjun, despite being a younger brother, is also my *priya sakha* As his wife, from today, you are my *priya sakhi* Hence my first gift to you is dear Maya "

I was grateful and said, "She has been with you for such a long time and is your helper in solving all your problems How will you carry on your work if you give her away to me? Who will look after your needs and take care of you?"

In a grave voice Govind said, "We shall see Your predicament is of greater significance at present than my problems Now you have to live with five husbands You will have to face new problems all the time In solving them, Maya will surely be of help to you That is why I am leaving her with you Otherwise, you will be in difficulty Troubled with the difficult responsibility of having five husbands, sometime or other you will want to become an ascetic and take to the forest At that time who will stand as a barrier in your path?" Govind's soft smile left much unsaid I forgot everything in that smile Standing beside Maya, I kept gazing at him I was grateful to Govind My helplessness was truly known only to him However much arrogance I might display outwardly, *sakha* Krishna could comprehend that I was cast into terrible danger because of five husbands Though Nitambini was dearest to me among



Illustration Krishnendu Chaki

the *sakhis*, she was not as intelligent as Maya That was why along with other gifts he had given Maya to me

But where would I go with so many gifts?

Sizing up the entire situation Father said, "As long as they wish, the five Pandavs and mother Kunti can live as guests in the Panchal kingdom Glory will redound to Panchal by playing host to them " Father would feel even happier if that happened

But how could I be pleased with this proposal? Where was my pride in this? In fact, my self-respect would suffer if that happened I would feel that I was seeking sanctuary in my father's kingdom For how long would it be tolerable to live as a dependent of my father and my brother? The kingdom which was mine till the day before, I would be a guest there now! Truly, how strange were the ways of society!

How long could one stay as a guest? The reputation of my husbands, too, would suffer After some time people would start looking down on them This was the way of the world It was now my task to see to it that not even the hint of a slur was cast on my husbands in my father's kingdom How could I tolerate it if it was otherwise? While living in my father's house, I had followed the daughter's *dharma* Now the time had come for following the wife's *dharma* My five husbands, having lost their kingdom, were poor and without a home But there had not been any doubt regarding their valour, their heroism and character Why should I not be proud of them?

Being wealthy may be a cause for prowess and fame, but acquiring wealth by unfair means cannot be termed manhood The Kauravas, having deprived the Pandavs of their kingdom by unfair means, were now ruling over vast Hastinapur But that did not mean that their prowess was greater than that of the Pandavs Now the Kauravs were being condemned all over Aryavart Bereft of wealth, the five Pandav brothers were the very souls of virtue That was why throughout Aryavart their praises were being sung Therefore, despite my not becoming a queen, there was no slur on my reputation Truly, I was proud of my five husbands

But it is one thing to be proud of one's husband's prowess and quite another to be happy with one's husband Keeping the husband happy is an even more complicated task

This was the problem before me After the marriage ceremonies were over my actual married life was about to begin It was easy to get married one by one to five husbands But how complicated it was to live a married life successfully with them! I did not know how in the past someone had accepted seven husbands or eleven husbands for the sake of *dharma* But at that time, in all of Aryavart, except me there was not a single woman mar-

ried to more than one husband, let alone five husbands! Therefore, Aryavart waited with curiosity and amazement to watch the farce of my married life I wondered if my life would ultimately turn into such a farce At one time it was proper for me to accept the wish of everyone I had never imagined that I would be shouldering such a huge responsibility in life Then I had not thought that the desires, inclinations, hopes and personalities of five men would be so different from one another Now, considering the entire matter, I felt utterly helpless

Even if I devoted three hours of a night to one husband, that would mean one husband's night going fruitless Then how was I to divide the night or divide myself?

The first day of my married life began In the morning, having bathed and dressed as a new bride, I *pranam*ed mother Kunti Mother's blessing was, "Krishnaa, may God keep you happy! You have been able to fill my daughter's place Make your husbands happy with all your heart and soul Concentrating on their lotus feet, serve guests and visitors as if they were the Divine I am blessed in having so learned a person as you as my daughter-in-law"

Having taken Mother's blessings, I proceeded towards Yudhishthir's bedroom Krishna was there Mother had directed that I should *prunam* him Some unknown visitor was in Yudhishthir's bedroom Their conversation could be heard He was saying, "But Govind! What is the purpose behind your putting Devi Krishnaa into such a terrible predicament? In the abode of the Gods everyone is waiting with eager and curious eyes to observe the love, estrangement and conflict of Draupadi, the heroine of five men Why did you thrust her into such shame? For the Gods there is a custom of having many wives This has enhanced the fame of their prowess But have you given a thought to the shame and guilt suffered by a woman marrying many husbands? By this, womanhood is insulted Does the lord of Dvarka not know this?"

My feet turned to stone I was listening to the tale of my shame and insult Whoever the visitor might be I could not make up my mind to face him I turned back towards the restroom Benumbed, I sat down on the bed My reflection gleamed on the smooth marble of the walls I felt that I was breaking down under the onslaught of grief, shame and anxiety The very next moment within the new bride Krishnaa, Yajnaseni, born of the sacrificial flames, rose in revolt She stood up in revolt against the laws of the abode of the Gods, according to which one man might accept as many women as he wished, but if one woman married more than one husband she would be branded a sinner Who had laid down this law? It must be some male God! Otherwise how could there be such a distinction of virtue and sin between male and female?

All the rituals and rules that had been created in society built around the distinction between rich poor, high-low, brahmin-chandal, male-female and such others, the pro-



found inequities that had been set up based upon considerations of virtue and sin against all of these a lifelong war would have to be waged

Actually, the acceptance of five husbands was a challenge to the entire race of women As though it were a golden opportunity for proving that even after marrying many men together, the pristine purity of a woman's character could remain unsullied

If a woman confined to the inner chambers, having no opportunity to see the face of a man other than her husband, was faithful, some possibility of her chastity being in doubt remained But even after having married many men if she could remain faithful to them then she could be called *sati* Perhaps that was why, despite having more than one husband, Tara and Mandodari were still *satis* who were saluted at every dawn Lakshman's wife Urmila led the life of a prisoner for 14 years in the inner apartments waiting for her husband Yet, Ayodhya city did not resound with shouts of praise hailing *sati* Urmila Devi Sita was abducted by Ravan and imprisoned in the Ashok forest She lived there in the midst of the demon king Ravan and many demons, facing many lewd advances from them Yet she spent her time single-mindedly waiting for her husband Therefore, she could become famous as a *sati* On the other hand, Urmila remained absent from public view

What heroism is there in a man clinging on to values in circumstances where he has no alternative but to cling to them? True heroism lies in remaining steadfast in ones values in adverse circumstances In this world of good and evil it is not possible to appreciate the goodness of virtue without sin Without sin how can the fame of virtue be established? If there is no *adharma* then how can *dharma* be established? Without darkness how shall we comprehend light? It was, after all, because of the wicked that God incarnated on this earth again and again I thought it was sin that had made virtue so noble It was because of the wicked that saints were considered great men This was the difference between my thoughts and those of an ordinary princess

When I saw or heard that in every king's royal apartments many queens, bedecking themselves, kept waiting for him, while, according to his whim, the king might or might not visit one queen's apartments, then I wondered how it would be if it were the other way about? One queen and a thousand kings! They would spend night after night waiting for her! He whom the queen loved best would be made the "Chief King" by her Hearing my views the *sakhis* used to laugh, "Princess! Keep these thoughts to yourself Do not open your mouth to anyone People will cry shame! Everyone will say, the princess is surely unchaste if not physically, at least in thought One woman accepting many men what an impossible situation you are imagining!"

I would get angry, "Chaste woman! Unchaste woman! In the same way why don't the scriptures speak of chaste men and unchaste men? Are men's hearts made of gold that sin cannot tarnish them? Have the scriptures prescribed lists of sins only for women?" ■

PINUP

How about Madonna as President?

The latest passion of JFK Jr is George, *a political glossy. But why him, and why this, wonders* ***Rajlakshmi Bhattacharyya***

The irony is delicious. The man who has spent his life escaping the media has actually joined forces with them. Though John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 34-year-old son of the assassinated President, knows only too well the nightmares of being a celebrity, he will now be making celebrities out of others

In September, he launched *George*, a pop glossy on politics Always helping to sell millions of magazines for other people, John is currently trying to sell them on his own steam

He has earned epithets that varied from the hunk and the sexiest man alive to being America's most eligible bachelor But the dilettante at last seems serious of having found the vocation of his life

America's recollection of JFK Jr goes back to the time when he was born days after his father was elected President, in 1960. Just when he should have been celebrating his third birthday, the boy lost his father to an assassin's bullet Since then, Jacqueline strove fiercely to protect her children from the paparazzi's glare.

Junior was not exactly a bright student at school, but as he matured into manhood, showed great prowess at what the Kennedys were legendary for : chasing skirts.

He was a district attorney in New York for a while and twice failed the Bar exams prompting tabloid headlines to jeer, `Hunk flunks . But that was barring the six cases he



prosecuted and won. After four years, Kennedy gave up, thoroughly bored, confiding to a colleague that he did not want "to be just another passenger on a liner"

Restlessness has been a dominant factor in JFK Jr's genes. Like his father he thinks boredom is the greatest sin and is always on the move roller blading, hiking, dancing, throwing footballs and frisbees.

As those hurly burly days of his life lacked purpose, his sister Caroline's took on a more decisive turn. She married, had children and became a legal scholar

But that was before his decision to bring out *George* with his old buddy Michael Berman in the wake of the 1992 presidential elections The magazine, feels Berman, is intended to be to politics what Rolling Stone is to popular music, *Forbes* is to business or *Allure* is to beauty It is going to talk about the people behind the scenes and would have snazzy graphics, quite unlike any political magazine of its time

The cover of the first issue is of supermodel Cindy Crawford dressed up as a seductive burlesque of George Washington after whom the magazine is christened

She appears again in a Revlon advertisement, and later, as fashion editor in conversation with designer Issac Mizrahi on political style.

There are conjectural stories on Madonna as president, Julia Roberts on how she was victimised by the press on a UN trip to Haiti and an Exit Poll which finds that Lamar Alexander prefers Oprah Winfry to Uma Thurman.

Politics may have been the staple of the Kennedy family, but neither JFK Jr nor Berman had any publishing experience before They admitted to attending a two-day seminar called, 'Starting Your own Magaz ine'

The media conglomerate Hachette Filipacchi would hardly have pumped in $20 million had it not been for the magic of the Kennedy name Nor would the advertisers have bought 175 pages in the first edition

But for once, at least, Kennedy has taken a risk, judging by the the number of political magazines floundering in the American market And the Americans, too, have never been more disillusioned with their politicians

Kennedy under pressure from Hachette has abandoned his earlier plans of a magazine for the high-minded few to one that would have a much wider circulation, catering to the committed college educated crowd (25-49 age group) including the untapped women readers

Should *George* fail to deliver, JFK Jr would be shorn of much of the enigma that seems to have been his birthright Right now, he is bounding with ideas "of ending up as president " of, if not the nation, but, "a very successful publishing venture", churning out pop-political magazines that look more like *Mirabella* and *Elle*-- youthful and exuberant Something like the man himself ■

SANGEETA RANI PURI, the 16-year-old swimmer has broken just about every record in the book each time she has plunged into the pool. The Trinidad-born California-raised Sangeeta has a dream: To give India an Olympic swimming medal.

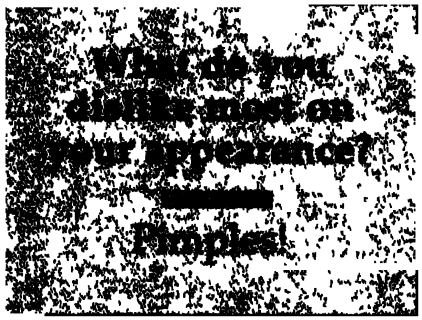
What is your idea of perfect happiness?
A world full of love and peace.
What is your greatest fear?
The fear of fear itself.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mom.
What do you dislike most in others?
No comment.
What do you dislike most in yourself?



No comment.
What is your most precious possession?
My family.
What objects do you always carry?
Something to read.
What makes you most depressed?
People's hardships.
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
Pimples!
What is your favourite word?
Smile..
What is your favourite journey?
Going for icecreams.
What is your favourite dream?
No comment.
What is your nightmare?
Free-falling..



What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Laughter.



What is your source of sustenance?
A few good friends.
On what occasions do you lie?
I may tell a half-truth when I don't want to hurt someone.
What is your greatest regret?
I don't have any because I think everything happens for a reason..
What has been your happiest moment?
Every goal I have achieved.
What brings tears to your eyes?
Sad news.
How do you relax?
By reading a good book.

What do you envy most in others?
Nothing.

How would you like to be remembered?
With pride.
How would you like to die?
I've never given it a thought because I feel so full of life.

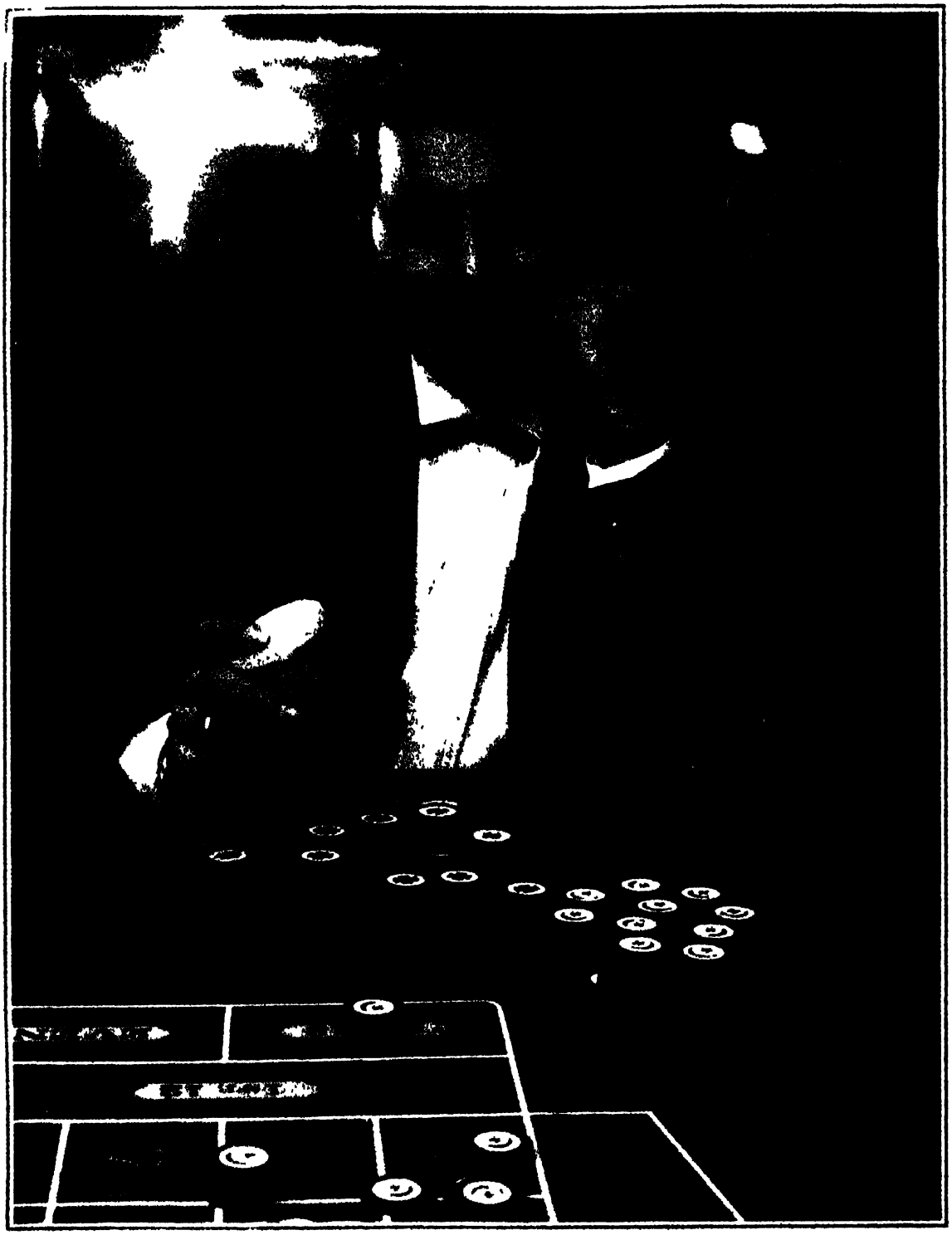
THE MAN.
THE MACHINE..
THE TYRE...
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MRF TYRES

THE INTERNATIONAL FAVOURITE



STATUTORY WARNING: CHEWING TOBACCO IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

BABA

PREMIUM CHEWING TOBAC

26 NOVEMBER 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Self Policing

■ Presentday hooliganism and the sense of insecurity that have spread in the city and its suburbs is actually the product of Bengal's *'para* culture' ('Para Troopers', October 1).

This culture has, in fact, spawned another culture which can be referred to as the 'goon culture'. The proliferation of local clubs has increased inter- and intra-para conflicts; money is forced out of residents as *chanda* for every occasion and any refusal to comply will lead to injury to one's self or property or both.

Come any festival, microphones are installed playing film songs in full volume, often late into the night, regardless of the discomfort being caused to the entire neighbourhood. Examinations of the young and the inconvenience caused to the aged and sick have little consideration.

Para dadas idle away invaluable time striking coins on the carrom board or making catcalls at passing girls.

It is this culture which is adding to the woes of the citizens. If the activities of these clubs are controlled, then the people would be a more happy lot.

Dipak Kumar Agarwal, Howrah

■ I protest the wrong and motivated statement of a resident of Lake Gardens that people from the rail colony in the neighbourhood terrorise the area.

I have been living in Lake Gardens for 34 years and am associated with different social organisations of the area. Govindpur, Mollahati and Masjidpur areas have social clubs which are seriously dedicated towards eradicating illiteracy, curbing antisocial activities, organising blood donation camps and tree plantation drives.

Shovanlal Bakshi, Calcutta

■ Every part of Bengal has its own story about the cult of lawlessness perpetrated by the cadres of the ruling party: land-grabbing, eve-teasing, lynching have become the order of the day.

If vigilant groups have sprung up in every locality, it is a poor reflection of the people's faith in the law enforcing machinery. It is no use basking in a sense of glory which does not exist anymore.

As long as Marxist *dadas* continue their reign of terror and people die in police lockups, we should not talk about Bengal being a great state.

Manoj Kumar Jain, Shyamnagar (W.B.)



A model displays a Ritu Kumar creation in London

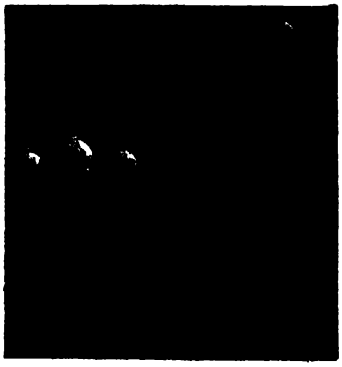
Not So Haute

■ How are middleclass readers (who constitute the majority) concerned about what Ritu Kumar (many have not even heard of her) designs for Miss UK aspirants ('Eastern Bypass!', September 24).

Designer outfits are meant for people of affluence who can afford to dole out Rs 2,000 at will for a jacket.

Arta Mishra, Cuttack

INSIDE



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KHUSHWANT SINGH, explosive as ever, talks about his Pakistan hangup, among other things in his forthcoming autobiography An extract

PAGE 26

HERE'S A new Hollywood therapy to grow bustier

Pakistan

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28 POETRY
29 LIMELIGHT
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Khushwant Singh, picture Jagdish Yadav

COVER STORY

Sarson Da SAGA

Khushwant Singh *talks about his epic love for Pakistan, among other things, in his explosive autobiography, to be published shortly. Also about poetry, bottles and zip fasteners— no jokes!*



I AM AMONGST THE FEW INDIANS FORTUNATE enough to have visited Pakistan many times. Only once did I sense hostility towards me. This happened to be soon after Partition when feelings against Indians, particularly Sikhs, ran very high.

I was passing through Karachi on my way to London. I had a few hours to spare and hired a taxi to see the sights of the city I had never visited before. I asked the driver to take me to Mr Jinnah's grave. As soon as I stepped out of the cab, a crowd began to collect. I heard someone shout, "What business have these people to come to Pakistan?" The taxi driver took me by my arm, put me in his cab and drove away.

Anti-Sikh feelings had spread throughout the Muslim world, where wildly exaggerated stories of Sikhs massacring Muslims were circulated. I sensed this at Cairo when I stepped out of my hotel to take a stroll. I heard people shout "Sikh" and realising that they did not mean to be friendly, retraced my steps to the hotel.

I never experienced this animosity against Sikhs in Pakistan again. On my subsequent visits, I was singled out for a special welcome. Tongawallas and cab drivers refused to take money from me, shopkeepers gave away

things free, plied me with tea and cold drinks I recall my visit to Murree with Manzur Qadir, who was then Pakistan's Foreign Minister We happened to pass by a shop selling walking sticks. Manzur wanted one for himself, I thought I would take one as a memento After we had selected what we wanted, Manzur asked for their price. On being told, I remarked to Manzur in English that you could get them cheaper in Shimla Manzur translated my remark to the shopkeeper *"Aap durust farmaatey hain* (You must be right)," replied the shopkeeper "This one is a gift from me to our Sikh visitor, you pay me half for the other" I asked him if he knew who the person with me was "I do," he replied "I see his pictures in the papers He is our Foreign Minister He pays for what he buys, you don't pay for anything in Pakistan"

Besides the general goodwill Sikhs, whom they had once hated, educated Pakistanis also knew how often I had stuck my neck out in their support For Jinnah's birth centenary celebrations they invited two Indians to read papers in their seminar The other delegate failed to show up I was the sole Indian amongst a galaxy of European and American scholars on Indo-Pak affairs When my turn came to speak, I referred to my father's friendship for their Qaid and his being the Chief Guest at my wedding I went on to quote Jinnah's first speech as Governor-General of Pakistan in which he assured Hindu and Sikh minorities of equal treatment and exhorted them to regard Pakistan as their motherland He had never wanted the two-way migration of religious minorities I stated categorically that Indians accepted the right of Pakistan to be a sovereign, independent state, what we did not, nor ever would accept, was the two-nation theory of Muslims being a nation apart from Hindus and Sikhs. My speech was applauded But soon Pakistani delegates began to heckle me. "If you don't accept the two-nation theory, you don't accept Pakistan," they maintained I stood my ground, argued that we conceded Pakistan because the majority of the population of the regions concerned wanted to have independent states of their own and not because they were Muslims. If we accepted the two-nation theory, what were we to do with the 90 million Muslims who remained in India? I got a second round of applause from colle-





'You have been saying nice things about Pakistan, now tell us the truth. Do you really think Pakistan is going the right way and is doing as well as India?' they asked me. I told them 'Pakistan Standard Time is 30 minutes behind the Indian. You are 30 years behind us in development'

ge students in the audience They invited me to their campus to speak to a selected number of students on Indo-Pak affairs "You have been saying nice things about Pakistan, now tell us the truth Do you really think Pakistan is going the right way and is doing as well as India?" they asked me

I told them "Pakistan Standard Time is 30 minutes behind the Indian You are 30 years behind us in development I had seen a large number of fancy cars on the road, all imported from Japan, Germany, England or the United States — not one manufactured in Pakistan In India foreign automobiles were a rare sight "However, *rat-khatua* our cars may be, they are made in India," I said with *rat-khatua* pride Even match boxes and the lavatory paper in my hotel room came from China They were talking of having colour TV when they could not produce simple items like bicycles in their own country

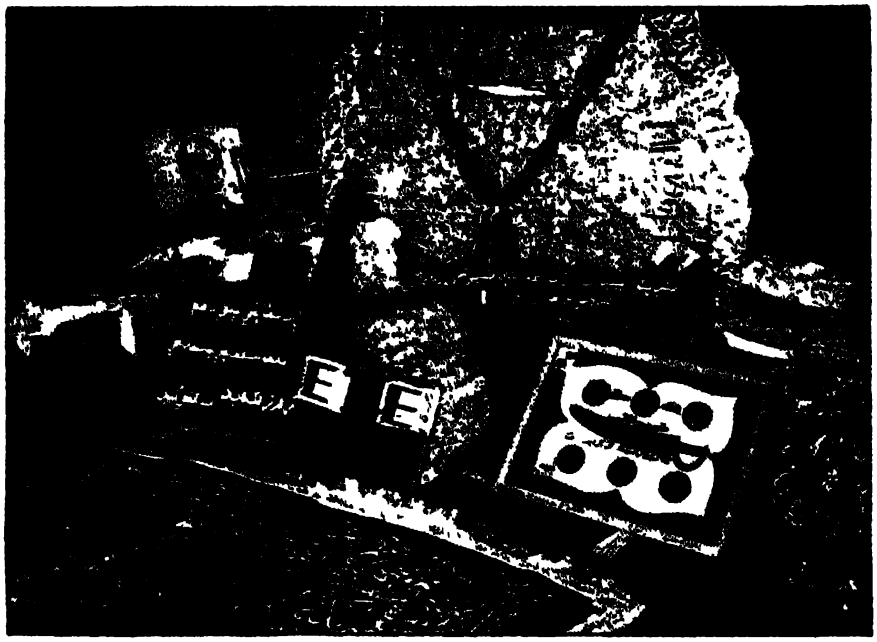
"Why do you think this is so?" they asked

"You can either build new mosques or make motor cars," I replied "You can't do both at the same time" I told them of the dozens of modern mosques I had seen going up in every new quarter in Islamabad Of course, what I said was somewhat of an exaggeration, but they understood that I was doing so to drive my point home And they knew I was a friend

Once I happened to be in the Karachi International Hotel I had been out for a late dinner and wanted a little sleep before catching the morning flight to Bombay A tall, dark young man accosted me on my way to the elevator "A Sardarji from nowhere," he said jovially, grabbing my arm "Come and have a drink with me" I protested that I had already had enough and wanted to retire "You will have one with me before you go," he said as he dragged me into the bar. He was a powerful man There was no escape I ordered a Drambuie "You some kind of businessman? You from Iran or Afghanistan?" he asked I explained I was from Bombay and was the editor of a paper "In that case you have to have another," he insisted, and ordered a second Drambuie I didn't know how to escape from his clutches Every time I tried to get up he pulled me back on my chair "You may be an editor or something bigger," he said aggressively, "I write the names of the likes of you on my *l___a* (penis)" I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you write them with a ball point pen?" He didn't catch the pun Fortunately for me, his bladder was full and he had to go to the loo "Don't you run away when I am emptying my bladder," he warned me as he staggered out That is exactly what I did Instead of taking the elevator, I ran up the stairs to the security of my room



Khushwant Singh in front of his Delhi residen



Lokendra Pratap Sahi

Bhutto's *mazaar* in his native village in Larkana



Pradeep Sharma

I have visited Pakistan almost every alternate year for the past several years One visit was to attend the wedding of my friend M A Rahman's son, and another to deliver the Manzur Qadir Memorial Lecture I wandered about freely and unescorted in the streets of Lahore I made it a point to pay homage at the graves of my departed friends, Manzur Qadir, his uncle Saleem and Mohammad Anwar My association was not restricted to the past every time I went I made new friends, was invited to new homes, they came to mine when in Delhi Amongst my latest acquaintances are the publisher-bookseller Najam Sethi and his moon-faced beauty of a wife who edits *Friday*, her cousin the poetess Hina Feisal Imam and her sister's husband Aijazuddin of the Hakeem family, three of whom were among Maharaja Ranjit Singh's closest advisers.

Many years later, I was invited to a media seminar in Islamabad on Indo-Pak relations Amongst the other invitees were Prem Bhatia, editor of *The Tribune*, and Kuldip Nayar Despite the tension prevailing between the two countries, the atmosphere in the seminar was most cordial I had no idea that I was being treated as the leader of the Indian delegation till at a lunch hosted by their Foreign Secretary Nawabzada Yakub Ali Khan, I found myself seated on his right After lunch he delivered a long and lucid oration analysing Indo-Pak tensions and proposed a toast (in plain water) for future good relations I was expected to respond I insisted that Prem Bhatia, being the seniormost amongst us, should reply I only had to raise my glass of water and wish Pakistan prosperity Bhatia made a short, dry speech

That evening there was a farewell banquet for us in the hotel where we were staying Our host was Pakistan's Minister for Information and Broadcasting The evening before I had seen him in a panel discussion on TV He was being heckled by three Maulvi looking types and a lady draped in a *burqa* with its flap thrown back to reveal her dour face They complained that Pakistani electronic media was not doing enough to inform the people of the beauties of Islam and the validity of the two-nation theory He was having a hard time convincing them that he was doing his best I came to the banquet well-oiled with Scotch At that time there was strict prohibition in Pakistan Once again, I found myself seated on the right of the host Bhatia told me, "*Bacchoo* (son) this time you have to make your own speech " A printed copy of the minister's speech was handed over to us I didn't have the foggiest notion of how to respond It ruined my appetite for food and soured the whiskey inside me When I stood up to speak, I referr-



Every time I tried to get up he pulled me back on my chair. 'You may be an editor or something bigger,' he said aggressively, 'I write the names of the likes of you on my *l___a* (penis).' I couldn't resist asking him, 'Do you write them with a ball point pen?' He didn't catch the pun



Jinnah: 'He had never wanted the two-way migration of religious minorities'



After passing through customs and immigration, I had to face Security. The man ran his metal detector over my turban and body. As he was taking it over my middle, there was a loud beep of protest. He paused.... He tried again. Again a loud beep. '*Janab, fauladi hai* (Sir, it is made of steel),' I told him. It was my zip fastener which was made of steel, but he understood what I had alluded to

ed to the minister being pilloried on TV the previous evening. I told the audience that, despite prohibition, I had my quota of Scotch and if they wanted to do anything about it they better do it fast because in a few hours I would be flying back to India. I said that before leaving Pakistan I would make an offering of an Urdu couplet to the minister, which might come in handy when he next faced the *thekedars* of Islam It ran

Mullah, gar asar hai dua mein
To masjid hila kay dikha
Gar nahin, to do ghoont pee
Aur masjid ko hilta deykh

(Mullah, if there is power in your prayer
Let me see you shake the mosque!
If not, take a couple of swigs of liquor
And see the mosque shake on its own)

The audience burst out in full-throated laughter My host was most amused and took down the couplet He then told me how fed up he was of the prevalent bigotry and religious fanaticism "You know, they objected to our showing the Chinese women's table-tennis team playing in T-shirts and very short shorts If they had their way, they would insist that our women's hockey team play in *burqas* '

I don't know how the Pakistani press reported my speech because I left Islamabad in the early hours of the morning for Lahore *en route* to Delhi I had my last laugh at the expense of the Pakistanis at Lahore airport After passing through customs and immigration, I had to face Security The man ran his metal detector over my turban and body As he was taking it over my middle, there was a loud beep of protest He paused What could I be hiding in the front of my middle? He tried again Again a loud beep "*Janab, fauladi hai* (Sir, it is made of steel)," I told him It was my zip fastener which was made of steel, but he understood what I had alluded to and ran round telling his fellow security officers what I had said They came beaming with smiles to shake my hand

●●●

In my entire life I have never encountered another people as reckless in their generosity as Punjabi Mussalmans The trait is not to be found in Punjabi Hindus or Sikhs, nor to the same extent in Pakistanis of the Frontier Provinces or Sindh It is unique to the people living between the Indus and the Sutlej, down to the confluence of the Punjab's five rivers They have other traits unique to them They are

not a humble people and share much of the pride common to most Punjabis Being Muslim adds to their self-esteem Their logic is simple· Punjabis are the world's elite; Islam is the best of all religions Put the two together and you get the best people in the world When puritanical, they can be insufferably narrow-minded and fanatical. A call to *jehad* brings out all their macho, militant zeal to do or die Then it is best to keep out of their way I have a simple rule avoid making friends with a Punjabi Pakistani who prays five times a day, who fasts during Ramadan — and does not drink

Rahman used to be a healthy drinker after developing a heart problem he occasionally takes half a peg of whiskey to keep others company Our common friend, Ejaz Batalvi, has never been much of a drinker and will fondle his first glass of Scotch all evening Their attitudes towards religion are also different Rahman, though otherwise very liberal-minded, conforms to the spartan traditions of the Wahabis and has no use for Sufism and paying homage at the tombs of saints Batalvi, on the other hand believes that the true spirit of Islamic tolerance is best seen in the teachings of Sufi saints My last afternoon in Lahore was reserved by him to visit the *dargahs* of Hazrat Mian Meer, who is believed by most Sikhs to have laid the foundation stone of their Harimandir in Amritsar and the tombs of Madho Lal Husain in Baghbanpura near the Shalimar Gardens In the years when I lived in Lahore as a student and a lawyer, I had never visited these places

A strange, unearthly peace pervades the enormous courtyard round the modest-sized mausoleum of Mian Meer At the time I went there it was almost deserted A cluster of women and children sat bunched together on a corner of the platform.

Two beggars sitting a distance from each other were chanting something I could not catch Ejaz bought a leaf-bowl of rose petals to strew on the peer's tomb A couple of old men were at prayer Ejaz recited the *Fatiha*, came out and gave money to the beggars We drove through the bazaars of Baghbanpura and parked our car a good distance away from the *mazaar* of Madho Lal Husain The lanes were narrow, winding and smelly. Once again I noticed hardly any women wearing *burqas*. We arrived at the *mazaar*. A man with bells round his ankles and on his hands was dancing



Prem Bhatia

and singing A group of children followed him dancing in circles Their mothers watched them The mausoleum was not very impressive just two tombs side by side One was of the Muslim Husain, the other of the Hindu Madho Lal They were poets who formed a corporate personality, Madho Lal Husain Maharaja Ranjit Singh used to pay homage at their tombs every *Basant Panchmi* day, dressed in yellow silk accompanied by his bodyguard of Kashmir women, all likewise dressed in yellow silks To me more interesting than the mausoleum was the cemetery surrounding it Among the graves was one of the Punjabi poet Chiragh Deen, better known as Ustaad Daaman He had been put in jail by the Martial Law regime for reciting a poem

Pakistan deeyan maujaun ee maujaun
Chaarey paasey faujan ee faujan

(Pakistan is having a wonderful time Whichever way you look there is the Army)

On a visit to Delhi he recited another poem regretting the Partition of the country

Akhiyan dee laalee payle dasdee
Tusee vee roey ho, roey asee vee haan

(The redness in our eyes has no secret If you have cried, we too have wept)

Daaman died about 10 years ago and composed his own epitaph which is engraved on the marble headstone of his grave Ejaz copied it out for me on a piece of paper

Sarsaree nazar maaree jahaan andar
Zindgi varg utthalya main,
Daman koee na miliya rafeeq mainoo
Maar kafan dee bukkal tay challiya main

(I gave a cursory glance at the world,
I turned a few pages of the book of my life
I, Daaman, could find no companion
--so
I fling my shroud over my shoulder
And I go

Extracted from** Truth, Love and a Little Malice **by Khushwant Singh; Ravi Dayal Publisher; distributed by Orient Longman; price to be announced

MOST WANTED

When it comes to ruthless, cold-blooded terrorism, too, the female is more equal than the male, says ***Leyla Swan***

In June this year a delicate, pretty, dark-haired woman returned to Ireland after a six-year tour of Europe

But Donna Maguire was far from an innocent traveller The 28-year-old's tour was spent in a string of prisons in Belgium, the Netherlands and finally, Germany, where she served out her sentence as a convicted terrorist

The German court ruled that the former convent girl was a member of an IRA squad which tried to blow up a British barrack in Germany in 1989 by planting a 330 lb Semtex bomb next to a dormitory block

It was not the first time the deceptively doll-like Maguire had been linked to terrorist activities She was a suspect in the shooting of a British Army officer at his home in Dortmund in 1989, the same year she was arrested in Ireland for importing sodium chlorate, a chemical used in bomb-making

Both charges failed to stick, but a year later she was extradited to the Netherlands to face charges of murdering two Australian tourists mistakenly shot by an IRA unit Again, she was acquitted and extradited, this time to Germany, where, finally, she was sentenced for the bombing of the Quebec barracks in north Germany

Women like Maguire, it seems, make the perfect terrorists because law enforcers, and the public in general, have not traditionally associated feminity with the ruthless tactics of violent political groups

Yet Interpol says that up to one-third of terrorists on its most wanted list are women, and according to the experts, the women terrorist is more deadly than the male because she feels she has more to prove

Indeed, Libya's Colonel Gadaffi once proclaimed. "When it comes to the frontline fighter, the female is the deadliest of the species "

Even Hollywood has got in on the act with films like *Terminator*, in which Linda Hamilton played the founder of a revolutionary movement fighting an oppressive mechanised regime, and *The Handmaid's Tale*, which saw Natasha Richardson join a band of freedom fighters

There is certainly a long, if hidden, history of the 'gentler sex' resorting to violence for political ends At the turn of the century, Rosa Luxemburg, a Polish-born Berlin Marxist called for international revolution as the only means of helping the working classes Many women joined the Spartacus League she founded in 1914, participating in a revolt in Berlin in which one woman was reported to have killed 20 soldiers

Three years later in the United Sta-

Nathalie Menigon takes aim



tes, anarchist Emma Goldman was sentenced to two years in prison for leading opposition to military conscription J Edgar Hoover called her "the most dangerous woman in America", and on her release in 1919, she was deported to Russia

In 1909, Countess Constance de Markievicz, or the 'Rebel Countess', as she was called, donned the green uniform of the Irish Citizen Army to teach young men how to use guns and rifles in the cause of Irish independence from Britain

These women had a lineage that stretches into the final quarter of the 20th century when women have again stepped into the frontline of terrorism In the US, where President Bill Clinton has called for tougher laws to tackle the country's new breed of domestic terrorists, the right-wing Michigan Militia counts mothers and grandmothers among its ranks

In Europe, women are still active with offshoots of the infamous left-wing Baader-Meinhof group and its splinter, the Red Army faction Ulrike Meinhof, perhaps the most feared of all terrorists male or female, founded the group with Andreas Baader to wage a war against capitalism

Until her arrest in 1972, Meinhof was Germany's public enemy number one, creating a climate of fear and masterminding a bloody trail of kidnappings and murders of wealthy industrialists and politicians

When she was eventually caught, she was charged with five murders, 54 attempted murders, bombings, bank robberies and arson After four years in jail awaiting trial, Meinhof hanged herself with a towel in her cell

In the past, their activities have been explained in sexual terms, as a kind of erotomania which gives them a sense of sexual power. But this model discounts the strong political motivations of these women

Experts say that like Meinhof women terrorists are usually intelligent, well-educated and middleclass In the past, their activities have been explained in sexual terms, as a kind of erotomania which gives them a sense of sexual power But this model discounts the strong political motivations of these women

Psychologist Lothar Van Balluseck made a study of women in the frontline of terrorism and suggests that they may be driven by guilt about their social advantages That guilt in turn fed by anger towards their privileged fathers who come to represent the authority which they loathe, he says

There was certainly no shortage of others to take over where Meinhof left off Suzanne Albrecht, a charming, fun-loving blonde who moved freely

TERMINATOR, TOO

If men can do it, so can women. Kathryn Bigelow's film, Strange Days, *puts the spotlight on violent thrillers that are no longer a male preserve*

No London Film Festival within recent memory has opened with as controversial a choice as Kathryn Bigelow's *Strange Days* — a violent $40 million futuristic thriller that mixes an innate pessimism with a pyrotechnical display of flash cinematic technique.

That it was made by a woman would be extraordinary if it was not for the fact that Bigelow had already proved with *Blue Steel*, a tough policier, and *Point Break*, a successful action thriller, that genres generally considered a male preserve can be confidently handled by a female director.

Scripted and produced by James Cameron, Bigelow's ex-husband, who directed *True Lies* and the *Terminator* films, *Strange Days* is set in chaotic Los Angeles, full of poverty-stricken human detritus and criminal power-brokers, on the eve of the next millennium.

Moving through this neon-lit nightmare is Lenny (Ralph Fiennes), an ex-cop who makes an illicit living selling chips of other people's lives on a digital recording.

They call this version of virtual reality "the wire" and it captures the physical and emotional purity of human experience — sight, sound, taste, smell and touch.

It has become the drug of choice and Lenny is dubbed the 'Santa Claus of the subconscious', who knows what people want and gives it to them. What they want is generally sex. The only clips that he refuses to sell are 'blackjacks' or death clips. But when a former accomplice is raped and murdered, Lenny gets a clip of the crime and is forced to relive it.

He is worried that his former girlfriend (Juliette Lewis) will be next and turns to a security agent, Mace (Angela Bassett), and another ex-cop Max (Tom Sizemore) for help.

The problem for the film, which has so far failed to ignite American audiences, is the old one of painting a dark vision of a violent future which is exciting enough to thrill without glorifying the sex 'n' violence. And it is not one which Bigelow comfortably solves.

The vaguely upbeat ending seems tacked on, the film is too long, and — because Bigelow is so good a technician — the violence and degradation is made to seem almost glamorous.

In the end, no matter what the moral, the film gives off an odour of smart, savvy commercialism.

This is, perhaps, summed up best by Max's shallow cynicism — "You know how I know it's the end of the world, Lenny? Everything's already been done. Every kinda music, every government, every hairstyle. How we gonna make it for another thousand years, for Chris'sake?"

Not by inventing a new hairstyle, at any rate.

Derek Malcolm
(The Guardian)



Nathalie Menigon and Joelle Aubron were arrested after a shootout with the police in 1980, only to be released to kill again

in European high society, murdered her own godfather, banker Jurgen Ponto. Albrecht worked with another German woman, Astrid Proll, in the daring rescue of Andreas Baader from the Berlin prison library in 1970

Proll was eventually caught and charged with attempting to murder two policeman in the gun battle that ensued After three years in jail she was released on bail so she could receive medical treatment for a serious blood disorder She reported to police daily for only 14 days, then in February 1974, she vanished

For the next few years she lived in Britain, masquerading as Anna Puttick, a teacher in car mechanics at the North London Vehicle Repair Workshop for unemployed school leavers

When 12 detectives stormed the workshop and grabbed Anna, still in her oil-stained overall, her colleagues were incredulous to learn they had been harbouring a terrorist

"Anna seemed to know nothing about violence," said fellow instructor John Morris "She was a gentle sort of person I liked her for the way she thought things out"

Appearances can be deceiving In the Eighties, Nathalie Menigon and Joelle Aubron were behind more than 70 terrorist attacks in the name of Action Directe, the French left wing group that Menigon founded in 1979

In 1980, a year after machine-gunning the headquarters of the French Employers' Trade Association, Nathalie was captured in the chic 16th *arrondissement* of Paris Typically Menigon, described as "the wild beast of terrorism", refused to surrender

Baader-Meinhof member Astrid Proll



She pulled out two revolvers, emptying them at police and screamed, "I am Action Directe"

She was released in 1981 under an amnesty from the newly-elected socialist President Francois Mitterrand It proved an ill-judged decision In 1986, Menigon was on the run again after she and Aubron allegedly murdered George Besse, the chairman of Renault

Eyewitnesses said they saw two women, one of whom was identified as Menigon, waiting outside M Besse's Montparnasse home When his chauffeur dropped him off, the women fired at him three times, once in the eye as he lay on the ground.

"Is that it?" one of the women was reported to have asked calmly

"I'm sure of it," the other replied, before they escaped on foot

Experts says that this apparent ruthlessness is common to all terrorists, whether male or female, and stems from a denial that their victims are individuals

The likes of Ulrike Meinhof, Nathalie Menigon and Donna Maguire see their targets, not as human beings, but as representatives of a system

Tragically, in doing so, they become less than human themselves

(Asia Features)

INNEREYE

BEJAN DARUWALLA

Aries
March 21 - April 20



Ganesha says Mercury in your 9th slot leads to journey, joy, celebration, ceremonies, religion, and rites For researchers, writers, artists, scientists, publicity hounds, terrific connections and mighty moments of inspiration are foretold Let intuition call the tune for you Health caution is essential

Taurus
April 21 — May 20



The moon's first quarter helps you in terms of friendships and influence Loans, funds, monetary transactions, investments, buying and selling are strongly spotlighted for you Many Taureans will be making plans for the future, and believe me, it is the right time for it

Gemini
May 21 — June 20



Saturn has regained direct motion from the 22nd and will soon push you into the limelight of publicity and events This week, and to be sure the whole December, should be lucky for romance, marriage collaborations, ties, alliance and journeys Correspondence and collaborations foretold

Cancer
June 21 — July 20



Foreign affairs, be it journey, correspondence, collaborations will have a special meaning for you Your hard work will begin to pay The prospects of promotion, bonus, pay-offs, perks are excellent the next 33 days or so On and after the 28th, the possibility of passion and joy

Leo
July 21 — August 21



There are two trends simultaneously in operation Romance, kids, creativity, adventure, birth of children and grandchildren constitute the first trend Next in line are loans, funds, investments, buying and selling Evidently, you will be mighty busy Those in arts, science and entertainment do wonders

Virgo
August 22 — September 22



If it is affection and house you are after, you could well get these now and thus be happy The whole of December also favours it The birth of children and grandchildren is another outstanding trait of the week, and it extends to the next year Separations are also possible Take a trip if possible

Libra
September 23 — October 22



Time to reach out to people and places say by radio, TV, newspapers, letters, phone, fax , car, plane, train and so on Your success depends upon just thus ability of yours Artists will definitely be in their rightful element But it would be wise to take health safeguards Travel, trips and ties are on the cards

Scorpio
October 23 — November 22

Your feelings will be stirred and you will come alive Those who are inventive, creative, ingenious and researchers will gain the most this week Others also, should well be on top of a situation Children and grandchildren give joy Money pours in within just 30 days or so Take time off from work

Sagittarius
November 23 — December 20



The trio of sun-Jupiter-Mercury aids you in brushing aside all obstacles and hurdles and thus winning the game of life You will be moving at laser speed, be it romance, finance, trips, ties and property The health of the parents and in-laws could, however, cause plenty of trouble

Capricorn
December 21 — January 19



You will have to move fast and finish pending work, as well as, take on new and challenging assignments, shortly Ganesha assures success in undertakings and that is enough to restore your confidence Many Capricornians will change directions, unless they have already

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18



Friends, well-wishers, mate/partner will pitch in for you and that is obviously a bonanza It is up to you to go on a vacation, or simply enjoy the sweet pleasures of life Money is on its way Make the most of it A lot of your problems will be solved during this phase So you could now be relieved

Pisces
February 19 — March 20



The moon's first quarter in your sign means you will be overtly ambitious and the chances are, your goals will be realised shortly Promotion, perks and payment are also on the cards You will fuse pleasure with profit superbly and thus live life to the hilt Take chances if you have to this week

BIRTHDAYS

[illegible] the moon catches the sun leading to an [illegible]

[illegible] bring/funding will have an extra edge. [illegible] confers you of success [illegible] Trips in connection, travel and brokerage [illegible]

[illegible] Venus-Mars-Jupiter could be [illegible] whether you are a humble pauti or the [illegible] Meetings and get-togethers [illegible]

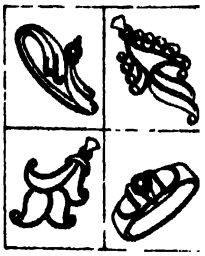
[illegible] The moon's first quarter could [illegible] unless you are patient, tolerant, and [illegible]

[illegible] to mind for your peace of mind.

[illegible] Moon conjuncts Saturn, sextiles Uranus-Neptune. Avoid depression as you would the plague. Both the [illegible] will happen to you.

December 1: Moon trines the sun and this placing pushes you before the public eye and image, asserts Ganesha. However, you should be careful in all monetary transactions.

December 2: Moon-Jupiter sextile results in money, fame, a meeting of the hearts and mind Children and hobbies give joy.

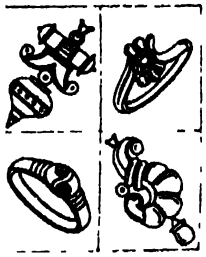


[illegible] standard

22 karat gold and [illegible] stones

[illegible] JEWS

P. C. CHANDRA
JEWELLERS
A jewel of jewels



HUMOUR

LOO AND BEHOLD!

***Champak Chatterji** talks about the one bleak spot in a trekker's morning*

It had been a grinding day's trek from Lhandruk and my family and I were at Deorali, 9,000' up on a ridge in the Nepal Himalayas I had asked for the general direction of the toilet, expecting the tea-house owner, our host for the night, to gesture vaguely at the hillside Instead, with the panache of the *maitre d'hotel* at the Waldorf-Astoria, he handed over a set of keys!

A regular water closet with a lock on the door and I was recovering from the shock of this stupendous discovery in the middle of nowhere, when he stepped up to the wall, took down and handed me horse-whip as well!

I soon found out why It was not as I had feared the ultimate mountain remedy in lieu of roughage in the diet The way to the loo lay through the stables and the whip had to be liberally used to clear the way I don't think the mules liked the idea of being disturbed at dusk Their day, too, had been a hard one, but there was necessity on my side and I flayed away

The mules careered around dashing up and down the hillside, their neck-bells jingling like mad, while we went through Afterwards we christened it the Deorali Vaudeville — Dhaulagiri on the horizon all flame and turquoise at sunset, the music of mule-bells and me the conductor with the horse-whip clearing the north-west passage to the W C

The night before at Lhandruk, we had celebrated my son's birthday We had dined on Tibetan bread and soup by candlelight in the open with Annapoorna looming frosty and enormous in the light of the stars Then early morning, while it was pitch dark, it had been the loo Down the narrowest of mountain goat-tracks with stinging nettles on the sides, an open wigwam like structure and a hole in the ground

Midway through the ritual a great black shape had wandered in and my heart had stopped. Then the 'thing' had mooed companionably and I had been assured that this was not to be the man-eating leopard of Rudraprayag — the next generation

On the mountain path, it is the loo which is the turning point The place where the great outdoors take over after the preliminaries of log fires, moody songs and romantic shilly-shallying I remember the first occasion well For our honeymoon my wife and I had taken off for Yamunotri in the Garhwal Himalayas

Twenty-five years ago the buses stopped at Barkot, but with luck one could get a jeep lift to Saina Chatti from where the long walk began to the 11,000' high shrine

Saina was our first night in the high Himalayas Nightfall and a beautitudinal silence enveloped us There was the black of the mountains and the forests and the canopy of stars overhead Sheer magic till after dinner my wife, city-born and -bred, had popped the question "Where is the loo?" I had then taken her gently by the hand and walked to where the lantern lights of the tavern had disappeared

Finally, there was nothing but the stars, the hills and the dark for company and I whispered, "There, there, everywhere"

I think we began our marriage well — better than those who opiate in five-star hotels Bath tub and marble tile sybarites

Conversations about the loo bring



people together on the trek quicker than anything else Corns on the feet, bedbugs and pishoo (blessed ticks that give you a six-month itch), smelly linen, bumps and bruises are *passe* There is a regular rating system that does the rounds — from three star stuff where you perch on perilous bamboo scaffoldings teetering on hillsides to the five-star luxuries where you are on more secure territory complete with a gunny bag curtain in front!

Sometimes as an added bonus, the five-star ones throw in a 'hot shower' to boot Here you stand in a tiny kiosk under a bowl with holes in it You pour in hot water from a kettle onto the overhead bowl with one hand scrubbing yourself desperately with the other!

There is adventure, too I remember the shy young Bengali bride who burst into our room in the remote mountain hamlet of Dhampus It had rained heavily a few minutes before and we were almost submerged by the leaks from the roof, but this was no time to stand on formalities She seemed to be in the deepest throes of emotion The rather impressionistic loo of the teahouse where we were staying was not only Stygian dark, but also sloped at an impossible angle so that inside one had to belay oneself mountaineer fashion with a stick Romantic soul that she was, she had sought out the great outdoors instead

There alone with the winds of heaven, she had suddenly sensed an upheaval in the elements Focusing her torch beam on the ground, she found that an entire hillside was on the move! An army of leeches was heading towards her, suckers, waving frenetically The retreat from nature had been quick and precipitate!

In 1991, I accompanied an expedition which was trying to climb the North Face of Mt Everest The way lay through Tibet Immense ochre valleys, mountains of the moon, skies of lapis lazuli Intermediate base was at Xegar which at 13,000' on the Lhasa Highway was the gateway to Chomolungma -- as Everest is known in Tibet

The place was spectacular with its soaring hilltop monastery albeit ruined, turbulent Chu (river) and shops selling Dalai Lama stickers and Indian *shikakai* There was also, wonder of wonders, a small patch of juniper forest The truck-stop hotel where we stayed had a regular dining area and in the rooms there were beds and the management provided hot water in enormous Chinese flasks I thought of Shangrila and, like all bureaucrats, in a happy mood even dictated a letter

They say that mountains can never be taken for granted and hit back when least expected This time it was through the hotel loo Having trekked around from the time I was only 10, I thought I was a true battle scarred veteran, but that loo returned me to amateur status I can do no better than quote from Michael Buckley and Robert Strauss writing about the experience

"The trek to the toilet is an arduous one and you'd best come equipped for the ordeal First, try and not look at the floor Some of these toilets look like they've been backed up since the first century A nose peg and a set of horse halters would be a good idea A swig of whisky before the assault is recommended and some are known to put a dab of Tiger Balm or Chanel No 5 on the upper lip to minimise the overpowering smells"

High altitude sickness hits you at Xegar and in combination with the loo the totality is not something for the squeamish or faint-hearted

Then came Rongbuk Base Camp at the foot of Mt Everest and 17,000' high and everything changed It was a world of grey moraine detritus and boulders and ice-melt, where we pitched our tents Above the sky was blue silk Dominating this world was the great massif of the world's highest mountain, so overpowering that one was tempted to go down on one's knees and pray to the mountain as the monks of the nearby monastery had done for hundreds of years

I was there only for a day At night, I slept by the cairn that honours the immortal memory of Mallory and Irvine Up the next morning in the predawn darkness and ready to go down to the plains, there was, of course, the loo All was quiet at that early hour Alone, I thought of the prowling mountain wolf and the Yeti I was in their domain Then dawn broke over the mountains There was the pearl of the snows and the fang of Everest Nearer, and only a few feet away, I saw a fantastic ballet yellow beaked choughs bracing, balancing themselves against the wind The lowly loo had given me a sight of eternity ■



TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code: ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
IC-741	0800	1 2 3 6	IC-742	1030	1 3
			IC-742	1250	4 7
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
PF-701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5 7
S2-026/027	0850	1, 2 4, 5	S2-028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
PF-705	0730	2, 4, 6 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
PF-737	0730	3 5	PF-738	1740	3 5
IC-721	1210	1 3 5	IC 722	1450	1 3 5
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 181	1600	daily
IC 771	0600	daily	IC-772	1140	daily
D5-402	0600	3 5 7	D5-401	1230	2 4 6
JC 544	1115	2, 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
VF-106	1030	2 4	VF-105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
IC-896	1540	1, 3, 5	IC-895	2005	1 3 5
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
9W 202	0905	1 2 3 4 5 6	9W-201	0835	1 2 3 4 5 6
D2 102	0920	daily	D2-101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	2000	daily	9W-211	1925	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
M9-305	0600	1 2, 3 4 5 6	M9-306	1140	1 2 3 4 5 6
M9 307	1700	daily	M9-308	2230	daily
IC 263	0630	daily	S2-025	0810	1, 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9-303	0825	daily
M9-304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	4S-806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC-401	1135	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC-811	1715	1 3 5
S2-006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9-301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC-895	2005	1 3 5
IC 856	1830	4 7	IC-855	0955	4 7
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
PF-737	0730	3 5	IC 702	1630	1 3 5 7
4S-816	1705	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S-811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1740	1, 3 5 7	PF-738	1740	3 5
D5-601/602	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
IC-257	1145	4 7	IC 257	1540	4 7
S2-026/021	0850	1, 2, 3 4 5	S2-022/00	2005	2, 3 4 5
D5-601	0600		D5 605	1935	daily
IC 703	0810	1, 3 5	IC 704	1120	1 3 5
RJ 185	1445		RJ-184	0705	
KL-876	0345		KL-875	0135	

Departures			Arrivals		
		Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
M9 321	1230	daily	M9-322	1510	daily
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF-706	1510	2, 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC-230	1620	daily
PF-735	0730	1	4S-811	1635	2, 4 6
4S 816/811	1205	2, 4, 6	4S-812/815	1635	1, 3 5
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF-738	1740	3 5
IC-703	0830	4 7	IC-704	1220	2, 6
IC-777	1615	3 5, 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF-105	1700	1
D5-601/603	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5, 7	IC-256	1235	3 5 7
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC-213	1540	2 6
S2-026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2-028/005	2005	1, 2 4 5 7
IC 257	1145	4 7	IC 257	1540	4 7
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1715	1, 3 5
D5-402	0600	3 5 7	D5-401	1230	2 4 6
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC-541	1030	1 4 6
IC 544	1115	2, 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
D2 172	1640	daily	D2-171	1155	daily
IC 765	1720	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC-770	2120	2 4 6
D5 -406	1330	2, 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC-812	1515	1, 3 5	IC-811	1715	1 3 5
IC-285	0640	1, 3, 5	IC-286	1100	2 4 6
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1715	1 3 5
D5-601	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
Pf-705	073	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2, 4, 6 7
D5-601/605	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
IC-255	0745	3 5 7	IC-256	1235	3 5, 7
IC 253	0745	2, 4, 6	IC-254	1025	2 4 6
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC-213	1540	2 6
PF 73	0730	3, 5	PF-738	1740	3 5
S2-016	1555	1 3 5	S2-015	1015	1, 3 5
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2, 4 6
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC-895	2005	1, 3, 5
IC-542	1115	1, 4, 6	IC 541	1030	1, 4, 6
PF-735	0730	1	PF-736	1730	1
KB 105	0850	2, 6	KB-106	1020	3
			KB-106	1240	5
IC-731	0855	2, 5	TG-313	1240	1, 3, 6
IC-855	1105	4, 7	IC-856	1730	4, 7

Arrivals

Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
TG-314	1355	1 3, 6	IC-732	1505	2 5
AI-306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6
RO-076	2150	5, 7	RO-075	1200	5 7
IC-225	0800	1	IC-226	1020	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG-697	1655	2 5
BG-092	0850	4 5	BG-091	0810	4 5
BG-092	1150	1, 2 3, 6, 7	BG-091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1, 2, 3 5 6	IC-724	1520	1 2 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3 5 6, 7	BG-093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5
BI-107	2100	6	BI 108	0730	
RA-214	1215	2 4 6	RA 213	1130	2 4 6

Departures

Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
IC 747	1115	1 2 4 6	IC 748	1435	1, 2, 4, 6
BA 142	2040	3 7	BA 143	1450	3, 7
SU-538	1755	4	SU-537	1555	4
KB-106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB-106	1325	5			
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ-416	2230	2, 5
BI 108	0830	7	BI-107	2000	6
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
AI 306	1910		AI 309	182	6

AI Air India ● BA British Airways ● BG Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● BI Royal Brunei Airlines ● D2 Damania Airways ● D5 NEPC Airlines ● IC Indian Airlines ● KB Druk-Air ● KLM Royal Dutch Airlines ● LZ Balkan Airlines ● M9 Modiluft ● PF Vayudoot ● RA Royal Nepal Airlines ● RJ Royal Jordanian Airlines ● RO Tarom Air Transport ● S2 Sahara India Airlines ● SQ Singapore Airlines ● SU Aeroflot ● 4S East West Airlines ● TG Thai Airways International ● 9W Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7-55	3006
3003	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13-00	3004
2381	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya-Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9-15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16-15	2304
2301	16-30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12-50	2306
2307	23-30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2306
2019	6-20	**Shalimar (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri-Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	22-00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	3046
5049	23-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11-35	5050
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4-30	5048
3009	20-30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9-30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21-00	**Kathgodam Express**	11-55	3020
3021	16-05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5-30	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Mon Tue & Thurs Arr Mon Thurs & F	7-55	1160
1171	15-25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Wed Sat & Sun Arr Sun Wed & Sat	7 55	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express** Dep Friday Arr Tuesday	7-55	1182

Sealdah

Up	Time		Time	Dn
3141	13-40	[illegible]-Toofan Express	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling** [illegible]	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gaur** [illegible]	5-15	3154
5663	20-00	[illegible]	4-15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15-50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-30	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues, Thurs & Sat	4-25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6-55	6004
8002	19-20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8-20	8001
2860	12-30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-25	2859
2021	6-50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20-40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16-20	8029
2841	14-05	**Coromandel (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	8 10	**Falaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19-40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8111	6-00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Titlagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5-30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-05	2822
8045	10-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16-40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express** (via Howrah) Sunday only	16-10	--
–	11-05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express** (via Howrah) Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati - Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
-	14-05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22-35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	—
-	14 05	**Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13-45	6515

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All is not Lost



I was still a thief when I met Arun, and though I was only fifteen, I was an experienced and fairly successful hand

Arun was watching wrestlers when I approached him He was about 20, a tall, lean fellow, and he looked kind and simple enough for my purpose I hadn't had much luck of late, and thought I might be able to get into this young person's confidence He seemed quite fascinated by the wrestling Two well-oiled men slid about in the soft mud, grunting and slapping their thighs When I got Arun into conversation, he did not seem to realise I was a stranger

"You look li' e a wrestler yourself," I said

"So do you," he replied, which put me out of my stride for a moment, because at the time I was rather thin and bony and not very impressive physically

"Yes," I said "I wrestle sometimes "

"What's your name?"

"Deepak," I lied

Deepak was about my fifth name I had earlier called myself Ranbir, Sudhir, Trilok and Surinder

After this preliminary exchange, Arun confined himself to comments on the match, and I didn't have much to say After a while, he walked away from the crowd of spectators I followed him

"Hello," he said. "Enjoying yourself?"

I gave him a most appealing smile "I want to work for you," I said

He did not stop walking. "And what makes you think I want some one to work for me?"

"Well," I said, "I've been wondering about all day, looking for the best person to work for When I saw you, I knew that no one else had a chance "

"You flatter me," he said

"That's all right '

"But you can't work for me "

"Why not?"

"Because I can't pay you "

I thought that over for a minute Perhaps, I had misjudged my man

"Can you feed me?" I asked

"Can you cook?" he countered

"I can cook," I lied

"If you can cook," he said, "I'll feed you "

He took me to his room and told me I could sleep in the verandah But I was nearly back on the street that night The meal I cooked must have been pretty awful, because Arun gave it to the neighbour's cat and told me to be off But I just hung around smiling in my most appealing way, and then he couldn't help laughing

He sat down on the bed and laughed for a full five minutes, and later patted me on the head and said, never mind, he'd teach me to cook in the morning

Not only did he teach me to cook, but he taught me to write my name and his, and said he would soon teach me to write whole sentences, and add money on paper when you didn't have any in your pocket!

It was quite pleasant working for Arun I made the tea in the morning and later went out shopping I would take my time buying the day's supplies and made a profit of about 25 paise a day I would tell Arun that rice was 56 paise a pound (it generally was), but I would get it at 50 paise a pound I think he knew I made a little this way, but he didn't mind, he wasn't giving me a regular wage

I was really grateful to Arun for teaching me to write I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve It might even be an incentive to be honest

Arun made money by fits and starts He would be borrowing one week, lending the next. He would keep worrying about his next cheque but, as soon as it arrived, he would go out and celebrate lavishly

One evening he came home with a wad of notes, and at night I saw him tuck the bundles under his mattress, at the head of the bed

I had been working for Arun for nearly a fortnight and, apart from the shopping, hadn't done much to exploit him I had every opportunity for doing so I had a key to the front door, which meant I had access to the room whenever Arun was out He was the most trusting person I had ever met And that was why I couldn't make up my mind to rob him

A rich man or a greedy man or a careful man wouldn't keep his money under a pillow or mattress, he'd lock it up in a safe place Arun had put his money where it would be child's play for me to remove it without his knowledge

It's time I did some real work, I told myself, I'm getting out of practice If I don't take the money he'll only waste it on his friends He doesn't even pay me

Arun was asleep Moonlight came in from the verandah and fell across the bed I sat up on the floor, my blanket wrapped around me, considering the situation There was quite a lot of money in that wad, and if I took it, I would have to leave town — I might make the 10 30 express to Amritsar

Slipping out of the blanket, I crept on all fours through the door and upto the bed, and peeped at Arun.

My hand took on an identity of its own and slid around under the mattress, the fingers searching for the notes They found them, and I drew them out without a crackle

Arun sighed in his sleep and turned on his side, towards me. My free hand was resting on the bed, and his hair touched my fingers.

I was frightened when his hair touched my fingers, and crawled quickly and quietly out of the room.

When I was in the street, I began

to run I ran down the bazaar road to the station The shops were all closed, but a few lights came from the upper windows I had the note at my waist, held there by the string of my pyjamas I felt I had to stop and count the notes tl ough I knew it might make me late for the train It was already 10 20 by the clock tower I slowed down to a walk, and my fingers flicked through the notes There were about a hundred rupees in fives A good haul I could live like a prince for a month or two

When I reached the station I did not stop at the ticket-office (I had never bought a ticket in my life) but dashed straight on to the platform It was moving slowly enough for me to be able to jump on the footboard of one of the carriages, but I hesitated for some urgent, unexplainable reason

I hesitated long enough for the train to leave without me

When it had gone, and the noise and busy confusion of the station had subsided, I found myself standing alone on the deserted platform The knowledge that I had a hundred stolen rupees in my pyjamas only increased my feeling of isolation and loneliness

Leaving the station, I walked slowly through the bazaar keeping to dark deserted alleys I kept thinking of Arun He would still be asleep, blissfully unaware of his loss

I have made a study of men's faces when they have lost something of material value The greedy man shows panic, the rich man shows anger, the poor man shows fear, but I knew that neither panic nor anger nor fear would show on Arun's face, when he discovered the theft, only a terrible sadness not for the loss of the money but for my having betrayed his trust

I found myself on the *maidan* and sat down on a bench with my feet tucked up under my haunches The night was a little cold, and I regretted not having brought Arun's blanket along A light drizzle added to my discomfort Soon it was raining heavily. My shirt and pyjamas stuck to my skin and the cold wind brought the rain whipping across my face

I walked back to the bazaar and sat down on the step of a closed shop A few vagrants lay beside me, rolled up tight in thin blankets The clock showed midnight, I felt for the notes, they were still with me, but had lost their crispness and were damp with rainwater

Arun's money In the morning he would probably have given a rupee to go to the pictures but now I had it all No more cooking his



Illustration Chitra

meals, running to the bazaar, or learning to write whole sentences Whole sentences

They were something I had forgotten in the excitement of a hundred rupees Whole sentences I knew, could one day bring me more than a hundred rupees It was a simple matter to steal (and sometimes just as simple to be caught) but to be a really big man, a wise and successful man, that was something I should go back to Arun, I told myself, if only to learn how to write

Perhaps, it was also concern for Arun that drew me back, a sense of sympathy is one of my weaknesses, and through hesitation over a theft, I had often been caught A successful thief must be pitiless I was fond of Arun My affection for him, my sense of sympathy, but most of all my desire to write whole sentences, drew me to the room

I hurried back to the room extremely nervous, for it is easier to steal something than to return it undetected If I was caught beside the bed now, with the money in my hand, or with my hand under the mattress there could be only one explanation that I was actually stealing If Arun woke up, I could be lost

I opened the door clumsily, then stood in the doorway in clouded moonlight Gradually, my eyes became accustomed to the darkness of the room Arun was still asleep I went on all fours again and crept noiselessly to the head of the bed My hand came up with the notes I felt his breath on my fingers I was fascinated by his tranquil features and easy breathing and remained motionless for a minute Then my hand explored the mattress, found the edge, slipped under it with the notes

I awoke late next morning to find that Arun had already made the tea I found it difficult to face him in the harsh light of day His hand was stretched out towards me There was a five-rupee note between his fingers My heart sank

"I made some money yesterday," he said "Now you'll get paid regularly " My spirit rose as rapidly as they had fallen I congratulated myself on having returned the money.

But when I took the note, I realised that he knew everything The note was still wet from last night's rain

"Today, I'll teach you to write a little more than your name," he said

He knew; but neither his lips nor his eyes said anything about their knowing.

I smiled at Arun in my most appealing way, and the smile came by itself, without my knowing it *(Sanctuary Features)*

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

One for the Booker



Publishers, like farmers, never admit to doing well And never have they sounded more depressed than they do now That too at the time of the Booker Prize the premier event of the year

Over the summer, six judges writers and critics should have read 141 new novels to find out which are the best The criterion for choosing the shortlist is to judge each book against the other

Very clear, i'm sure you'll agree And given that, the miracle is not that each judge manages to plough through all 141 novels, as judges admit they don't, but that they do not brain each other over the final decision In practice, judges often have to relinquish their favourite novel, if no other judge will support it

But whatever the pitfalls of selection. publishers like the Booker Prize If their author is shortlisted he or she immediately leaps to prominence and the book leaps off the bookshelves into the plastic bags of the purchaser A winner is guaranteed longer sales which increase by at least 40 per cent than that without the Booker label This is so even when the book is so dense as to be for many unreadable.

The many include one of this year's judges, the critic Chris Riddel "Unreadable" was the adjective Riddell used to describe Keri Hulme's Maori novel and Booker Prize winner *The Bone People* It is one that I would use of Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*, the 1992 winner, which defeated me by page 169 I am more hopeful of the choice this year because Chris Riddell's comment that it is commonplace at the moment for critics to dismiss or undervalue narrative skill Narrative, to my mind, is a great asset in a novel

To the publisher, though, what matters in a book has to be commercial potential What has them atremor now is the collapse of the Net Book Ageement which guaranteed that their books would be sold in bookshops at the published cover price

The sudden collapse of the agreement, due to overnight changes in the views of the some publishers and booksellers, means that books can be sold at a discount

Now, it would be logical to keep up the prices of guaranteed bestsellers and discount books more difficult to move, like first novels But as often happens in this world, the opposite of the sensible prevails The bestsellers alone have their prices slashed to earn the quickest possible buck

The publishers thought they could control which books the bookshops sold cheaply Again, the opposite has happened The retailers have the publishers by the throat They decide what prices are slashed and the most the publishers can do is to refuse them an extra discount

The publishers thought they could control which books the bookshops sold cheaply. Again, the opposite has happened. The retailers have the publishers by the throat. They decide what prices are slashed and the most the publishers can do is to refuse them an extra discount

The result is free-for-all In Scotland last week, I asked a bookshop manager if he was going to discount Mark Tully's *Heart Of India*, which I was helping to publicise "I'll wait to see what James Thin does first," he replied, referring to his main competitor

But why should the public worry if the books they buy are cheaper? For one thing, diminishing profits may well limit the range of books published Then, when discounts become greater to retailers who order in bulk, the smaller bookshops a great national institution may not be able to survive

The nightmare is of bookshops and publishers going out of business, and of a narrow range of cheap bestsellers filling the shelves of the massive out-of-town supermarkets which with deregulation are now moving into bookselling About a third of British retailing as a whole has already moved from high streets to these monstrous superstores

This would be a disaster as British, bookshops have never been more exciting places I'm not just referring to the books on display, but to the events organised up and down the land Author's come regularly, not just to sign books, but to talk about their work and listen to what their audience has to say about them

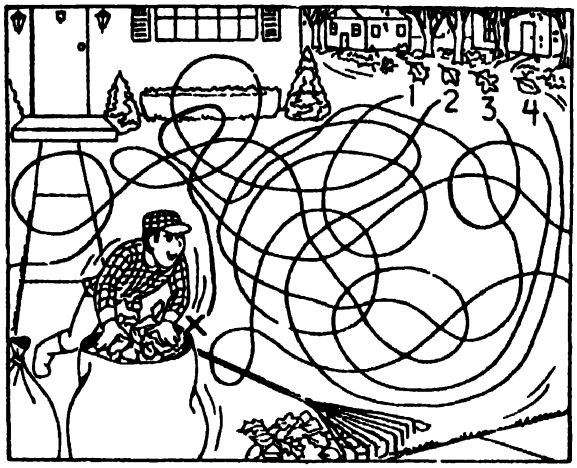
In the current tour for *Heart Of India*, I've been impressed by the amount of interest and depth of perception about India While enjoying Mark's talk, , I've been sorry to miss some of the other performers on the circuit There are novelists, poets and actors, even American actors

Following Mark in Edinburgh was a man with a cult following, whose career was made, and I suspect blighted, by the part he played in the TV sci-fi series *Star Trek* His latest book *I am Spock* seems to show that he has finaliy given up the unequal struggle to distinguish himself from his image But I don't think his publishers will mind that

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

HAL KAUFMAN



LEAF BAGGER! It's not often that a leaf falls kerplunk into a leaf bag Trace leaf paths to see which one does

PEG LEGWORK! Find an eight letter word that is the subject of this verse riddle My second has two legs my whole has no more My first stands alone with a total of four What word am I? I'm the word horseman.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A				A
2					
3					
4					
5	A				A

FOUR-A WORDS TO PONDER

FOUR A's —one in each corner — provide a clue to a word that appears four times on the perimeter of this word square Three more words are needed to complete this grouping, all of which read the same both across and down

Definitions

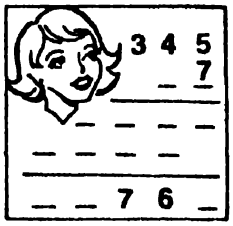
1 Sphere of action
2 Gossip item
3 Author Zola's first name
4 Man without a Country Philip ___
5 Sphere of action (Repeat of No 1)

Remember all words are to read the same both across and down

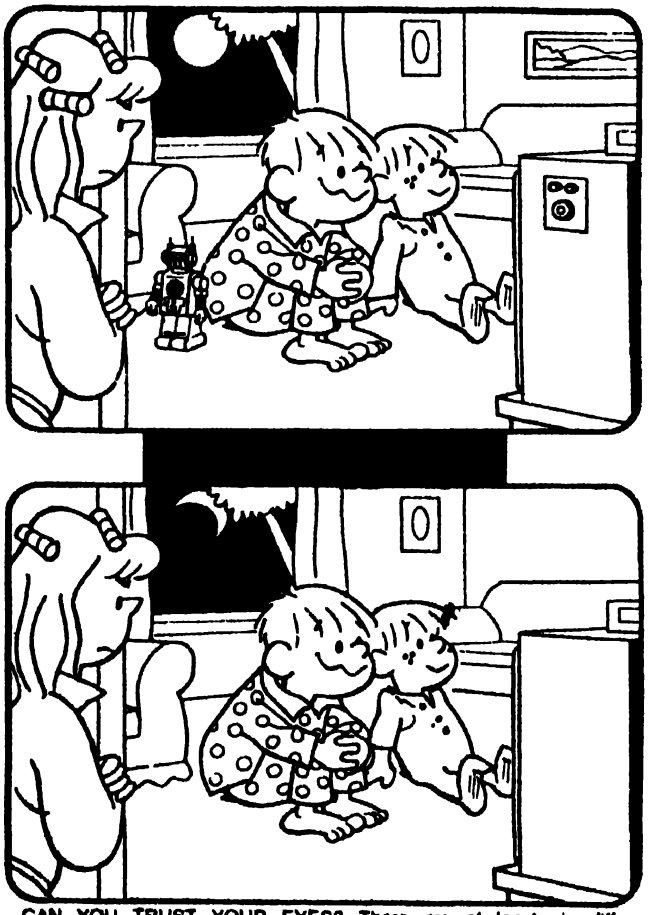
MURKY MATH! Let's see how quickly you can find missing numbers of this simple problem in multiplication Clue Seven times 345 produces a result that may be inserted immediately Then, to find missing digit of the multiplier, something times five must result in an amount that may be added to one for a total of six in the bottom line

Select one or four odd digits — three, five, seven or nine — and the multiplier will be complete

Answer is 345 times 17 equals 12 765



HOCUS-FOCUS



Drawings by Henry Boltinoff

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Curler is missing 2 Moon is different 3 Robot is missing 4 Sleeve is shorter 5 Picture is missing 6 TV dial is missing

FUNSPOT



SEW CASE! And how would I look in a design like this? Add the following colors by number 1—Red 2—Purple 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Green 7—Orange 8—Dk brown.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

PHEASANT

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

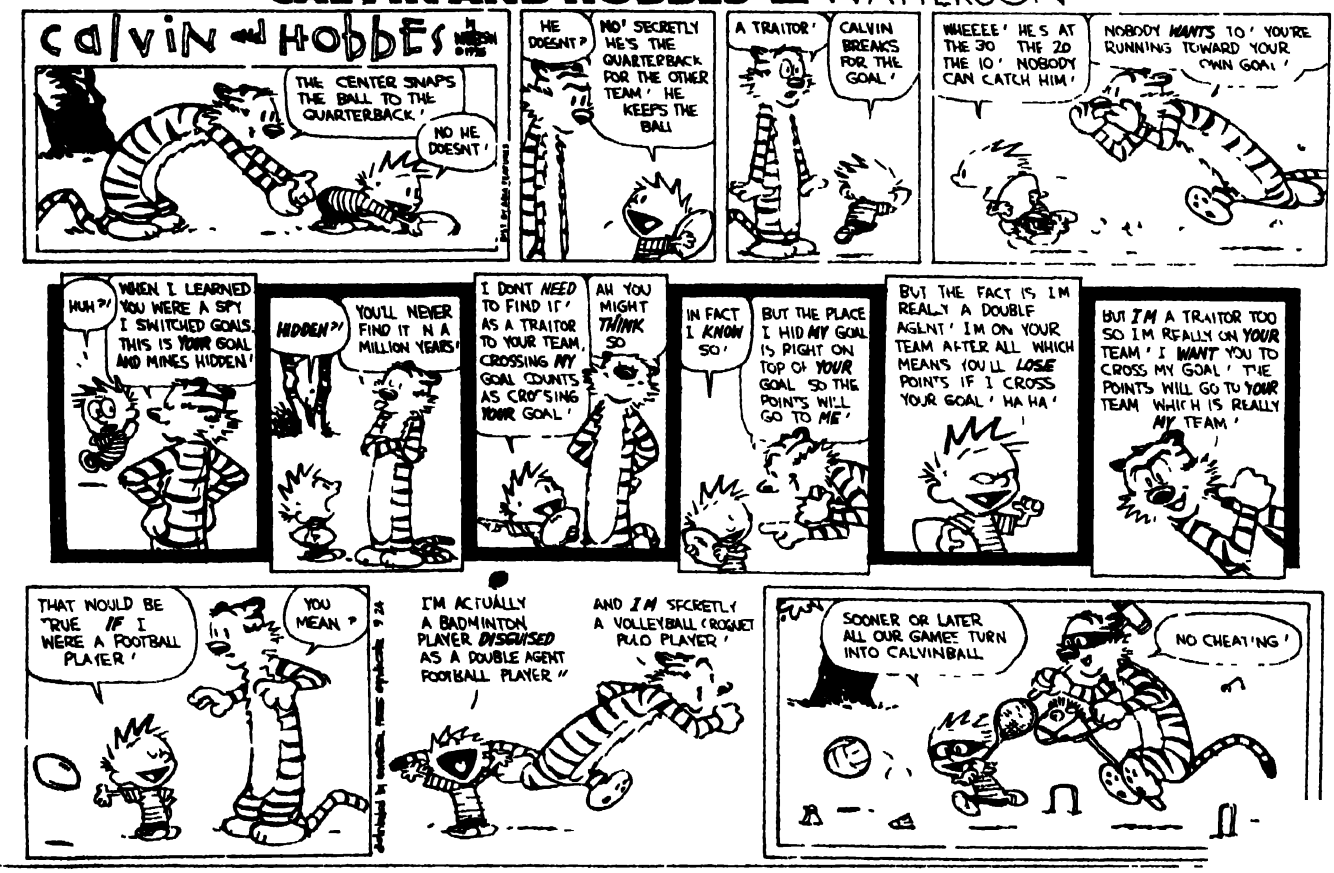
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible twosome Hear, open

ARCHIE



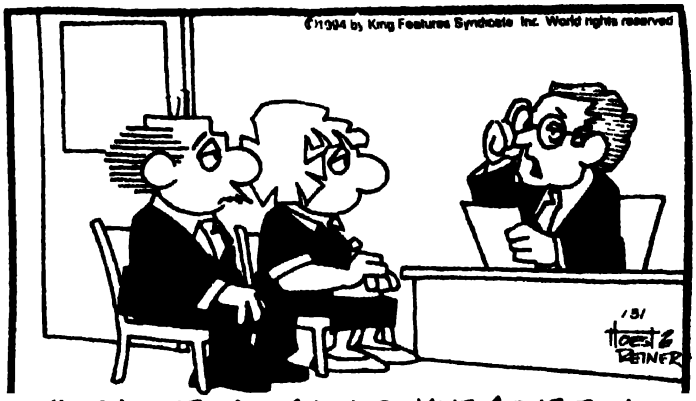
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



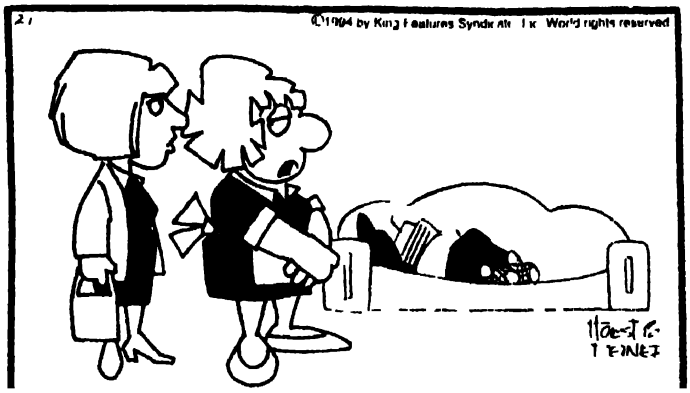
THE LOCKHORNS



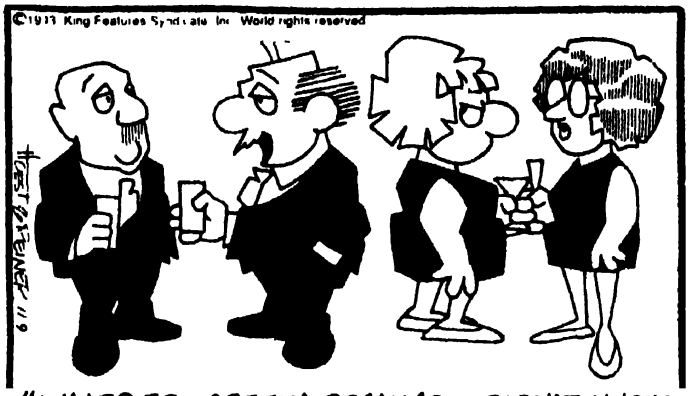
"LEROY LIKES TO THINK EVERYTHING OUT BEFORE HE ACTS UNWISELY"



"FIRST OFF, YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE TO A CHEAPER FINANCIAL ADVISER."

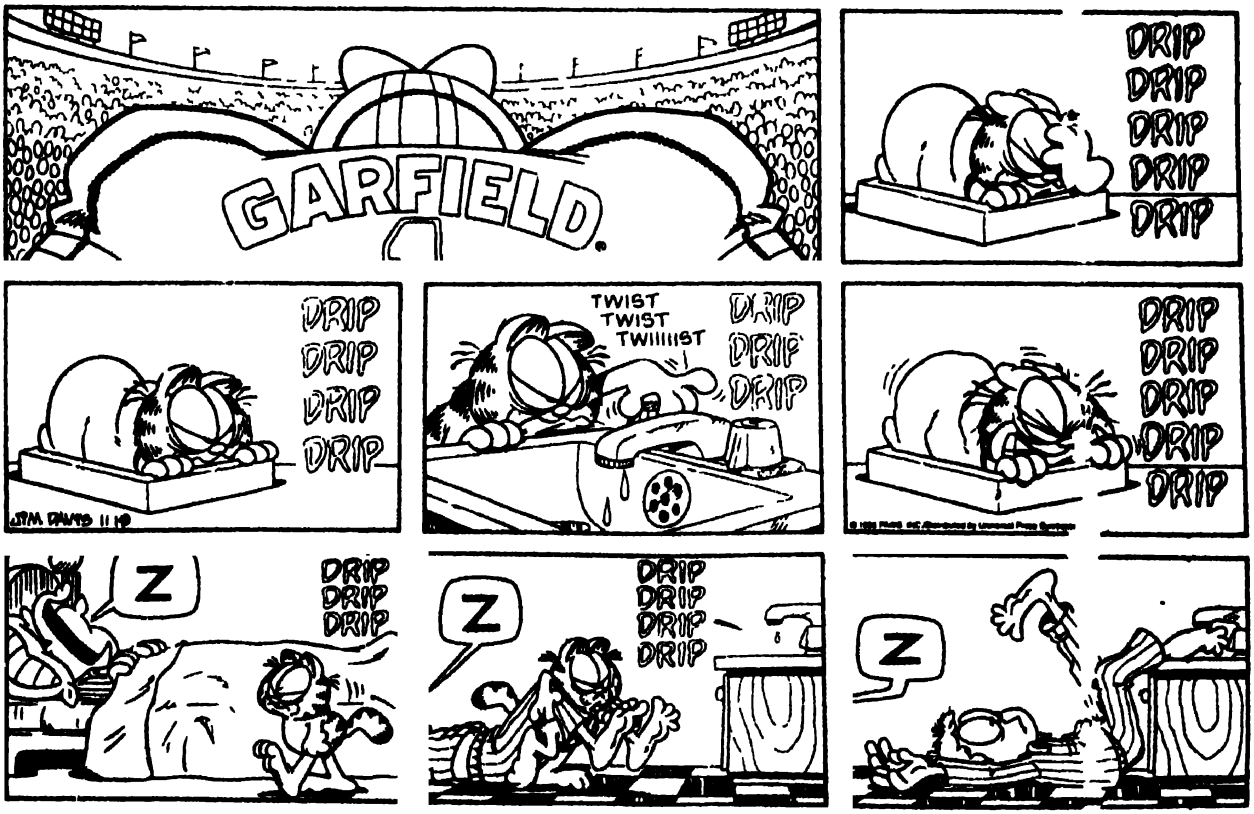


"LEROY CALLS THAT HIS HOBBY."

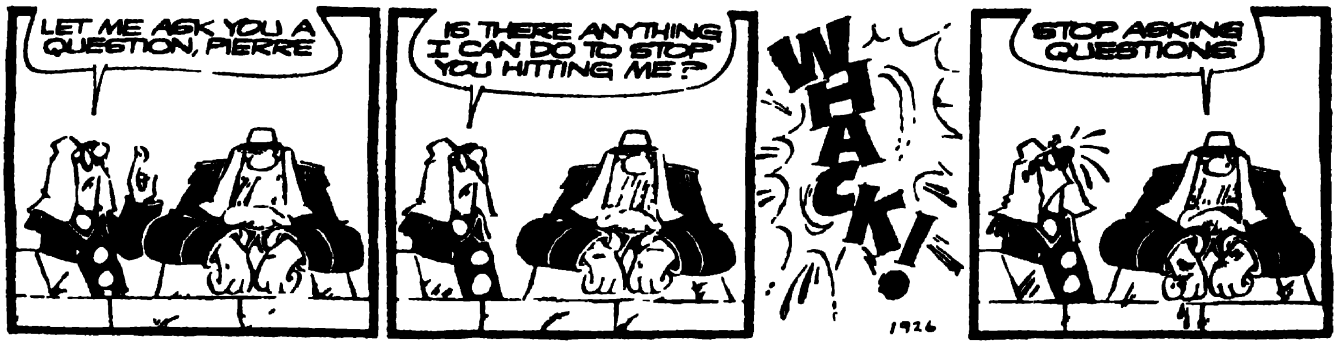


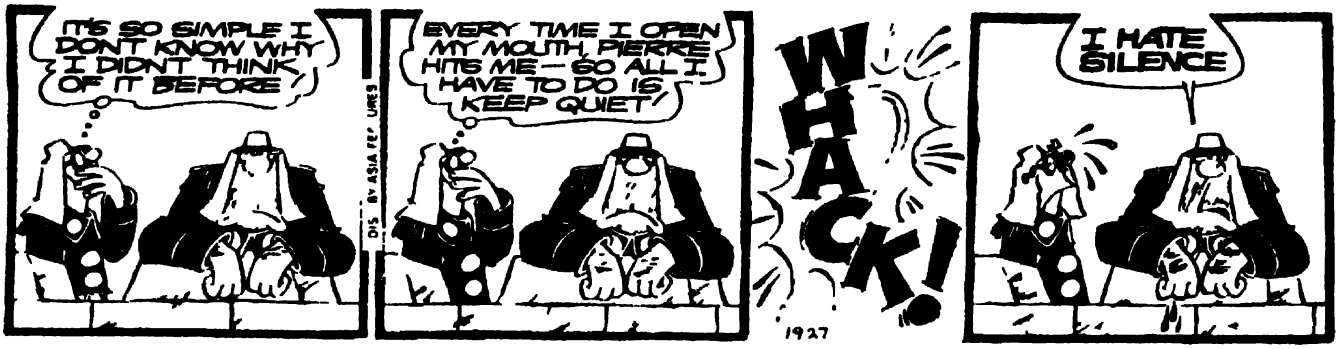
"I MARRIED LORETTA BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO GET HER FOR HER BIRTHDAY."

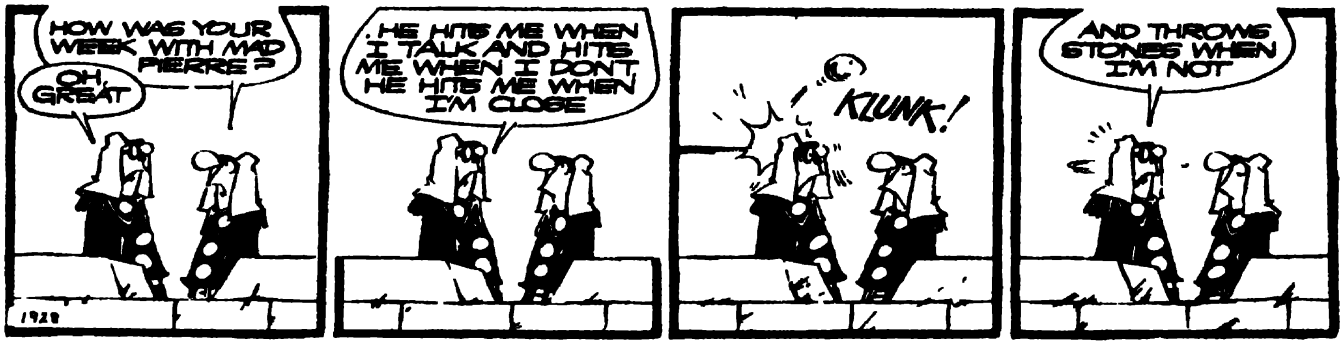
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

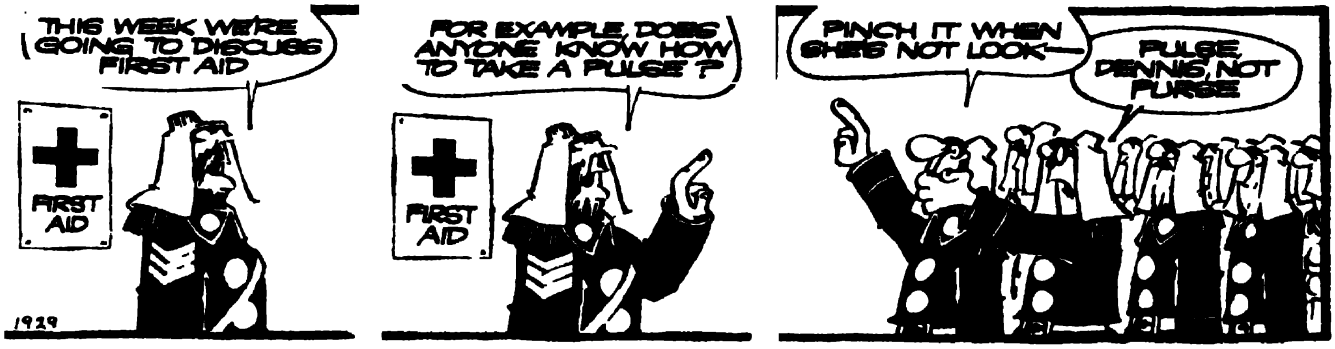


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

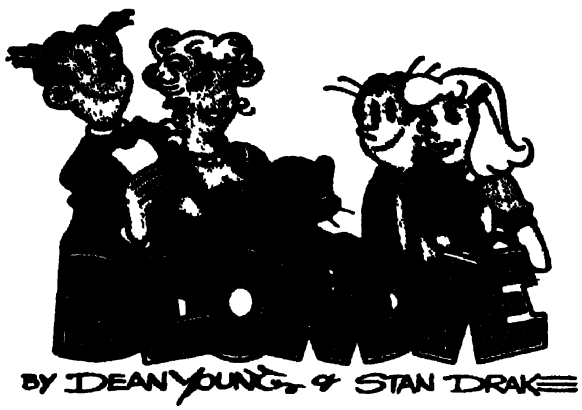


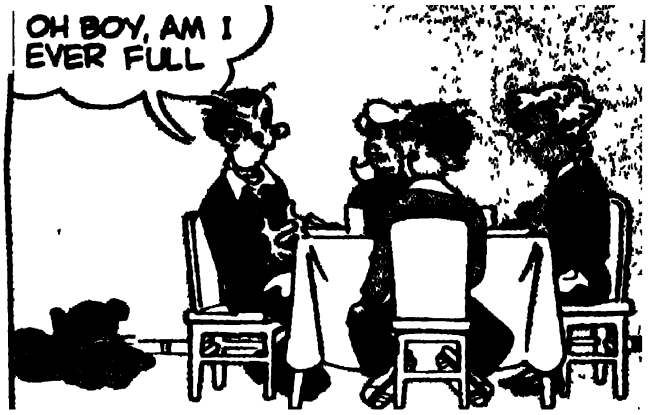


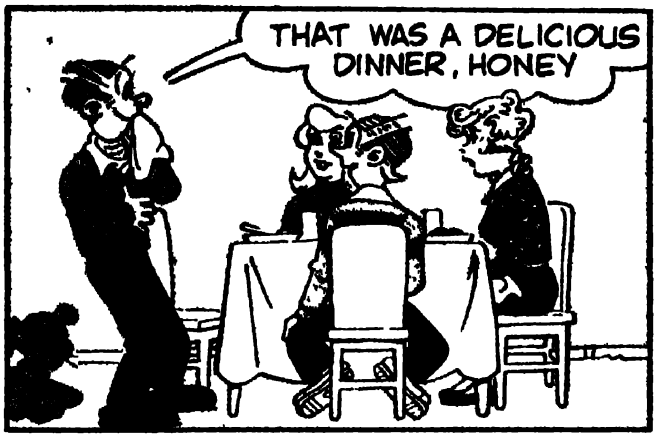


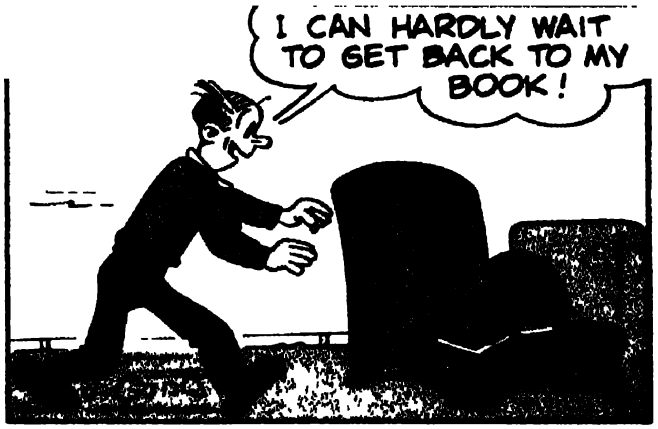




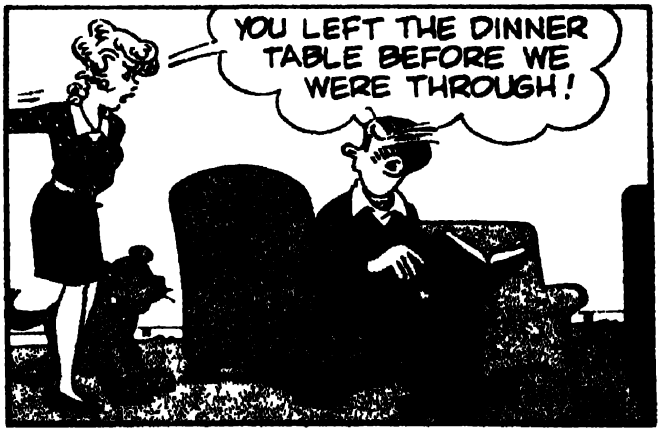




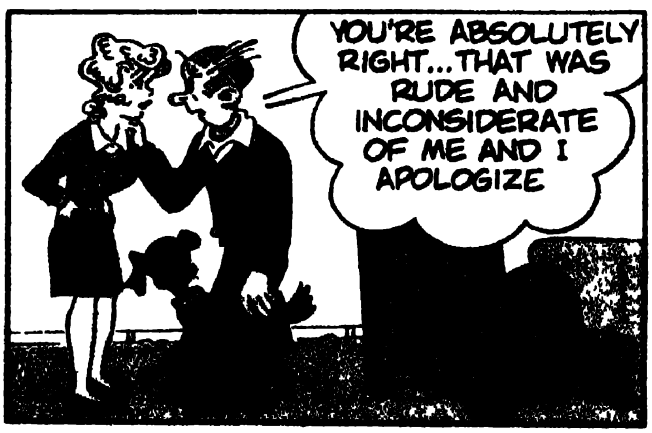


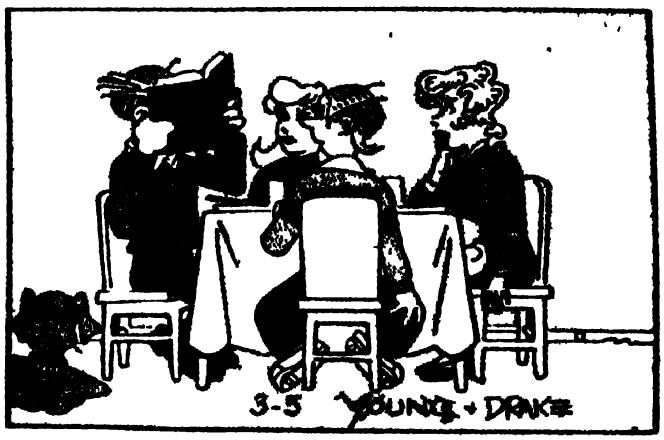






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FOCUS

GROWING DAILY

No scalpel and implants. Hollywood doctor Wanita Holmes just looks deep into her patients' eyes to make them grow bustier. ***Frank Durham*** *on this exciting new form of hypnotherapy*

Flat-chested Hollywood girls are flocking to a doctor with compelling, hypnotic eyes who teaches them to think big

Dr Wanita Holmes looks deep into patients' eyes, puts them into a trance and talks them into growing the bumper-sized boobs of their dreams "Because of the glamour attitude of this town, breasts are men's Number One attraction If you don't have them, they don't look at you," she says

And not to be looked at in Tinsel Town is professional death for an ambitious girl So women afraid of the surgeon's knife and breast implants, happily settle for 'development sessions' on the 66-year-old Dr Holmes' comfortable couch

For less than the cost of a breast enhancement operation, hypnotherapist Dr Holmes adds vital inches to their statistics After the doctor's entrancing treatment, one 32-year-old patient raced straight out to the sexy boutique, Victoria's Secret, to joyfully buy the first bra of her life

Kristen Addix said, "My breasts went from nothing to 34B At first, people accused me of wearing a padded bra because they had never before seen me with cleavage

"My fiance, Peter, said, 'Get back to that doctor straightaway for some more sessions!'"

White-haired Dr Holmes said at her discreet Beverley Hills office, "I use the power of mind over body I release that power to enhance women's breasts I hypnotise a client and suggest that she lets all the nutrition and hormones in her blood stream flood into the tissue of her breasts.





Dr Wanita Holmes measures the results of her therapy

"So far, I have had a 50 per cent success rate."

Dr Holmes believes young girls stop their breasts from developing by using the power of their minds, because they are afraid of growing up. "Some small breasted women were sexually abused or were victims of incest when they were small. So the girl child doesn't want to grow breasts because she feels it only makes her more attractive to men.

"Other girls have butch lesbian older sisters, whom they look up to. They feel that if they develop into beautiful women, they will be frowned upon by their sisters. Then there are the 'Daddy's Little Girls'. Father wanted a John, but he got a Jane. So she becomes his buddy and they go fishing and play sport together. This makes the girl very happy. When her breasts start to develop, she tells them, 'Go away! Go away! I don't want you!' She is afraid her father will pull away from her if she becomes more female and womanly. And he will. So this girl's mind actually stops her breasts from growing."

The doctor went on, "I try to unblock the obstacle in these women's minds by telling them that their busts can develop and they should allow themselves to grow as a woman.

"I say they can have wonderful breasts and that they should be proud of their sensuality, not ashamed.

"When they are hypnotised, I create a magic mirror in their minds, where they can see their body as they want it to be. Then I ask them to feel it."

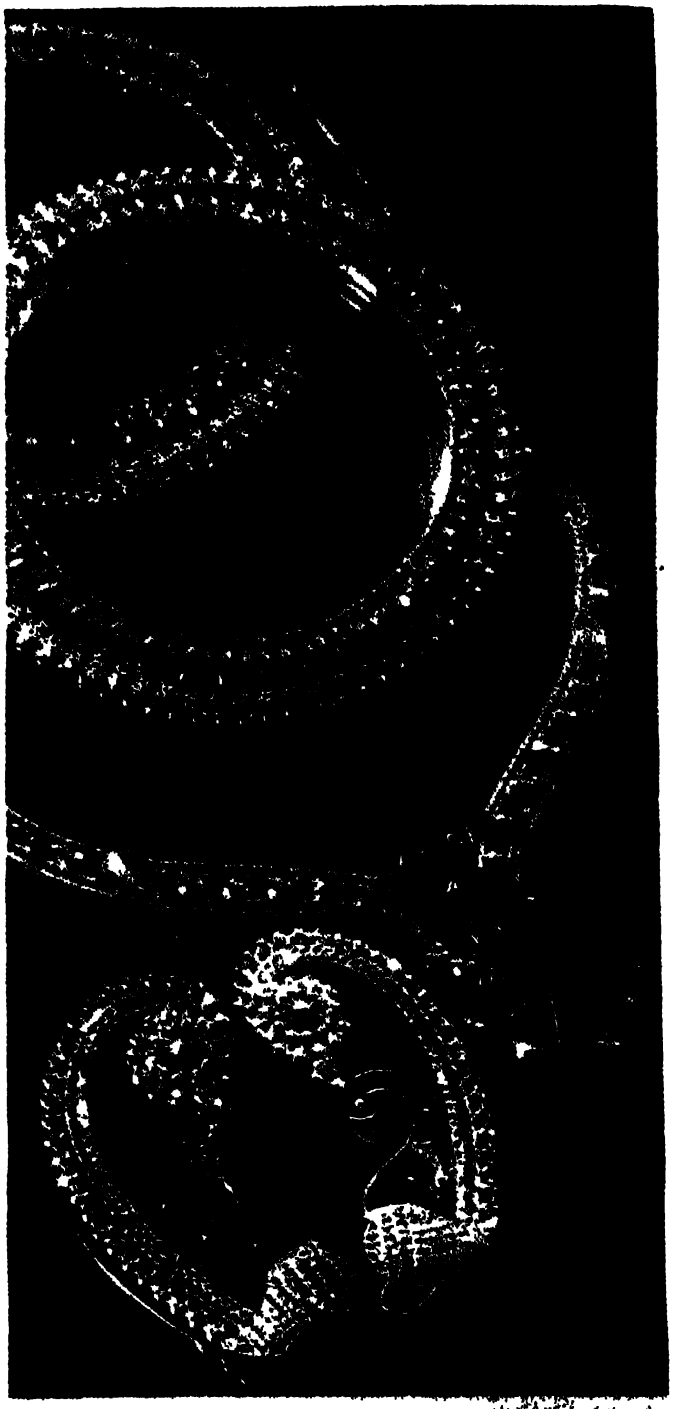
Says Kristen. "I grew up hanging around guys and fixing cars and motorcycles. I didn't want to lose them as friends, so I grew into a Peter Pan type with a boyish figure. When my breasts developed after hypnotherapy, it changed my life amazingly. I first noticed them when I went to the gym for a workout. When I was on the treadmill, I looked in the mirror and asked myself, 'What is that bouncing under my T-shirt? Oh, my God! I'll have to get a bra. I can't believe this.' Once I could not fit into the smallest size bra. In the store I looked like a boy trying to get into drag. Now I can wear really feminine tanktops. I have to get used to men staring at my breasts instead of my face when they're talking to me."

How much does it cost to look deep into Dr Holmes' eyes and get a brand new set of boobs?

She said, "I charge $180 for the first session and $80 for every one after that. Patients need at least six sessions."

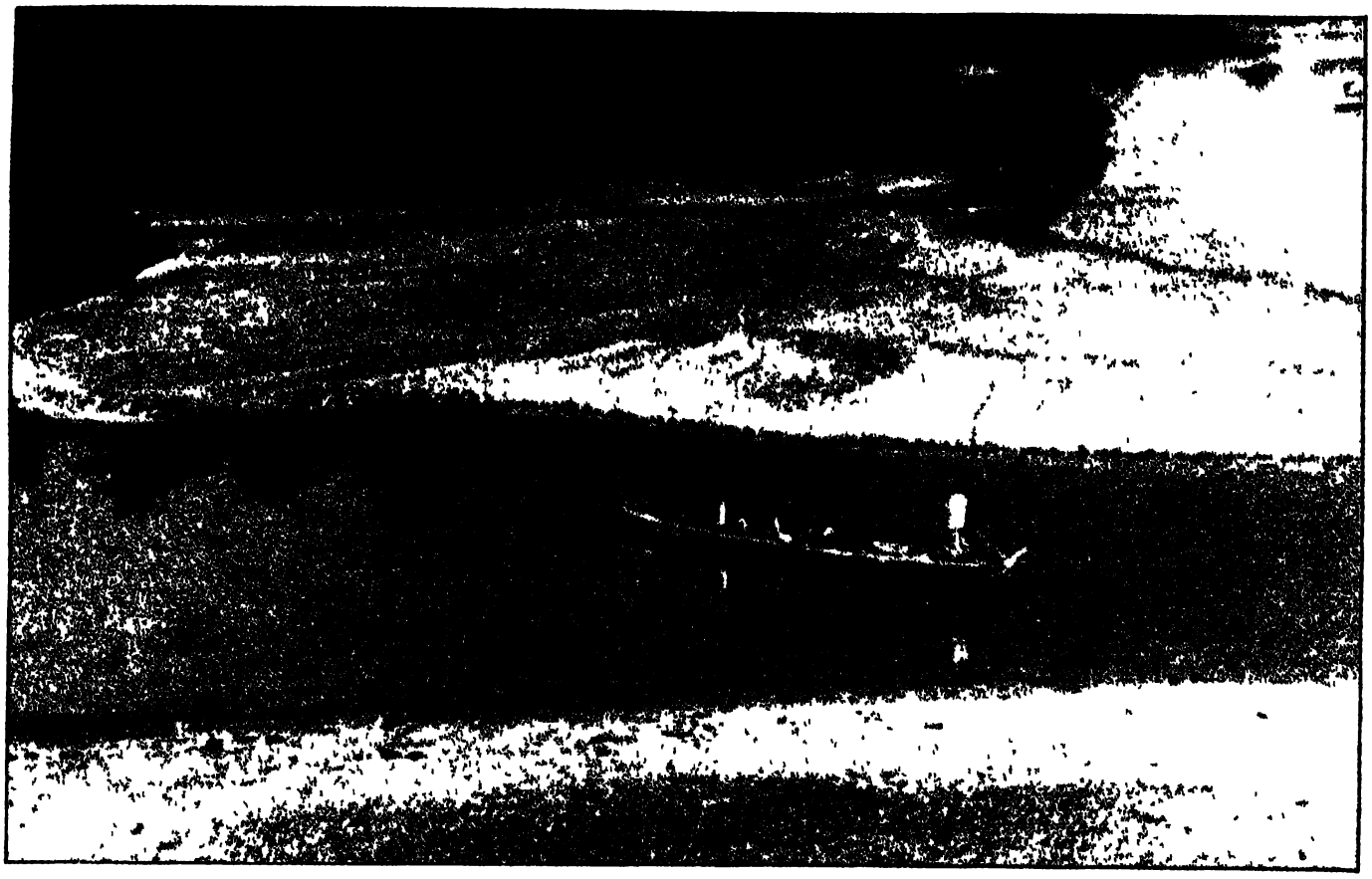
For the Hollywood doctor, boobs are a developing business.

(Asia Features)



POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



The Lantern is Feeling Unwell Today

The lantern is feeling
unwell today,
It won't smile

The whole of last night
it sat by me,
prayed for my recovery,
today how can it be so
detached, uncaring?

The chimney is
engulfed from within
with the smoke of fuel

The lantern is feeling
unwell,
It won't emit light,
not to speak of
bedecking itself

It will lie down without
any fuss,
even a wink of sleep is
far away,

My evening will be
spent in the melancholic
company
of darkness

It will be tiring, very
tiring, till the dawn will
come
and come with a smile
And then all on a
sudden,
I will discover a blaze of
light

On the lap of the
eastern sky

Translated by
Subhrajyoti
Bhattacharya
Swarnali Biswas
Bhattacharjee

The Gourd Blossom

A rain drenched flute
kept playing

One by one dreams
kept falling
like leaves

I am a small sailboat
the note of the flute
makes me reach out to
the banks
like a river
I would rather not
spend this night alone
I am the lone first
blossom
of the Flame of the
Forest
With the spiralling
smoke
a glow worm came
from the rain
and said

Do you hear the
drenched note of the
flute
I had gone looking for
that unknown player
but the wind brought
me here

You're not telling
anyone that I've come
the wind will keep it a
secret
if the sky knows he will
tell the stars

I'll spend this night
with you
On my body the colour
of the gourd-blossom
Put off the lamp

Translated from
Assamese by
Pradip Acharya
Jiban Narah

LIMELIGHT

HEADTURNER!

As Dunedin's first Indian (and woman) mayor, the Ludhiana-born Sukhinder Turner dreams of putting Dunedin on the right course

A little over two decades ago, when Sukhinder Turner (*nee* Gill) first set foot in Dunedin, locals greeted her somewhat patronisingly. "Hellloo, hoow are youu?" Unsure just how proficient the delicate Sardarni was in English.

Today, Sukhi has become Dunedin's first-ever mayoress. Also, the first Indian to be elected to that office anywhere in New Zealand. And, as she drives around in the mayoral Mercedes, the proverbial last word has clearly been her's. By a long chalk, too.

Indeed, the past six weeks have dramatically re-cast the Ludhiana-born Sukhi's lifestyle. And all this while hubby Glenn has been touring India, often paying more attention to the wrestling tournaments than the Indian tourists.

Now, more so than ever, Sukhi is the Ludhiana wife of one of New Zealand's greatest sportsmen. Rather, she has an identity all her own and is determined not to be remembered as "just another mayor". The commitment to excellence delightfully rubs deep in the Turner household.

October 14 was when Sukhi scripted history, unseating Liberal Party Dicky Walls. Days later, she was her husband, on November 6, hosted a luncheon in Queen Elizabeth's honour.

And just how she planned what Her Royal Highness on meeting a lady mayor, *The Telegraph Magazine* queried. Sukhi's answer was, as usual, punctuated with laughter. "Am not sure... I suppose she's met a clutch of women in that post.

"But, yes, the Queen was very curious. Like when did I first meet Glenn (in Bombay, on New Zealand's 1969-70 India tour) and what encouraged me to take to politics. ."

Well, were her answers suitably blue-blooded? This time, Sukhi's laughter was more pronounced. "I explained I wanted to make the world a better place, that I wished Dunedin would go on the right course. Also, that I could now devote time (to politics) as our children had grown up."

Sukhi, by the way, expects Natasha (18) and Shaan (15) to now play a prominent role at home. Specially, with Glenn busy managing the New Zealand side. "I haven't had office hours before (8:30 am to 5:00 pm) and so, obviously, the children have to lend a much bigger helping hand."



Lokendra Pratap Sahi

And while Sukhi's parents are Chandigarh-based (her father is a retired Squadron Leader), the siblings are all in New Zealand. In fact, both brothers, Jagmohan and Sukhmohan, are in Dunedin itself, while younger sister Shaanti has settled in neighbouring Queenstown. And all are in the restaurant business. Even if she wanted to, Sukhi cannot feel homesick.

Sukhmohan has opened 'Little India' while Jagmohan has left for the US to set up a cafe-bar 'Crossroads'. As for Shaanti, she has introduced Queenstown to, yes you have guessed it, 'Little India'.

Incidentally, Sukhi ('Curry Queen' for many) is herself a fabulous cook and has, in the past, been a popular teacher of Indian cuisine. No wonder a Turner invitation is always lapped up.

Though quite tied down by the demands of her office, Sukhi is hoping to take some time off during the February-March World Cup. "With a bit of luck, I'll be in India."

The red carpet awaits her

Lokendra Pratap Sahi

MANU PAREKH *is not the stereotype artist whose canvases are pleasing to the eye. And it is often after the initial shock that one comes to realise the true worth of this non-conformist. His is a constant urge to create something different, something new, derived from his days on stage where he had to emote different feelings and expressions. As he mounts his major work in recent years on violence with animal forms as the leitmotif, change and non-conformist modes once again come to the fore.*



What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Love and food
What is your greatest fear?
Cold vibes from others
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My father
What do you dislike most in others?
Jealousy
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My sudden bursts of anger
What is your most precious possession?
My family.
What objects do you always carry?
Myself
What makes you most depressed?
Unhappiness Whether mine or my friends
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
Nothing.
What is your favourite word?
Arre! Arre!
What is your favourite journey?
To Calcutta and Banaras
What is your favourite dream?

How do you relax?

By making love. Though I don't think it's a mere sexual act

To have around me as friends, couples who are well matched in every sense.
What is your nightmare?
Death of a dear one
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Women
What is your source of sustenance?
The spirit of life.
On what occasions do you lie?
Generally I don't because I can face reality.
What is your greatest regret?
Nothing.
What has been your happiest moment?
When Madhavi (Parekh) got the national award.
What brings tears to your eyes?
Sentiments.
How do you relax?

How would you like to be remembered?

As a person who had the ability to struggle

By making love. Though I don't think it's a mere sexual act.
What do you envy most in others?
Ability to do good work
How would you like to be remembered?
As a person who had the ability to
How would you like to die?
In my sleep.

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THE TYRE...
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3 DECEMBER 1995

The Telegraph *magazine*

POST MORTEM

Sharjah: Earth Sheikhing

■ Sharjah has just about everything to make it an exotic destination: bewitching beauties, modern architecture, exported artificial greenery, gold in abundance and the richie rich ('Petro City', October 8).

Unlike other desert emirates, Sharjah has a special glamour about it

■ The Magazine seemed to be a self-appointed promoter of Sharjah
Debabrata Mohanty, Balasore (Orissa)

because of its recent association with cricket. For, cricket was never the Sheikhs' sport (their only obsession being swanky cars and stylish beauties).

The dollar-rich sheikhs may have changed the skyline of Sharjah, but the sheikhdom is yet to give up its prejudices.
Manoj Kumar Jain, Shyamnagar (W.B.)

■ With money flowing in abundantly it is only natural that Sharjah will have the best. Lavish landmarks, shopping plazas and mosques. As long as you have money the emirate will be a paradise. Beyond that it is a forbidden city.
Arta Mishra, Cuttack



An enigma called Rekha

Meryl Makes Merry

■ If a Hollywood siren strips, it is news ('Streep Tease' October 29). If a Hollywood actress does not strip, it is also news.

What's so scandalous about Meryl Streep stripping in *The Bridges of Madison County*?
Devraj Singh Kalsi, Kanchrapara (W B)

True Lies

■ Some of the questions in First Person are impertinent, particularly the ones on lying and dying.
S.P. Mishra, Calcutta

'Art Star'

■ At last Rekha's histrionics have been acknowledged ('Star Plus', September 10). Cast in commercial films where she has little scope to emote, Rekha was lying undiscovered all this while.
Prabal Guha, Patna

■ The cover story was bearable. But the Magazine is not a film glossy that it has to print full-page blowups of Rekha giving those come-hither looks.
Biswarup Ghosh, Calcutta

■ Hats off to Rekha! From an obese, third-rate film heroine, she had the intelligence to groom herself and emerge as Bollywood's most successful and beautiful woman.

The cliched *tawaif* and the *pativrata bahu* proved she could also excel in films like *Khubsoorat* (playing the mischievous sister) or *Khoon Bhari Mang* (the wronged wife).
Paritosh Chatterjee, Calcutta

INSIDE



Rajesh Kumar

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CHECK OUT what our top designer labels have in store for you this winter And whether what is offered as Fall or Winter Collections are relevant at all

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Wendell Rodricks hits the international fashion scene with the Igedo fashion fair in Germany

Winter fashion

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Cover Courtesy Ensemble

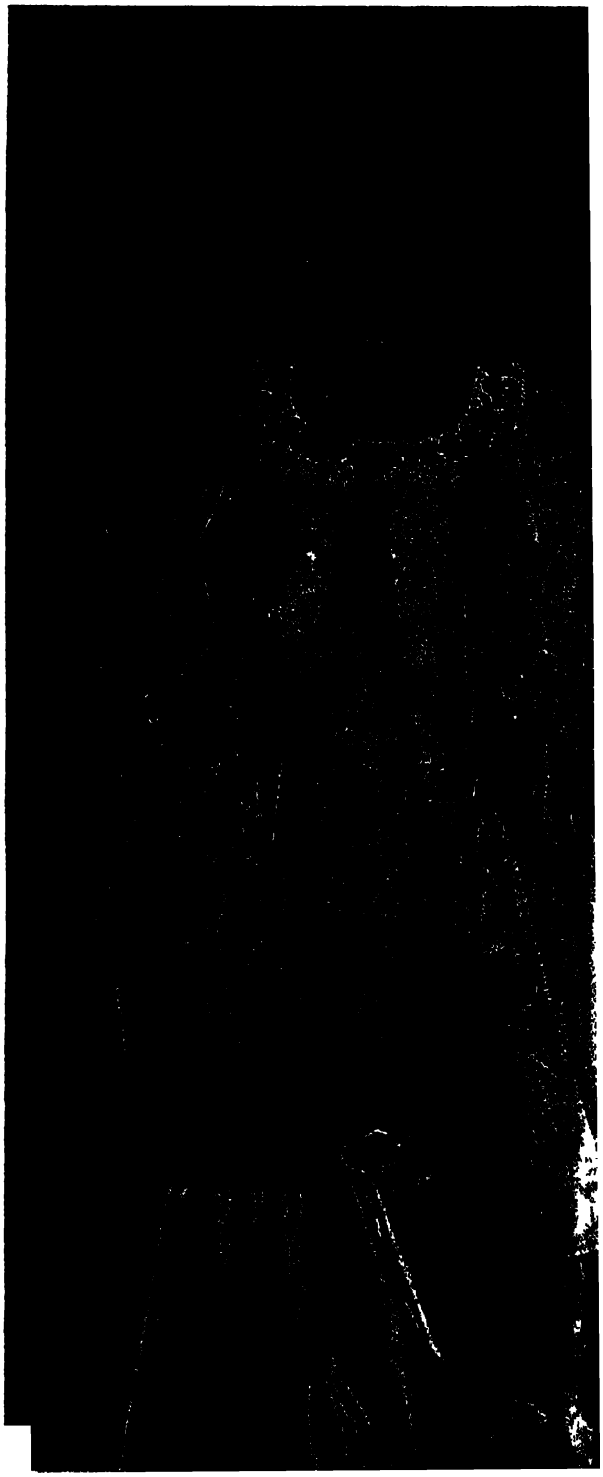
COVER STORY

FALL FOR THIS!

Now that winter is here, see what our designer labels have in store for you
***Samita Bhatia** and **Vaishali Honawar** report from the fashion front*

WHILE THE CONTENTION OF FASHION PUNDITS HAS always been that you cannot dictate a colour to the season, the trends this fall indicate that it is going to be colour, colour and colour all the way to Spring '96

Affordability may be debatable, but the Fall-Winter Collections launched recently by a few top designers, have concentrated on the wearability of the garments; nd pirouetting on the ramp to present the enigmatic collections hot from the designer-studios were Manpreet Brar, the Revlon lady Mehar Bhasin, Pooja Batra, Shikha Swaroop and a galaxy of catwalk girls.



From Ritu Beri's *Hommage a Lesage* sequence

Designer Ritu Beri's do had alcohol served from a bar shaped like the Eiffel Tower. Gitanjali Kashyap planned to fly a "select few" (say, 120 people) to Samode Palace off Jaipur for a two-day extravaganza Except that a last-minute hitch prevented her from executing her designs. And the Ravi Bajaj line was introduced at a gala show sponsored by a new entrant on the Indian cosmetic scene, Revlon.

Kashyap's crinkled collection is a prediction that preempts the colour preferences and tones of the coming year the earth hues have gone, replaced by vivid new shades, muted tones of red, orange, blue, purple and burgundy

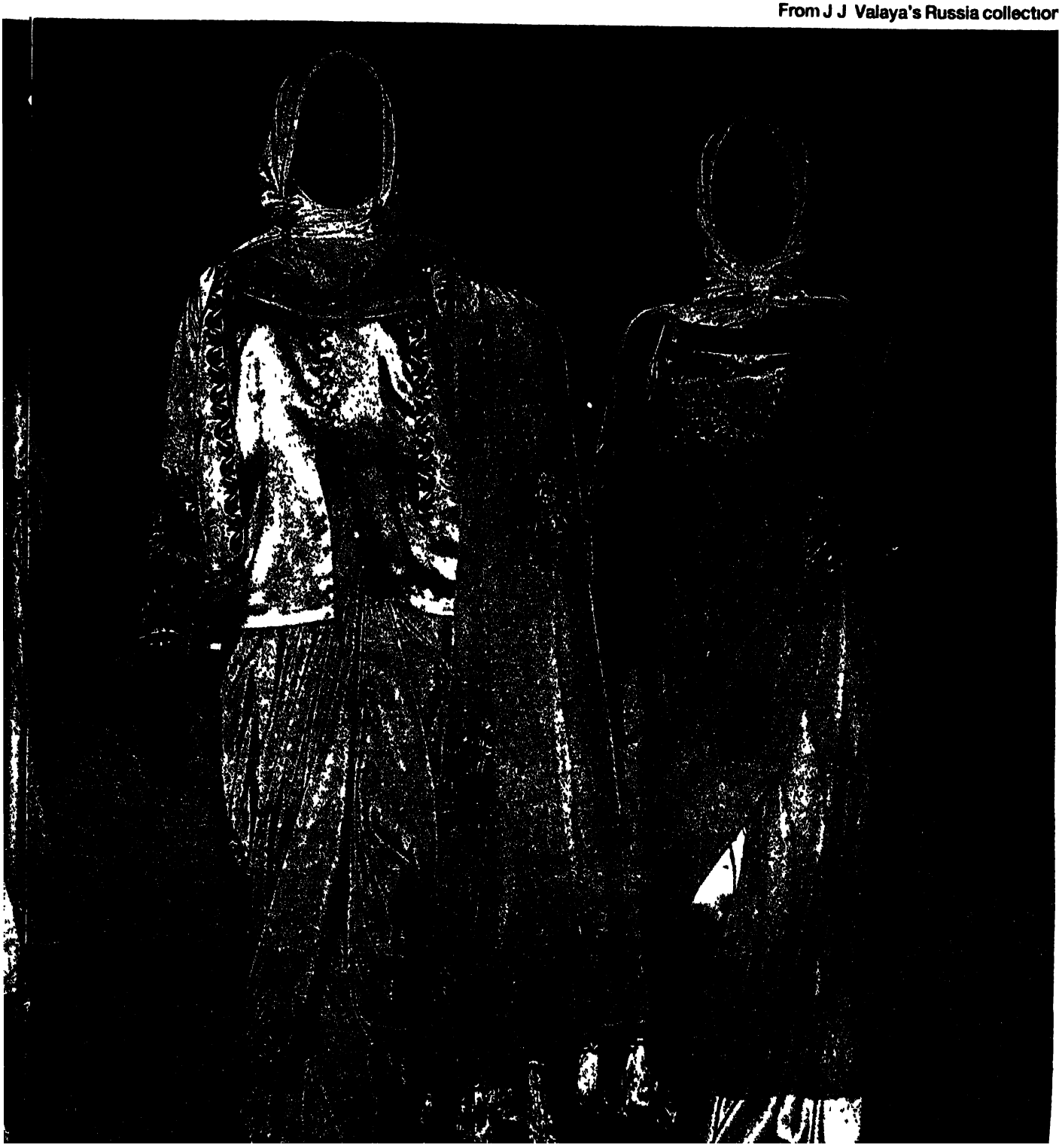
Simplicity is in It is evident in the lack of embellishments, the fall, the drape and the cut Ravi Bajaj's collection is marked by this simplicity which he feels in turn indicates that the quality of the product is as near perfect as possible The collection is versatile blending form and function with ideas that are progressive and provocative

"Basically people should wear what they are most comfortable in," feels Bajaj His silhouettes or colours are not restrictive Nor are his materials, ranging from crepe wool to cashmere and hand-woven tweed from Almora Cashmere became an international favourite this year after Imran Khan was seen draping a cashmere shawl to complement a traditional eastern attire And Bajaj selected cashmere for its luxurious feel, warmth and price tag!

Simplicity is also evident in Ritu Beri's collection, with the accent on classic straight lines and fluid elegance with a French influence The result a cool, wearable and feminine look

Innovative forms and new possibilities in embroidery are visible in Beri's collection Describing her collection, *France Mes Amours*, Beri says that hers is French fashion for the Indian wom-

From J J Valaya's Russia collection





J.J. Valaya: The world of the American Indians

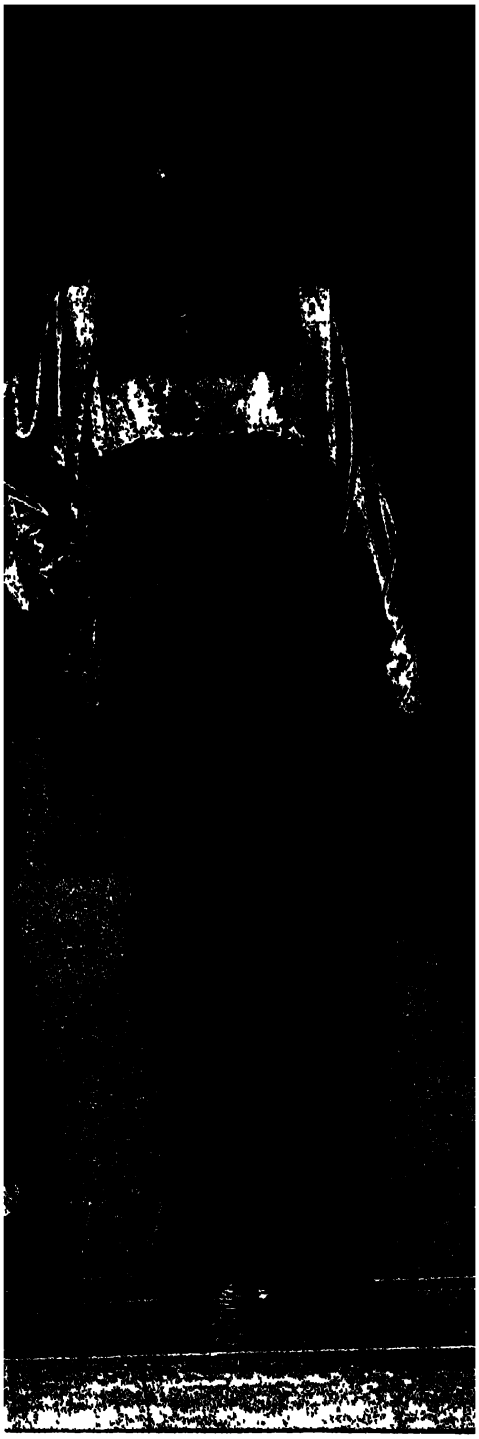
en (with a dash of good humour) Divided into four sequences, her outfits reflect her time spent in one of the world's finest fashion capitals, Paris

A la Recherche des Legends, a hand-painted sequence, is inspired by French artists and their works, *La France c'est Pres de Vous* is simple and perfect with flowing fabrics of the chiffon and satin variety, *Portrait d'Amour* is an innovative portrayal of France with embroidery on wool and bold prints and bright colours, *Hommage a Lesage*, a tribute to the French designer Mon Francois Lesage with whom Ben had studied embroidery in Paris last year But watch the floor price Rs 8,000 that crawls up steadily to Rs 35,000!

For Kashyap, this season marks new beginnings as hers was a first solo extravaganza Though she says the layered look is on its way out the silhouettes for her block printed sequence were voluminous, layered "The colour palette for this sequence is shaded with the technique of *ombre* dyeing adding a cadence to the colour coding"

The colours interplay with the vibrant and the subdued through shading on tussar, gajji silk, crepe and organza The high point of her style is embroidery on net that comes with a cool price tag of Rs 45,000 Floor price Rs 8,000

For Bajaj this fall has been a search for the perfect woman's jacket His jackets come in silk and wool with the lengths varying from a very formal above-the-hip to mid-hip and the traditional blazer length His skirts come in sheaths and A-lines with the length varying from mini to knee to mid-calf to ballet He smiles, "In this economic environment, I am not sure





Cashmere became an international favourite this year after Imran Khan was seen draping a cashmere shawl to complement a traditional eastern attire. And Ravi Bajaj selected cashmere for its luxurious feel, warmth and price tag!

whether to make the hemline rise or fall So I play it safe and feature them all"

The blouse, too, has been left simple because the fabric used for the blouse is printed silks and Bajaj would rather not disturb the effect

Colour being the leitmotif, most designers have experimented with a wide palette Internationally, bloom motifs, designs and colours are overpowering all other inspirational ideas in *haute couture* this fall

So, too, is Suneet Varma's collection which reflects the naturalist in him

"My fall collection is an ode to the flower that lives briefly, but leaves an impression that lasts a lifetime"

Varma has taken off creatively in every aspect from the flower "The pleated silk unfolds like the blooming bud and the drapes of the sarong — a new sari silhouette I have introduced this fall — reminds one of the manifold petals of a flower"

Varma has experimented and succeeded Screen-printed organza for easy elegance has been created in the *Garden in Bloom*, simple and ready-to-wear collection Another design breakthrough for the designer has been the cut velvet never used before in the textured technique that Varma applies for his dressy and embroidered collection

The latest to go public with his Fall-Winter Collection was the Swinging Sikh, J J Valaya The influences were varied and Valaya's imagination took flight into regions hitherto unexplored by him — Gaza, China, Russia, the world of the American Indians and so, too, a turning to the Indian Indian in the sequence 'Made in India'

'Gaza' was opulent in classic black, blue and rusts replete with a layered look that is so popular in the West JJ's "ardent fan" — none other than the sizzling Water Baby of the Seventies Nafisa Ali Sodhi says, "A large part of his designs are those that he creates to satisfy the artiste in him"

From Ensemble's Fall-Winter Collection



Ali Sodhi is effusive about JJ's designs "I love the maturity of his colour tones, the softness of the fabric which gives a distinct sense of style to his creations The sequence in his Fall-Winter Collection that I have found to be very appealing is 'How the West was Lost' The fabrics unfurl in a veritable riot of colours, and it reminded me a lot of nature," muses Ali Sodhi

Like her, the sequences that are the closest to the designer's heart are the American Indian and Gaza creations All the sequences are livened with tones that are new and anyone who felt that there was a similarity in colours to an earlier collection is told by JJ, "The story – as in shades — may be the same but the colours are nowhere close to last year's collection"

Besides an emphasis on crepes, chiffons and georgettes, a benchmark in the collection was the sequence inspired by the intricacy and detail of the 'Rusi Roomal'

More silk sand crepes crafted into half saris, skirts, long and short, swirling and straight, culottes and salwaar-kameezes, all worked upon with intricate embroidery The shades were peach, black and even red, and the ubiquitous 'blooms' of this year's Fall-Winter were there in all their glory The Chinese strains were just as

colourful

And the Indian in Valaya sashayed the ramp in the 'Made in India' The models -- Marc Robinson and wife Colleen Khan, Rahul Dev, Mehar Bhasin, Anu Ahuja, Noyonika Chatterjee, Sonali Oberoi, Arjun Rampal — walked the catwalk in zardozi-crafted fabrics some studded with Swaroski crystals

Every designer seems to have something special in his closet with no single rule dictating the look except simplicity

The silhouette is long and clean or short and smart and the colours soft or earthy

Women's ethnic wear goes aggressively feminine with flowing dupattas and light fabrics like crepe, chiffon, lace and fine wool with lots of metallic embroidery thrown in

Western wear for both men and women makes a splash with bold colours and designs

Men's ethnic wear - kurtas, achkans and the like -- are embroidered and looser, but as designer Krishna Mehta says, "Cuts and styles for men's wear don't change much " What she herself has done, then, is to innovate with the embroidery using gold, silver and bronze thread on a silk fabric

Mehta started out with shirts, but has now included kurtas in her collection She has kept her shoulders for the season broader and looser and introduced more colours in burnt shades like ochre, gold, rust and olive green "Initially, men weren't too open to the idea of colours other than the usual shades but now they are getting used to it," says the designer

The material she uses is light, spun silk with a jacquard-like texture and a light weave "Men are usually very particular about the fabric being 'itchy' and the ones I have used are just right," she says

In women's wear, Mehta's accent is on fluidity and transparency The colours are soft pink, off-white and soft beige The embroidery, too, is lighter and treated in such a way as to give the clothes a softer look

Interestingly, Mehta uses gold cord pounded with a hammer for the embroidery, creating an unusual look

Pallavi Jaikishen makes a feminine statement with a Fondant lace and sequin collection and her peach Verona line with cord quilting

Tarun Tahiliani also uses Solstiss French lace in his collection for the season

Tahiliani's clothing, in the designer's own words, is heavily inspired by Indian classicism and his look for Fall-



Courtesy Gitanjali Kashyap

A Gitanjali Kashyap creation



Courtesy Ravi Bajaj

Winter fashion from Ravi Bajaj

Winter is divided into five categories, some of them drawing from his earlier work

'Crepes, drapes and shapes,' the first in his series, is made up of fluid, single-colour garments while the Impressionist group is a collection of tailored and draped separates inspired by 'Monet's Years at Giverny.' The colours here are lilac, jade, red and orange

Texture, that one aspect which inspires most designers and wearers — for what feels better against the skin than a beautifully knit fabric — is given its due by Tahiliani in the textured group which has traditional silhouettes such as the lehnga, Koti, Mughal kurti, sarong and the saree blouse. The colours are iridiscent

For the 'Hakoba collection in silk', Tahiliani reaches into his Sindhi background. Tiny, handcut mirrors are embroidered on natural hakoba in beige, blush and tussar gold

In the 'Velvet Appliqued on Net' or Vain group, Tahiliani goes into the baroque era to capture in his clothes the vanity and flamboyant excess of those times. The colours are burgundy, buff, teal, aubergine and sun mustard while net and gauze are the textiles used to lend the clothes a sensuality

Monisha Jaisingh toes the simplicity line with close-fitted jackets and shirts. This designer specialises in Western wear for women and her look for the season is the "mod Sixties' look," as she calls it. Skirts are knee-length or above the knee, fitted at the top and slightly flared at the bottom. Trousers have a trim fit. Her fabrics are soft ones like georgette, wool crep and satin and she uses a lot of red wit some black and white

Also in Western wear, Lester Manuel's Safari line is all about shimmering gold tops and printed chiffon pants

LOUIS LINE

Just when it appeared to be curtains for the Pierre Cardin showroom in the Capital, the Louis Feraud Autumn/Winter Collection was unveiled in Delhi

Luxurious French chic now attempts a major comeback in the Indian market. A hand-picked selection from a choice of almost 300 styles from the painter/designer Louis Feraud's international collection will now be available in Delhi and soon in other metros.

According to Swati Singhania, managing director, J K L'Atelier, who brings the Louis Feraud designs to India, "The bottomline adhered to in the garments is what most designers have looked at closely this fall — wearability. The collection offers modern and racy options to the Indian woman for the first time."

So, the skirts are flippier, there are exciting youthful knits that could help create a practical and, to an extent, cost-effective wardrobe, while prints are exclusive, updated silhouettes and interchangeable options give you a vast range of *couture* to select from

For business dressing there are lively and dynamic options — chrome yellow, amethyst royale cyclamen, eclectic prints with tweed plaid boucles, in wool velour and crispy wool crepes.

You have multiple jacket options in claret moss and anthracite grey, tweeds designed for a sporty look in blue ribbon, cream pearl and brown. And for winter pearl white, oyster grey, charcoal and black have been crafted into fitted gentry jackets,



Louis Feraud collection

oversized anoraks and chic slim suits

. And added to the multiple options already presented in Feraud's collection for fall are soft, luxurious winter sweaters to wear as jackets or just to slip on for a soft, warm look

Optimum impact dressing for women come in red, orange flame and ebony in coats, capes and new skirt shapes. The sensual evening look offers a varied selection of swinging georgettes, short dance dresses, elegant satin tuxedo and graceful long gowns

"The selection for men includes suits and a line of racy jackets and trousers, when mixed and matched can be adapted for any occasion," says Singhania. The choice of colours for men this winter have moved away from the outlandish and focus on navies, blacks and whites with a strong presence of natural colours in the finest wools in engaging textures and classic checks. The shirts come in a wide array of Swiss cotton in basic blue, white and grey or pastels — green, yellow, peach. *Everything* seems to be in stripes, plains and checks

A quick glance at the men's line provides them with an apparel that is appropriate and works well both in the working environment and the cocktail that follows. The prices are steep with a Louis Feraud shirt tagged at Rs 3,000 and a 100 per cent wool jacket at Rs 7,000

"We want to educate people about fashion and, therefore, will make sure that we have our product, quality, pricing and marketing right. Naturally, a label can't survive if the total concept is not adhered to.'

And how relevant an issue is fashion? ***Vaishali Honawar*** *and* ***Samita Bhatia*** *check out*

Fashion house Glitterati presented the designs of top international houses such as Versace, Valentino and Ungaro at its Winter-Fall Collection. Their bold, psychedelic colours seemed to go down pretty well with the audiences and one cannot help but wonder if local designers of Western wear see any threat to their livelihood in the face of the competition.

"No," says Monisha Jaisingh. "More and more people in India are becoming aware of fashion and the entrance of international fashion houses gives them variety." Personally, she adds, she thinks the competition will be more beneficial than harmful.

But what about the growing feeling among some fashion critics that Indian designer wear is stuck in a groove, with designers recycling their old stuff or drawing too much from a single inspiration?

Indeed, some of the reviews of the Winter-Fall fashion shows harped on this point. "Well, there can be no drastic change in fashion at any point of time. The change is always gradual," says Jaisingh.

Tahiliani, however, has more to say on the matter. "It seems to me that since we are living through such turbulent times in terms of the media barrage or assault on the senses, the average attention span has become shorter than ever. 'New' seems to be the order of the day and hence sensationalism and gimmickry are preferred over solid form."

Fashion, too, he feels, is falling victim to this belief. "Those who go on about fashion being dead are either completely immune to subtlety and/or they simply do not understand the machinations of the industry.

"Fashion is not supposed to be a circus put on for the benefit of bored and overcritical viewers who are into the 'New' game. When I go to see a men's wear show, for example, I am excited by things I can relate to, to clothes that I can wear. Evolution happens by way of colour, textile, textures, attitude, a stance, styling. But these are subtle messages and you need fine-tuned antennae to pick them up."

Mehr Jesia, model and fashion show choreographer, agrees. Instead of being on a decline, she says, Indian fashion is picking up now. 'In fact, we're quite superior to the West in many ways, though in terms of fabrics, they are leaps and bounds ahead. Good stuff such as lycra and stretch is just not available here."

When she dresses, says Jesia, she does not go by what is in as "that would be ridiculous in a country like India where there is too little to choose from." She loves wearing Tahiliani's ethnic outfits - 'they make you feel amazing," while for Western wear, she picks out Raghavendra Rathore for the elegance and chic of his garments - "nobody can make a jacket like he does."

Even as some murmurs ran through Delhi's glitterati about the feasibility and wearability of a section of the garments, Nafisa was quick to defend the 'House of Valaya'. "A ramp showing is a culmination of all that the designer owes to his audience in terms of a dramatic unveiling of his collection. Each of the outfits will have to be heavily accessorised. But when someone buys the outfit, the ensemble will eventually be broken up and parts of it bought piecemeal. And each part of the whole is 'very' wearable," she insists.

So too, the price tags, she says. The garments can be picked off the shelf in an assorted range between Rs 8,000-10,000 at the lower end and Rs 50,000-60,000 at the higher end.

Certainly, fashion in India appears poised to go a long, long way. The need, as Tahiliani says, is to formulate our own dictates about fashion direction rather than follow what the Western market is going after.

As he asks, "After all, shirt lengths are not really a relevant issue, are they?" ■

Another from *Hommage a Lesage* collection



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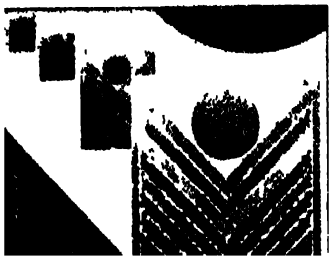
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SATYAJITER SANSAR



BY ASHIS NANDY

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The Bengali middle classes may respect the filmmaker Satyajit Ray but they love the popular fiction writer Ray. The writer Ray reminds them of his father, Bengal's most-loved humorist and writer of nonsense verse, and his grandfather, Bengal's most popular writer of fairy tales in this century.

In response to the respect and the love, Ray partitioned his self into two net compartments. Into one he fitted his 'classical' ventures — the feature films he had made over a period of three decades. Into the other he fitted his popular, low-brow ventures — his thrillers and tales of mystery, adventure, and violence.

The first category has a number of identifiable features. The most prominent of them is the centrality given to women and his use of women as windows to some of the core social problems of the society and his times. This place given to women's issues is not unique to Ray. From Rammohun Ray (1772-1833) who made the cause of women central to his platform of social reform in the first decades of the 19th century to Gandhi, who saw the role of women as vital to his movement for winning political freedom for India and for expanding the sector of freedom for all humanity, nearly all great thinkers and social reformers in India have viewed womanhood as the arena where the moral consciousness of the Indic civilisation has to be re-contextualised in response to the new social forces emerging on the Indian scene.

This is equally true of the creative writers who have influenced Bengali social life. From Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay (1838-1894) to Rabindranath Tagore and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay (1876-1938) the great Bengali writers have been consistently concerned with the problems of women and used them to mirror the crises of Indian society. (I deliberately avoid using here the examples of women reformers and writers, lest their attempts to make the problems of women central to the society look interest-based and sectoral.)



In Ray's case, however, both these strands of awareness have been further underscored by the experiences of his family. No wonder he saw himself as heir to the 19th century Bengali 'Renaissance' and, though some scholars now find the term inadequate and misleading in the context of Bengal, the term and its progressivist implications did not lose their shine for Ray. For he lived intellectually and morally in the pre-war world of Tagore. To Ray, the continuity between the problems of women and the crisis of the Indian society seemed obvious and inevitable. And women constitute a formidable maternal as well as conjugal presence in his important films. Even in those where there are few women characters — for instance *Parash Pathar*, *Jalsaghar* and *Goopi Gyne Bagha Byne* — the issues of gender and potency enter the scene indirectly and constitute a salient theme

In Ray's world, feminity is not merely an important principle, it is given added power by telescoping into all situations of conjugality a clear touch of maternity Here Ray is in the company of the great myth-makers of late 19th century and early 20th century Bengal, and also perhaps of the great Indian myth-makers of all times

The second major feature of Ray's movies is exclusion of the sentimental and dramatic Ray loved to tell a story in his films he does not provide a political or philosophical text He considered movies that do away with a proper story line self-indulgent On the other hand, he would take great ca e not to overload his films with events, to have too dense a plot, or to assume too partisan a tone One critic repeatedly speaks of Ray s *parimitibodh*, a sense of restraint, and considers this restraint part of Ray's personality Another has gone so far as to say

' Ray is not naturally drawn towards contradictions in mental make-up The grace in Ray's films often comes from the way he approaches confrontations, averts actions, decisions, events Where he tries to be direct, the result is often ineffective or jarring

Even *Charulata* and *Ghare Baire*, movies that stick closely to the novels on which they are based, de-dramatise their originals to some extent

The fear of being melodramatic or maudlin that dogs many contemporary creative writers in Bengal, is partly



A scene from *Charulata* Eroticised maternity

Swatilekha Chatterjee in *Ghare Baire*



a reaction to the somewhat maudlin world of Saratchandra Chattopadhyay, who dominated Indian middle-class consciousness in the inter-war years Ray is no Ernest Hemingway or Bertolt Brecht (two random examples of Western authors who made toughminded detachment their hallmark), but even when he deals with a subject as cataclysmic as the Bengal famine of the early Forties, he makes a special effort not to be emotionally too involved with his subject As a result, when *Ashani Sanket* was released, some of his critics accused him of producing a pretty picture postcard on a subject as grim as famine They interpreted his somewhat detached gaze as an indicator of inadequate social commitment

Partly, however, this *parimitibodh* and 'distance' come from the fact that Ray usually avoided dealing with subjects with which he was directly acquainted By underplaying the stress and anomie of urban India, by concentrating on rural India about which he knew little, Ray had paradoxically acquired a comprehensive, dispassionate view of the gamut of the macroscopic changes to which his family had been an important witness He saw it whole, Dasgupta (in *The Cinema*) says, because he saw it from a distance There were obvious deep, unresolved passions behind his restraint, however the demands made on him for direct, impassioned social commitment only cramped his style He was never able to match the creativity of his first decade as a director, when his cinematic voice was soft and his commitments understated

Third, despite his emphasis on feminity, Ray's films are characterised by a low-key, almost hesitant treatment of sex As a recent assessment puts it

"In nearly every film where a frank treatment might have been appropriate, a natural barrier to intimacy has existed In *The Goddess* it was Dovamovee's reluctance, in *Charulata* Amal's, in *Kapurush* Amitava's, in *Days and Nights in the Forest* Sanjoy's (although intercourse between Hari and the tribal girl is suggested), in *The*

Certainly in Ray's world sex enters stealthily and fearfully, whether he is dealing with conjugality directly or with eroticised maternity (as in *Charulata*). Similarly with violence. It enters Ray's world as something that is sinister by virtue of what it implies or what it can be, rather than by what it is



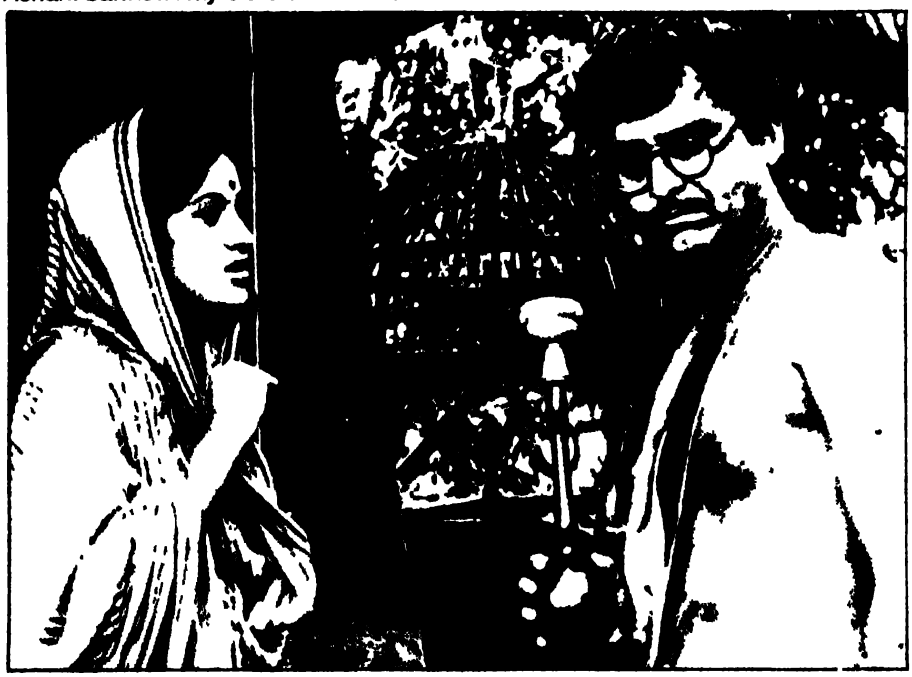
Sharmila Tagore in *Apur Sansar*

Chess Players Mirza's, and in Pikoo the mother's (though self-nakedness is shown because the film was being made for French television)

This avoidance of sexuality is matched by an avoidance of overt conflict

"In *Charulata*, intensity of love is expressed without the lovers even holding hands, there is a rather impulsive, rather brotherly, embrace but it contributes only a minor note in the tension created between the two The fascinating scene of the memory game in *Aranyer Din Ratri*, together with the walks, the interplay and repitition of themes, creates a musical statement in which the seduction scenes are only the fortissimos, not raucous even in violence"

***Ashani Sanket*: Ray's distant view of the Forties' famine**



Dasgupta recognises in the context of *Apur Sansar* that Ray's ambition, given his anti-hedonistic Brahmo heritage, is nothing less than to redress the over-emphasis on conjugality at the expense of maternity and to re-emphasis love in its all-embracing sense

"Apu and Aparna's love for each other is only another aspect of Sarvajaya's love for her children or theirs for their aunt or father — a comprehensive all-pervasive, non-sexual love which has seldon been celebrated in the cinema with such purity"

The first time Ray showed a couple kissing in his films was in *Ghare Baire*, made in the mid-Eighties, even when he made an avowedly adventure film such as *Abhijan*, he took care to avoid showing extreme violence Many have attributed this restraint to his Brahmo puritanic upbringing, others have seen in it a compromise with conventionality and an inability to 'let go' Ray himself is clear on the subject

"People do not seem to bother about what you say as long as you say it in a sufficiently oblique and unconventional manner — and the normal looking film is at a discount I don't imply that all the new European filmmakers are without talent, but I do seriously doubt if they could continue to make a living without the very liberal exploitation of sex that their code seems to permit"

Certainly in Ray's world sex enters stealthily and tearfully, whether he is dealing with conjugality directly or with eroticised maternity (as in *Charulata*) Similarly with violence It enters Ray's world as something that is sinister by virtue of what it implies or what it can be, rather than by what it is Often the violence is not physical but involves injuries to a person's or a group's dignity, self-definition, or way of life For instance, *Abhijan*, *Pratidwandi and Seemabaddha*, particularly the first two, offer ample scope for disturbing if not spectacular, violence The temptation is consciously avoided Even in the two movies Ray has made out of his own crime thrillers, overt violence is minimal

To begin with, this restraint may have been Ray's attempt to mark off his work from the Indian and Western commercial films and create a specific audience for his kind of cinema He pioneered art films in India, he did not have a ready audience at least for his early works Later, such restraint became part of his style ■

Aries
March 21 - April 20



Ganesha says your funk or insecurity will be over. You will have no time to complain. Action, hard work, immense energies well directed should yield pleasing and rich rewards. Prepare to travel and/or commute a great deal. Time to socialise on a massive scale. You will reach out to both people and places.

Taurus
April 21 —May 20



Buying/selling and investments lead to comforts and fulfilment for Taureans. Their contacts and influence should help them to get the gravy, as we say! Also it must be made absolutely clear that there is a danger of accidents and operations or at least ill-health. So be cautious during this phase.

Gemini
May 21 — June 20



The full moon of the seventh in your sign activates your interest in love, marriage and partnerships at all levels. A journey at short notice is possible. Funds, loans and joint finances will have a special significance for you. It would be best to take decisions in a calculating manner.

Cancer
June 21 — July 20



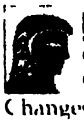
Your efforts will not go unappreciated. This is the right time to spend, travel and communicate with verve and vigour. A few physical discomforts may have to be taken in your stride. Now is the time to keep pets, hire/fire employees if the boss, prepare a blueprint for action.

Leo
July 21 — August 21



Despite innumerable pressures you will find the time for everybody who approaches you. Friends and well wishers will try to help but may not be able to do too much. So, try to accept it. Your love life could be stimulated a good deal in December. Travel chances are excellent, or visitors to come to you.

Virgo
August 22 -- September 22



The chances of your status and prestige taking a pole vault are immense. Changes in the homefront, office and shop, are very likely because Mercury conjuncts Jupiter. Birth of children, or the start of conception, the cultivation of hobbies, the taking of a study course are probable.

Libra
September 23 — October 22



A powerful Venus factor helps you to travel, contact those who count, correspond and publicise your wares, sign key documents and contracts. Journey and ceremony are fated, except to see a lot of people. Many Librans will give an inspired performance in whatever they choose to do.

Scorpio
October 23 - November 22



The use of public money and funds is a possibility. If angling for loans and funds you will secure it. Mars makes you rather dominating and assertive, so cool it. Money and you will be good friends. December is just right for augmenting income. Trips and the like are certainly foretold. Do take care of your health.

Sagittarius
November 23 - December 20



You will be lion hearted in combat, deadly as a python, but ready and overripe for marriage, alliances and liaison. It is a very peculiar situation to be in. It is also money time and so is January, 1996. You will have choices, so keep your options open. Keep a watch on your health.

Capricorn
December 21 — January 19



Expenses will be skyrocketing and you may be hard put to balance the budget, but balance it you will, because Mercury connects with money planet, Jupiter. Love and affairs of the heart give some excitement. You may travel or move. The snag is ill health. Trips, ties, and contracts are also foretold.

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18



Just the right week to take the initiative, use a little pressure and pull to get things done. If you like, you can throw a party or call a few friends over, because socialising and camaraderie will make you happy. You will in short have a lot of zest for life and love. Make the most of this energetic phase.

Pisces
February 19 — March 20



You have a chance to make good, despite being harried and irritated. Ganesha says the trick is to have confidence and hone up on skills and knowhow and develop contacts. This will pay you this month and more so in the beginning of the new year. There is therefore, no time to lose.

BIRTHDAYS

December 3: Moon-Mars trine helps you to organise your affairs to great advantage, says Ganesha. However, there will be some stress and strain.

December 4: Moon-Venus trine means comforts and luxuries, which as we all know, require money. Romance and cosy comfort await you.

December 5: Moon trines Neptune giving you inspiration and motivation, the two mighty steps to success. Travel is a distant possibility.

December 6: There is no strong aspect, so it will all depend on the choices you make. However, marriage and partnerships are possible.

December 7: The full moon makes you mentally alert physically active and quite lucky in relationships. Paradoxically enough, separations and sorrows are foretold. Adjustments are necessary.

December 8: Mercury-Jupiter fine conjunction gives a touch of class and magic to all that you do or say. Those in banking, teaching, writing and research do wonders.

December 9: Moon trine Saturn refers to good work and therefore luck will hold in matters of property, house, office and real estate.

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TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code: ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
AGARTALA					
IC 741	0400	1 2 3 6	IC 742	1030	1 3
			IC 742	1250	4 7
IC 743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF 702	1610	1 3 5 7
[illegible]					
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
[illegible]					
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
[illegible]					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1210	1 3 5	IC 722	1450	1 3 5
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 181	1600	daily
[illegible] BANGALORE					
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
9W 511	1400	daily	9W 512	2150	daily
[illegible]					
D5 402	0600	3 5 7	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	1 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	4	VF 105	0950	4
VF 106	1400	1	VF 105	1700	1
IC 894	510	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
BOMBAY					
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
9W 204	0815	1 3 5 6 7	9W 201	0935	1 2 4 5 6 7
[illegible]	0940	daily	UP 191	0850	daily
IC 273	1445	daily	AI 306	1740	daily
9W 21	2000	daily	9W 211	1925	daily
[illegible] 104	2125	daily	[illegible] 103	1945	daily
AI 309	1930	daily	IC 274	1830	daily
MG 305	0610	1 2 3 4 5 6	MG 306	1140	1 2 3 4 5 6
MG 307	1700	daily	MG 308	2230	daily
DELHI					
IC 263	0600	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	MG 304	0845	daily
MG 304	0945	daily	AI 665	0925	
IC 811	1115	1 3 5	IC 812	1130	2 4 6
IC 412	1215	daily	IC 401	1135	daily
IC 305	1700	1 2 3 4 6	S2 002	1855	1 2 3 4 6
			IC 813	1715	1 3 5
[illegible]	1945	1 2 3 4 5 7	MG 301	1950	daily
MG 301	0930	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
IC 891	1510	1 3 5	IC 892	2405	1 3 5
IC 851	1810	4 7	IC 852	0455	4 7
DIBRUGARH					
D5 601/60	0600	daily	D5 605	1435	daily
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 702	1615	1 3 5
4S 816	1230	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1705	1 3 5	4S 811	1935	4 6
IC 791	1230	1 3 5 7	PF 738	1740	1
DIMAPUR					
D5 601/60	0600	daily	D5 605	1435	daily
IC 67	1115	4 7	IC 257	1510	4 7
GOA					
S2 026 027 955		3	S2 028 00	2005	1 3 5 7
GUWAHATI					
D5 601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 703	0810	1 3 5	IC 704	1120	1 3 5
9W 511	0600	daily	9W 512	1310	daily

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
MG 321	1230	daily	MG 322	1510	daily
PF 73	0730	3 5	PF 74	1510	2 4 6
IC 05	0750	2 4 6 7	IC 251	1520	1 3 5
PF 735	0730	1	4S 814	1613	2 4 6
4S 810 811	1205	2 4 6	4S 813 815	1635	1 3 5
4S 814	1205	1 3 5	PF 736	1740	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 703	0830	4 7	IC 704	1220	1 4
HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	1
VF 106	1400	1	VF 105	1700	1
9W 511	1100	daily	9W 512	2150	daily
IMPHAL					
D5 601,603	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5	IC 256	1240	3 5
IC 213	1140	6	IC 214	1540	6
JAIPUR					
S2 026 027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
JORHAT					
IC 255	1115	1	IC 257	1410	1
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1615	1 3 5	IC 811	1915	1 3 5
MADRAS					
UK 402	0600	3 5 7	UK 401	1400	3 5
IC 512	1115	1 3 5	IC 511	1435	1 3 5
IC 811	1115	2	IC 543	1035	
IC 111	1640	daily	IC 112	1140	daily
IC 765	1700	daily	IC 766	1740	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	1
PATNA					
UK 408	1330	2 4 6	UK 407	1935	2 4 6
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1915	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 39	0540	1	IC 40	10	1
RANCHI					
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1915	1 3 5
SHILLONG					
D5 601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
PF 735	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 736	1510	2 4
SILCHAR					
D5 601 603	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1430	3 5 7
IC 253	0715	1 4 6	IC 254	1035	4 6
TEZPUR					
IC 214	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
TEZU					
PF 735	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 026	0555	1 3 5	S2 025	1015	1 3 5
UK 410	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1635	2 4 6
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1510	1 4 6
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

FLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL

AMMAN					
RJ 185	1145	4			
AMSTERDAM					
KL 876	0345	7			
BANGKOK					
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	1855	2 5	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
IC 855	1105	4 7	IC 856	1730	4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
TG 314	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AI 306	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BUCHAREST					
FD 076	[illegible]	[illegible]	FD [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CHITTAGONG					
C 225	[illegible]	[illegible]	C [illegible]26	[illegible]20	[illegible]
BG 598	[illegible]	[illegible]	BG [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DHAKA					
BG 092	[illegible]	[illegible]	BG [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BG 042	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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BG [illegible]04	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BG 094	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BG [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DUBAI					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
KATHMANDU					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LONDON					
BA [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]15	[illegible]
MOSCOW					
[illegible]	[illegible]	4	[illegible]	[illegible]45	4
PARO					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SINGAPORE					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SOFIA					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TOKYO					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

AI Air India ● **BA** British Airways ● **BG** Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● **BI** Royal Brunei Airlines ● **D2** Damania Airways ● **D5** NEPC Airlines ● **IC** Indian Airlines ● **KB** Druk-Air ● **KLM** Royal Dutch Airlines ● **LZ** Balkan Airlines ● **M9** Modiluft ● **PF** Vayudoot ● **RA** Royal Nepal Airlines ● **RJ** Royal Jordanian Airlines ● **RO** Tarom Air Transport ● **S2** Sahara India Airlines ● **SQ** Singapore Airlines ● **SU** Aeroflot ● **4S** East West Airlines ● **TG** Thai Airways International ● **9W** Jet Airways

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Departure Up	Time	EASTERN RAILWAY Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
		Delhi-Kalka Mail	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Amritsar Mail	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Bombay Mail	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Poorva (New Delhi) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Poorva (New Delhi) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	Rajdhani Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	Rajdhani Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Jodhpur Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]		Guwahati Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
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[illegible]	[illegible]	Udyan Abha Toofan Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
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[illegible]	[illegible]	Danapur Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Jamalpur Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Santiniketan Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Chambal (Gwalior) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Shipra (Indore) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]

Up	Time	Sealdah	Time	Dn
[illegible]	[illegible]	Teesta-Torsa Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Darjeeling Mail	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Delhi Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
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	[illegible]	Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]		Ahmedabad Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]		Kurla Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
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		Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
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[illegible]	[illegible]	Titlagarh Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Ranchi Hatia Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Puri Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
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	[illegible]	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
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[illegible]		Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Expres	[illegible]	[illegible]

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203498-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

RUSKIN BOND'S COLUMN

Merry Matrimony



No (said Arun as we waited for dinner to be prepared) I did not fall in love with my neighbour's wife It is not that kind of story Mind you, Leela was a most attractive woman She was not beautiful or pretty, but she was handsome

Her's was the firm, athletic body of a 16-year-old boy, free of any surplus flesh She bathed morning and evening, oiling herself well, so that her skin glowed a golden-brown in the winter sunshine Her lips were often coloured with *paan* juice, but her teeth were perfect

I was her junior by about five years, and she called me her "younger brother" Her husband, who was 40 to her 32, was an official in the customs and excise department an extrovert, a hard-drinking, backslapping man, who spent a great deal of time on tour Leela knew that he was not always faithful to her during these frequent absences, but she found solace in her own loyalty and in the well-being of her one child, a boy called Chandu

I did not care for the boy He had been well-spoilt, and took great delight in disturbing me whenever I was at work He entered my rooms uninvited, knocked my books about, and, if guests were present, made insulting remarks about them to their faces

Leela, during her lonely evenings, would often ask me to sit on her verandah and talk to her The day's work done, she would relax with a *hookah* It was a habit she had brought with her from her village near Agra, and it was a habit she refused to give up She liked to talk, and, as I was a good listener, she soon grew fond of me The fact that I was 26 years old and still a bachelor, never failed to astonish her

It was not long before she took upon herself the responsibility for getting me married I found it useless to protest She did not believe me when I told her that I could not afford to marry, that I preferred a bachelor's life A wife, she insisted, was an asset to any man A wife reduced expenses Where did I eat? At a hotel, of course That must cost me at least Rs 60 a month, even on a vegetarian diet But if I had a simple, homely wife to do the cooking, we could both eat well for less than that

Leela fingered my shirt, observing that a button was missing and that the collar was frayed She remarked on my pale face and general look of debility, and told me that I would fall victim to all kinds of diseases if I did not find someone to look after me What I needed, she declared between puffs at the hookah, was a woman, a young, healthy buxom woman, preferably from a village near Agra

"If I could find someone like you," I said slyly, "I would not mind getting married"

She appeared neither flattered nor offended by my remark

"Don't marry an older woman," she advised "Never take a wife who is more experienced in the ways of the world than you are You just leave it to me, I'll find a suitable bride for you"

To please Leela, I agreed to this arrangement, thinking she would not take it seriously But, two days later, when she suggested that I accompany her to a certain distinguished home for orphan girls, I became alarmed I refused to have anything to do with her project

"Don't you have confidence in me?" she asked "You said you would like a girl who resembled me I know one who looks just as I did 10 years ago"

"I like you as you are now," I said "Not as you were 10 years ago"

"Of course We shall arrange for you to see the girl first"

"You don't understand," I protested "It's not that I feel I have to be in love with someone before marrying her I know you would choose a fine girl, and I would really prefer someone who is homely and simple to an M A with Honours in Psychology, it's just that I'm not ready for it I want another year or two of freedom I don't want to be



chained down To be frank, I don't want the responsibility

"A little responsibility will make a man of you," said Leela, but she did not insist of my accompanying her to the orphanage, and the matter was allowed to rest for a few days

I was beginning to hope that Leela had reconciled herself to allowing one man to remain single in the world full of husbands when, one morning, she accosted me on the verandah with an open newspaper, which she thrust in front of my nose

"There!" she said triumphantly "What do you think of that? I did it to surprise you "

She had certainly succeeded in surprising me Her henna-stained forefinger rested on an advertisement in the matrimonial columns

Bachelor journalist, age 25, seeks attractive young wife, well versed in household duties Caste religion no bar Dowry optional

I must admit that Leela had made a good job of it In a few days the replies began to come in, usually from the parents of the girls concerned Each applicant wanted to know how much money I was earning At the same time, they took the trouble to list their own connections and the high positions occupied by relatives Some parents enclosed their daughter s photographs They were really good photographs, though there had been a certain amount of touching-up

I studied the pictures with interest Perhaps marriage wasn't such a bad proposition, after all I selected the photographs of the three girls I most fancied and showed them all to Leela

To my surprise, she disapproved of all three One of the girls she said, had a face like a hermaphrodite, another obviously suffered from tuberculosis, and the third was undoubtedly an adventuress

Leela decided that the whole idea of the advertisement had been a mistake She was sorry she had inserted it the only replies we were likely to get would be from fortune-hunters And I had no fortune So we destroyed the letters I tried to keep some of the photographs, but Leela tore them up too

And, for sometime, there were no more attempts at getting me married

Leela and I met nearly every day, but we spoke of other things Sometimes, in the evenings, she would make me sit on the *charpoy* opposite her, and then she drew up her *hookah* and told stories about her village and her family I was getting used to the boy, too, and even growing rather fond of him

All this came to an end when Leela's husband went and got himself killed He was shot by a bootlegger who had decided to get rid of the excise man rather than pay him an exorbitant sum of money It meant that Leela had to give up her quarters and return to her village near Agra She waited until the boy's school term had finished, and then she packed their things and bought two tickets, third-class to Agra

Something, I could see, had been troubling her, and when I saw her off at the station I realised what it was She was having a fit of conscience about my continued bachelorhood

"In my village," she said confidently, leaning out from the carriage window, "there is a very comely young girl, a distant relative of mine, I shall speak to my parents "

And then I said something which I had not considered before which had never, until that moment, entered my head And I was no less surprised than Leela when the words came tumbling out of my mouth "Why don t you marry me now?"

Arun didn't have time to finish his story because, just at this interesting stage, the dinner arrived But the dinner brought with it the end of his story

It was served by his wife, a magnificent woman, strong and handsome, who could only have been Leela And a few minutes later, Chandu Arun s stepson, charged into the house, complaining that he was famished

Arun introduced me to his wife, and we exchanged the usual formalities

"But why hasn't your friend brought his family with him?" she asked

"Family? Because he s still a bachelor!"

And then as he watched his wife s expression change from a look of mild indifference to one of deep concern, he hurriedly changed the subject

(Sanctuary Features)



I selected the photographs of the three girls I most fancied and showed them all to Leela. To my surprise, she disapproved of all three. One of the girls she said, had a face like a hermaphrodite; another obviously suffered from tuberculosis; and the third was undoubtedly an adventuress

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

Children at Work



The English find the concept of child labour revolting specially in industries like the Indian carpet industry I was therefore surprised that surveys suggest that 40 per cent of British children do paid work and three quarters of these do so illegally And that doesn't include those who work for nothing

It s pantomime time in Britain, when every city and sizeable town stages its own version of Cinderella, Aladdin or some such golden oldie with TV stars in drag as the wicked stepmother or the Widow Twankie, comedians playing the fool and actresses playing the principal boy, the hero of the tale This is tradition, as much as the Christmas lights which are already festooning the streets, or Christmas pudding and brandy butter

The banners and newspaper advertisements for pantomimes have already appeared, advance booking is open This is pure family entertainment to which you can take your children and, as when you pull crackers on Christmas day, forget you're grown up at all

Most pantomimes have a children's chorus and now the auditions are over and young school children have started rehearsals Ten-year old Ben Occhipinti is one of them Ben loves acting and dancing and has already decided this will be his vocation Apart from attending rehearsals, he will appear in 27 performances, most during term time This is a fully professional production in which all the adults will be paid Ben will get nothing

Nothing, except for four free tickets valid once for certain performances only If his parents and brother and sister want to see him on the first night, they will have to pay for the privilege

It is a strange system which allows children to work but which doesn't pay them As if that's all right because they want to join the entertainment business As if work you enjoy shouldn't be paid for

When children work for money they are paid very poorly, an obvious example of this being the paper boys who deliver papers over long distances often in foul weather every day before school It is not like India, where this is a job for adults But in Britain, this is not seen in terms of the offensive concept of child labour

When the government opted out of a European Community directive on children at work, it used words with a much softer connotation It was "safeguarding the jobs of paper boys and girls"

Ministers are now planning to scrap the law which prevents children working more than two hours on a Sunday, enabling children as young as 13 and 14 to work five hours on what was once a day of rest, and those of 15, eight hours This is at a time of their lives when they are still in full-time compulsory education

It can be argued that this is an unbalanced picture, that the children do go to school and that the government proposes to introduce a 'permitted list' of occupations for 13-year-olds to limit what they do It will also rule that children must have at least one week free from work during the summer holidays

Of course, one should

No balance is attempted in the European condemnation of Indian child labour, although the economic conditions there are vastly different

try to be balanced But no balance is attempted in the European condemnation of Indian child labour, although the economic and social conditions there are vastly different The legalisation of child labour is considered in itself a disgrace

The Indian carpet industry is a case in point, facing as it does a threat of international boycott which could destroy it The Western campaigners and media people who present an image of carpet workers as being entirely bonded child labourers chained to looms are not interested in a more balanced image

They will not see the carpet industry as one which has brought the market into villages over vast areas of eastern UP They will not see the comparative prosperity, and the migration to urban slums which has been forestalled They will not see the tens of thousands of adult workers They will not understand the problems of poverty, or the fact that many children work on family looms with adult members of their family They will not visit these areas independently to see for themselves, and in the past international fora have not even allowed leaders of the carpet industry who are trying to stop children working to put their case

There is no balance at least in part because Western media and society is profoundly unbalanced This disbalance is dangerous abroad and at home Here it is transforming Britain into a profoundly uncaring society where selfishness is what matters and where politicians can make whether or not to take a few pence off the rate of income tax more important than issues like children's welfare and education

The British education budget is, per head of the population, less than half that spent in France or Germany Academic performance is correspondingly poor No doubt pressure, sensibly applied, can help to improve things for Indian children But there is a need to acknowledge that pressure is badly needed to help the underprivileged at home in Britain too

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

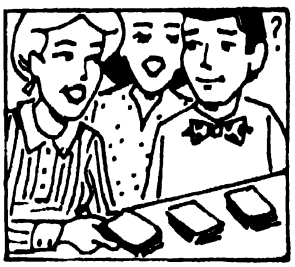
AL



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FIND TWINS! Challenge Find hat model Sue Ellen and her identical twin Ellen Sue above Study details carefully

COMMA SENSE! One half of two and two is 2 (1/2 of 4 equals 2) is it not? But add a comma and just like that one half of two and two is three (1/2 of 7 equals 1 1 plus 2 equals 3) It s just comma sen e



PICK-A-CARD MAGIC TRICK

TRY this classic card trick It s a puzzler

Deal 27 cards face up from left to right into three piles Invite someo to pick a card (visually) as you tl and to reveal which pile the rd is in when the deal is complete Now gather up piles so that chos card pile is between the other

Deal out three pile apa sk which pile the card is this tir

Pick up pile so that chosen card pile is between the others as before

Deal cards once more Ask which pile card is in Alakazam it ll be fifth card down in that pile

It works every time

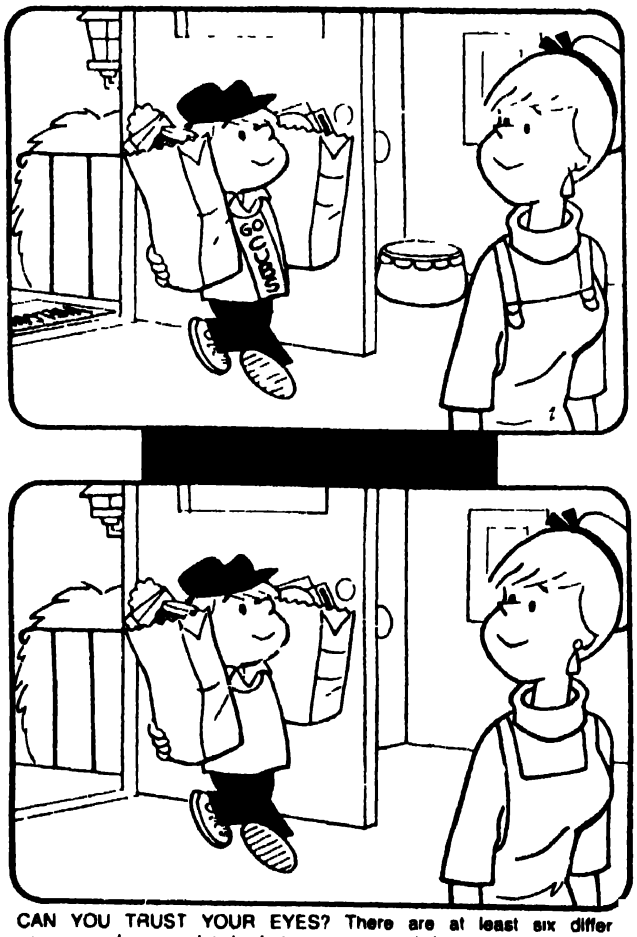
A-Z TESTER! When a person knows all about something, we say that he or she knows it from A to Z Let's see if you can establish an A to Z knowledge of the letter maze below

Starting at one of the letter A s, and moving letter by letter in any direction - across, down, up or diagonally - you are asked to trace the alphabet s 26 letters in sequence from A to Z

How quickly can you comply?

A	K	L	F	E	D	C	B
B	J	M	N	G	H	A	J
C	I	B	O	D	C	B	A
D	G	H	A	P	Q	T	R
C	F	B	C	B	R	S	U
U	C	E	D	C	A	T	V
R	D	Z	X	W	U	X	W
A	E	Y	A	B	V	Z	Y

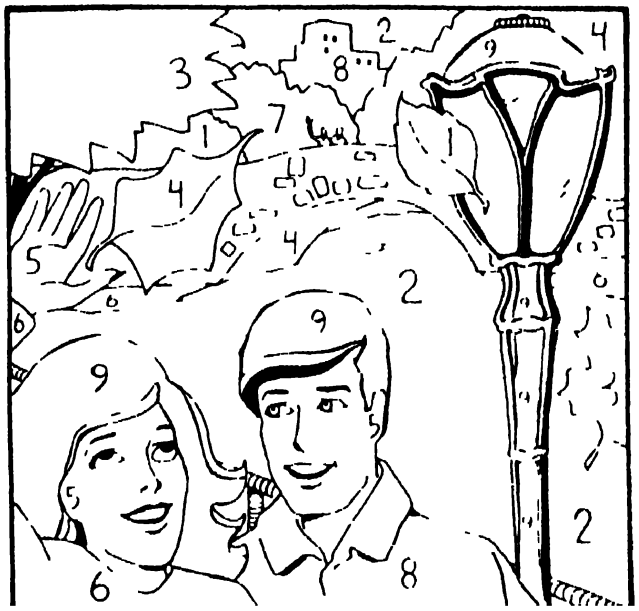
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Light is smaller 2 Mat is missing 3 Bag is smaller 4 Shirt logo is missing 5 Hassock is missing 6 Straps are different

FUNSPOT



FALL, HO! "October is the falling leaf tis writ Apply colors by number 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Purple 9—Black

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

ENDORSEE

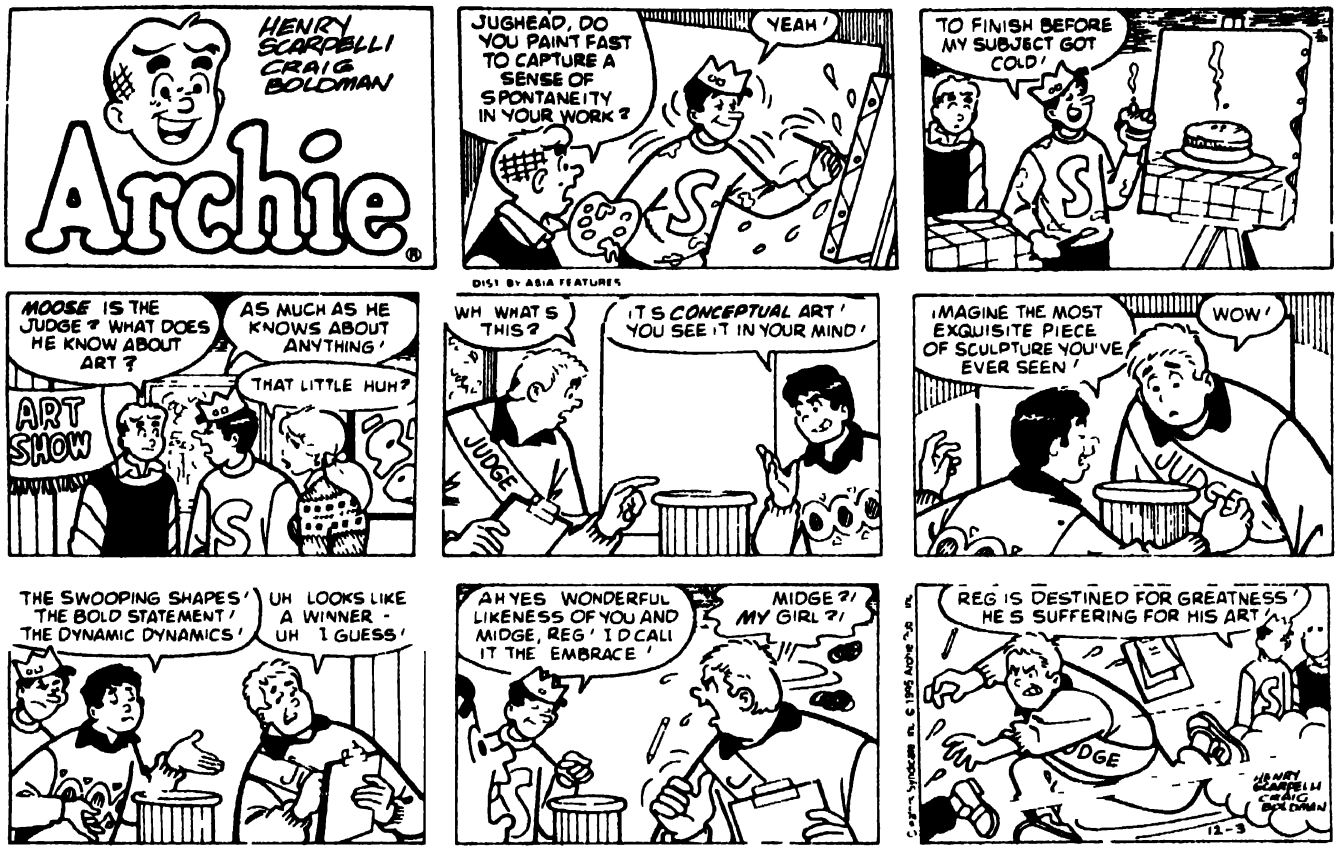
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

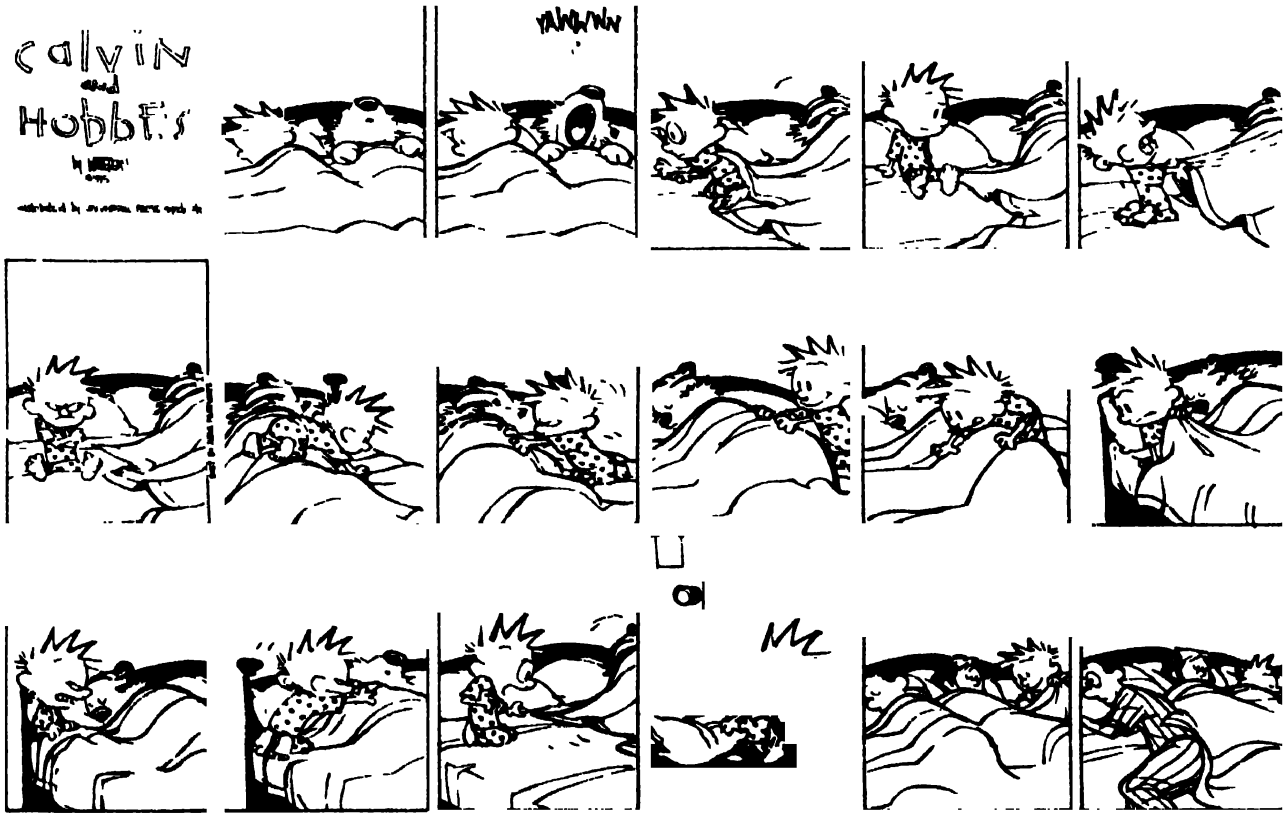
Possible Woosome Need rose

COMICS

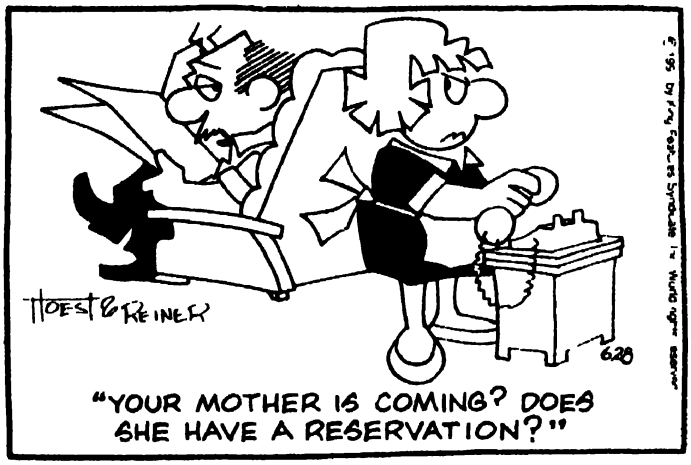
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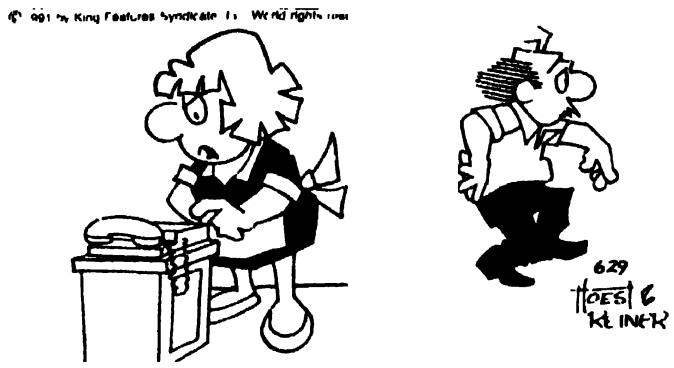
CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON



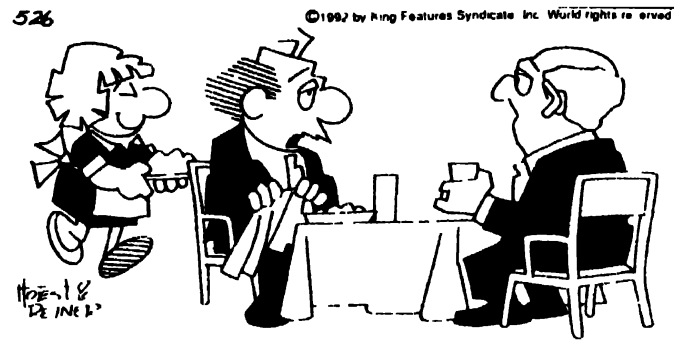
THE LOCKHORNS



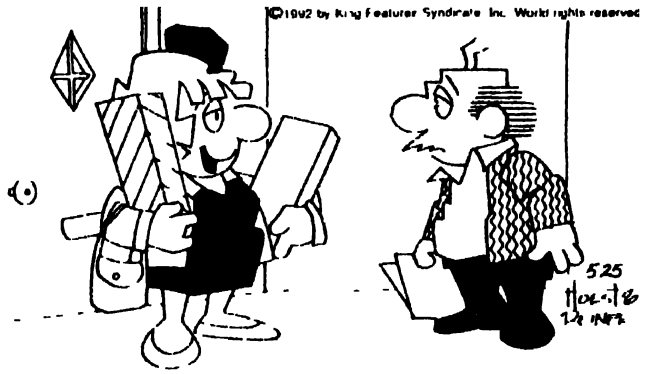
"YOUR MOTHER IS COMING? DOES SHE HAVE A RESERVATION?"



"LEROY! HAVE YOU BEEN ERASING MY MOTHER FROM THE ANSWERING MACHINE?"

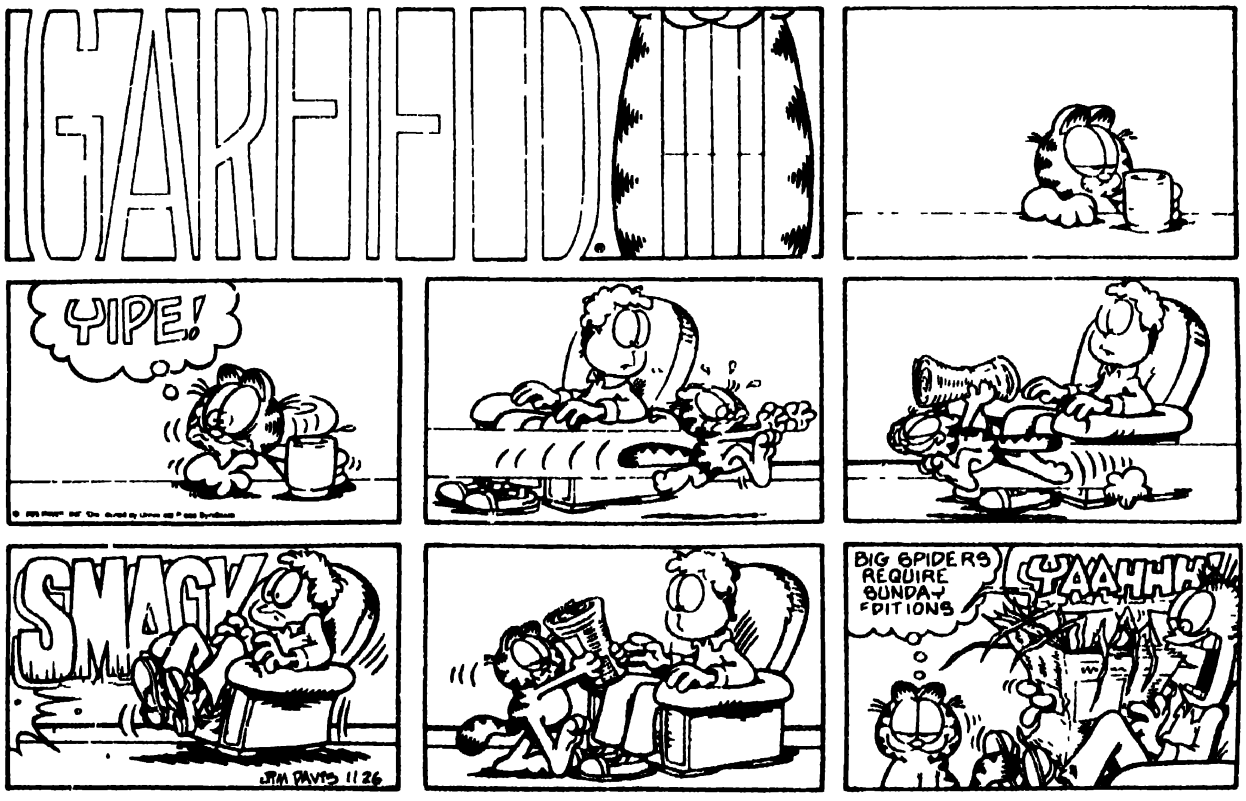


"THE FIRST TIME LORETTA USED A PRESSURE COOKER, SHE LAUNCHED A POT ROAST INTO OUTER SPACE"

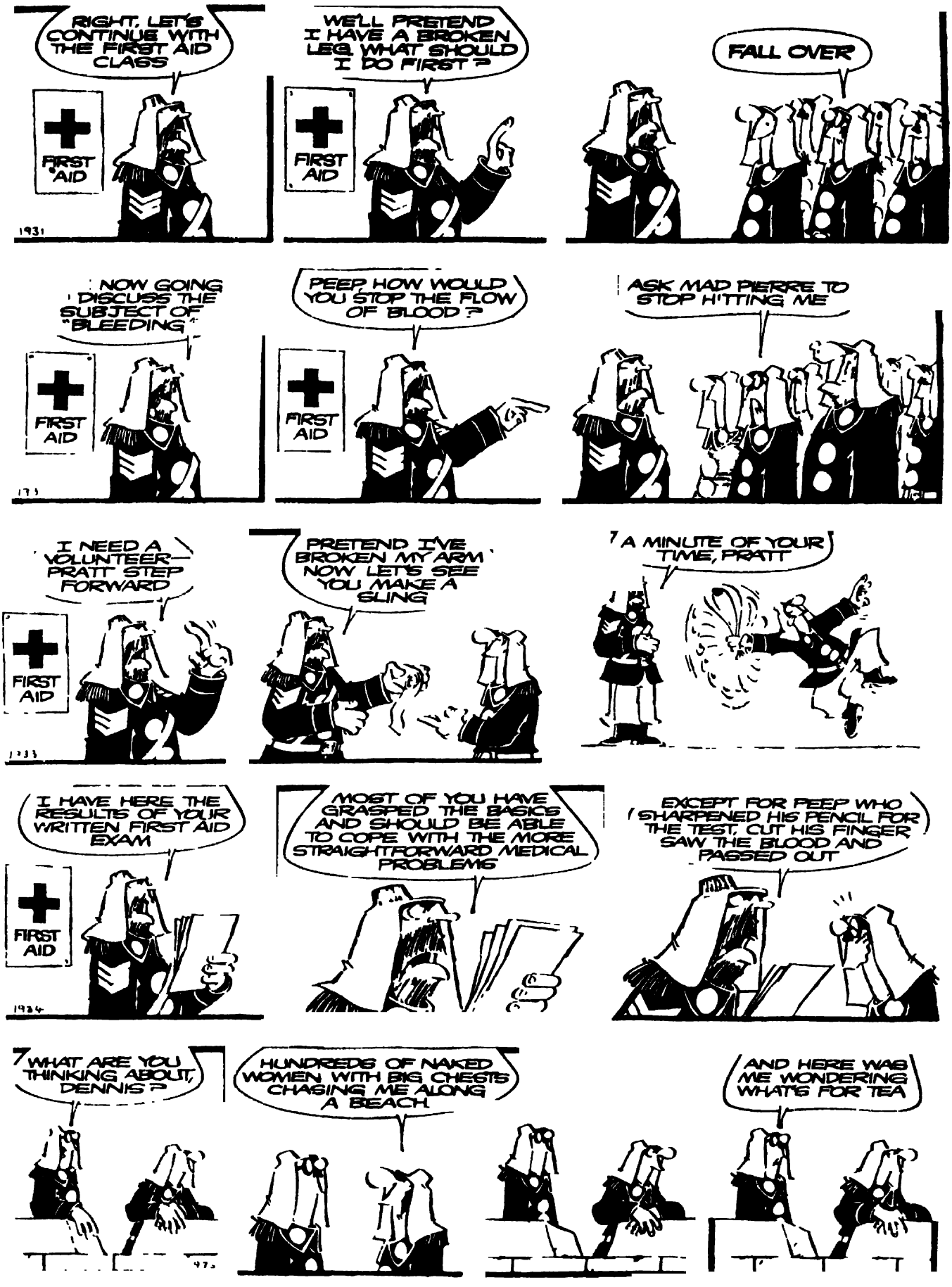


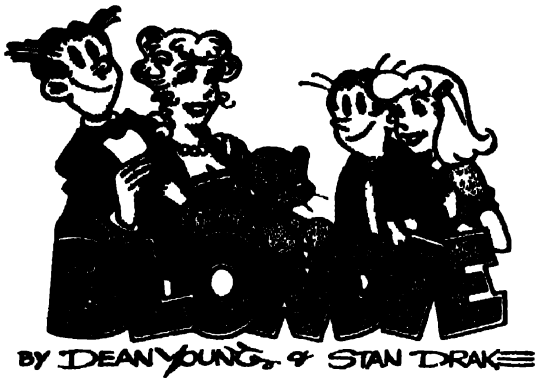
"HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW MUCH MORE FUN WE'RE HAVING SINCE WE STOPPED LIVING ON A BUDGET?"

GARFIELD



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP







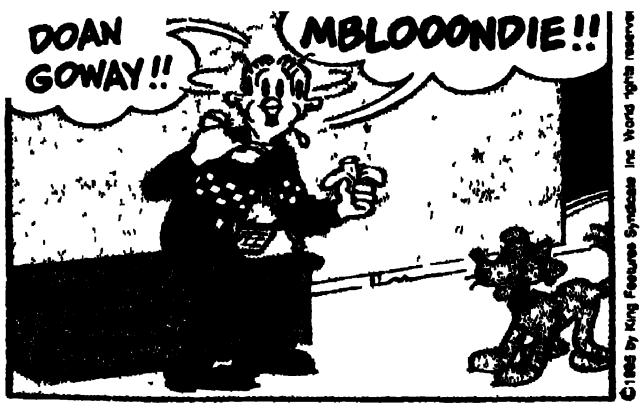


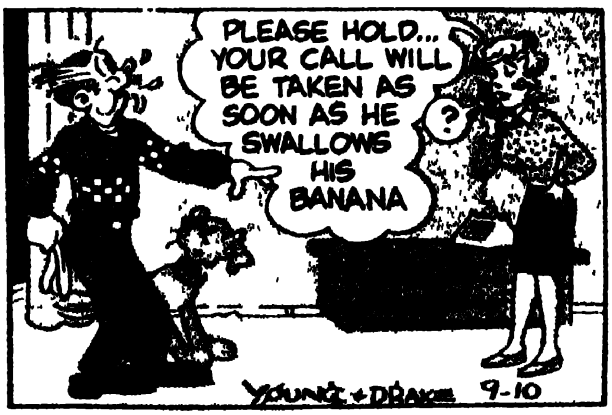
THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO HOLD... WE KNOW YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE... EACH CALL WILL BE TAKEN IN THE ORDER RECEIVED











LIMELIGHT

GOAN PLACES!

***Frederick Noronha** profiles Indian designer Wendell Rodricks who struck the international fashion scene with the Igedo fashion fair in Germany, one of the world's leading fashion fairs*

His aim is to capture Paris, sell Indian ideas and clad the West And Wendell Rodricks is just back from the Igedo fashion fair in Germany, one of the world's leading fashion fairs And already well on his way to doing all that

This 35-year-old, Bombay-born designer of Goan origin is not really into winter wear But his work is very much linked to the European winter Or, at least, to those fleeing the northern cold Wendell's creations which drew wows at Dusseldorf, Germany, were part of a Resort Collection, reflecting b th his native Goa and the "soul of Modern India"

A Wendell Rodricks design





International model Anouk wears a Rodricks outfit

Top international model Helena Christensen wore his designs, and his collection won much appreciation from the European media and orders poured in. Wendell Rodricks had truly arrived on the international fashion scene

"I think the reason why Wendell's collections work so well is because his is the look of modern India," said fashion expert Meher Castelino "A lot of my clothes are Indian garments But when they are put together, they are Western-wearable, with an international appeal The clientele feels they can use it without feeling they are in a costume," adds Castelino.

Long kurtas which flow into a circular dupatta, dramatic minis in the softest cottons and pastel colours — all out in simple, fluid style that is very Wendell.

His buzz word is "practical" garments And garments which take ages to put on are out. So are those which cannot safely get into a washing machi-

ne. "Nothing too elaborate for the normal modern woman," says Rodricks. Garments should give the wearer a "perk" and he will even invert a garment so the wearer's skin feels the satiny smooth textures.

After his Dusseldorf success story, Rodricks is scaling new heights from his lovely country home in Goa

"This will sound terribly egoistic I want to get to Paris I want India — a whole bunch of Indian designers — to get there, and let the West wear our garments. Because our garments are the most comfortable, most wearable, most hygenic, perhaps "

Unless this happens, designers from abroad will come here to "rob our colours and combinations, styling and embroidery and claim it is theirs," says Rodricks

It is a tough task. For one, it takes a lot of money to get to fashion Meccas like Paris Should not the Indian industry play its role, he queries

Until recently, the US and Paris-trained Rodricks showcased his clothesline only in Bangalore's Ffolio and Bombay's Melange Orders from Germany, Holland, Switzerland and Australia will now put the Wendell Rodricks Couture Creations label upfront in the fashion world.

Says Rodricks, bowing low before Karma "I arrived at a moment when even the press was looking for young designers They knew it was going to take off We happened to have returned from abroad with foreign degrees and were toasted as a new breed "

Exuding confidence in his work and its originality, he pays tribute to Goa, his ancestral home "Goa gave me the freedom of a think tank," he says, seated in his large old-style Goan house in Colvale, one of the sleepiest villages around here Village life allowed his style to evolve and be "more simple, more fluid, more light and easy on the wearer "



The designer in his Goan home



Helena Christensen in a Rodricks creation

Rodricks entered the big league after his first collection from Goa, an ecology-based one, where he wove pineapple and banana fibre with silk in a 'Back to Nature' Collection

"I grew in mind and clothing much more after [shifting to] Goa A designer needs an atmosphere where he lives simply, in tune with nature and completely isolated [from the outside world] and other stylistic influences," says Rodricks

Now, he is talking about a creative design school, set in his ancestral village in Goa, for students from across the country which could bloom into an export house

What was the secret of his success? "They [Wendell Rodricks clothes] have little tricks of innovation Long circular dupattas which one can wear in one way or another For example, [actress] Rekha has this wonderful sense of wearing [any creations] in her own little way — even I didn't conceive it could be worn that way That's a big kick for the designer "

Much of his clientele likes "interesting clothes *per se*, rather than clothes for their own sake

"Indian garments are the garments for the next century And privately a lot of Westerners believe that," he says

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Today is My Birthday

Today is my birthday,
idly I gaze at the outside
a quaint light is fast
asleep
near a contemplating
tree, its limp roots
loosely spread around
the withered shadow of
a buried star

How many stars he
buried there! I wonder
as I grow up a year older
from today
the leaves rustle and cry,
their silent tears
stain my life's torn pages,
their sighs blow over my
fluttering words
and leave a deep
smudge
How many of my poor
joys are buried there!

Debashis Sen

Choice

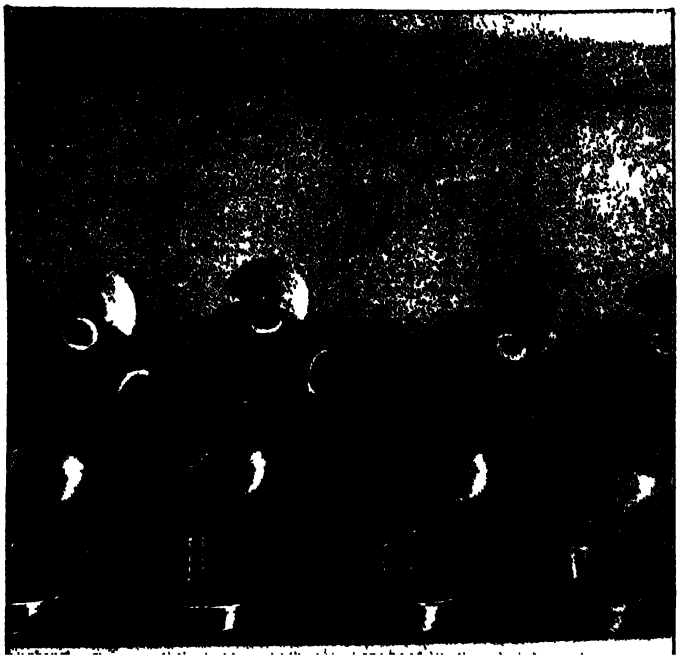
Oh erupting lava,
flow down the lane
with these serene
foresights—
Don't turn
to an island
where no one lives,

or to a politician
to belie your own
promise,
or to a media-hack
to become a tireless critic,

nor to a sage
to become a sceptical
hermit,
but, just to an iceberg

to sink infinite heat

Jaya Mangaraj



Amrtan Bas.

For Sale

For sale —
this battered, autistic
land with all its
lucre-laden
earth,
our precious minerals,
medicinal herbs and
rare orchids,
and trees and fields and
waters —
all these and all else

For sale —
our young, nubile girls,
beautiful like the land
itself,
our preference-men
from the lowlands,
or even from across the
seas,
with a modicum of
integrity —
(marital status, religion
or caste no bars, of
course) —
only those owning a
pot-belly,
or with the potential of
acquiring one in the near
future —
need apply

For sale —
our cumbersome,
anachronistic tribal roots
that have thrown a
spanner in our wheels of
progress —
in our march away from
our own —
and have become a
constant source of
embarrassment to us

For sale —
our pride, values,
work culture,
our sense of shame,
our collective
conscience

Added bonus The
above are available at
throwaway prices

N B No contact number
is needed
Our agents are
everywhere,
you can meet plenty
of them in the streets

Paul Lyngdoh

Where the Clouds Hang Around

The aborigines
Are younger than the
Hills of Meghataburu

A remote hill
You can see before your
eyes
Getting bald
But the clouds
Still hang around
The trees, over the ore
deposits

There may not be
A single tree to see
Yet the cloud shall hang
around
For the sake of the
aborigines
For
The aborigines
So lovingly call it
Meghataburu
Where the clouds hang
around

Sashibhusan Rath

Remembrance

In jest
I threw a stone
At the moon
A piece of it
Came unstuck,
And falling to the
ground,
Shattered.
I picked up a shard
Of it, quickly,
Keeping it
For remembrance
The rest curled itself
Into a hammock
And rocking gently,
Cried itself to sleep.

Monica Zutshi

In

THE PICK OF THE WEEK

VIDEOS

Devil in a Blue Dress· A sensational story of murder and lust starring Denzel Washington as the cool and sensual Easy Rawlins

Set in the decadent Los Angeles of the Forties, the film is based on Walter Mosley's highly successful novel, the first in a series about Rawlins

Easy, a Black veteran with medals and ribbons to testify to his military feats, has been sacked from his job as an aeroplane mechanic by a racist White boss and is now in



danger of losing his home that symbolised his faith in the American Dream

It explains why he takes the money and does not make good his escape when an underworld psychopath puts him on his payroll His first assignment is to find Daphne Monet, a siren with a notoriety for blackmail

Director Carl Franklin manages to conclude the movie on a peaceful note despite the turbulent plot of the thriller

BOOKS

In and Out of Vogue; Grace : This has long-



time editor of *Vogue*, Grace

she learnt she had been fired: she heard Liz Smith telecast the news.

Later as editor of *Mirabella*, the

fashion photographers (Avedon seemed to have been "a royal pain";

that in the of a good

have been soft porn") as also hion models "too to stand up..., throw-

fur coats."

The book is full of juicy gossip from one who has been in the fashion trade.

100 Years of lendan's is a time- by as by

by Sandip Ray, and a hensive list of writers, most of

(the choice of

are jus

So what if of the articles are of

s film festivals or of arti-

the pictures and hardly be called It is,

as if not a reader's choice, but everything considered, the price at Rs 300 is a bit steep. Even if the last line in the book, in the list of two-line intros to the authors, talks of Nirmal Kumar Ghosh as the film critic of *Amrita Bazar Patrika* "for many decades", that should not be taken as the last word!

LIFESTYLE

Brown Smuggler The new addition in the brown spirits market is the Old Smuggler Scotch Whisky The brand is launched by Hiram Walker (India)



Limited and claims to be a blend of 30 malt and grains whiskeys

They come in bell-shaped bottles resembling lanterns used on ships in the 19th century by sailors who smuggled Scotch whiskey around the Scottish coasts

Eggs! Eggs! Western Foods Limited has introduced a wide variety egg-based products for the first time in India

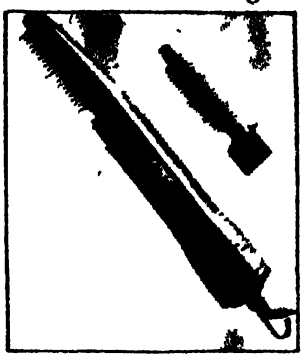
Their wide range of products include Whole Egg Powder, Egg Liquid, Egg Yolk Powder, Egg Albumen Flakes, Egg Scrambled Mix and baby food The technical knowhow for Egg Powder is being supplied by M/s Sanovo Engineering A/s Denmark, a world leader in Egg Processing Technology



Pretty Curls The 'modern-day Indian woman' can head straight for this product. Philips has launched a three-in-one hair dryer/styler/curler - - the HP 4526 Silence Styler Set

The styler is accompanied by two attachments - - a round brush and a cushion brush While the round brush makes bigger curls, the cushion one is for gentle styling

It includes features like a two-speed selection (350W and 700W), a dual voltage



selector; power indicator,

Priced at Rs 1,395 the styler comes with a one-year guarantee

IRST PERSON

DEBESH ROYCHOWDHURY *has shot into the limelight after his sterling performance in the television serial,* Stopper, *which brought him the first Onida Pinnacle Award as Best Actor recently at the national level. He is a post graduate (dramatics) from Rabindra Bharati University and a seasoned member of the* Bohurupee *theatre group. Roychowdhury is also a former footballer, having played for Bhowanipore Club, and calls his award for the role of a footballer a "wish fulfilment" because he had wanted to be a player initially.*



Dastidar Jyan Chowdhury

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
An ideal work atmosphere of true grit, perseverance and dedication. If it ever happens, there cannot be anything like it
What is your greatest fear?
When I am made to answer questionnaires like this. It makes me feel as if I am sitting for an examination
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
All my family members, specially my father And, of course, my teacher and mentor, 'Sir' [Kumar Roy]
What do you dislike most in others?
When people indulge in idle gossip while at work It diminishes one's sense of discipline as well as creativity.

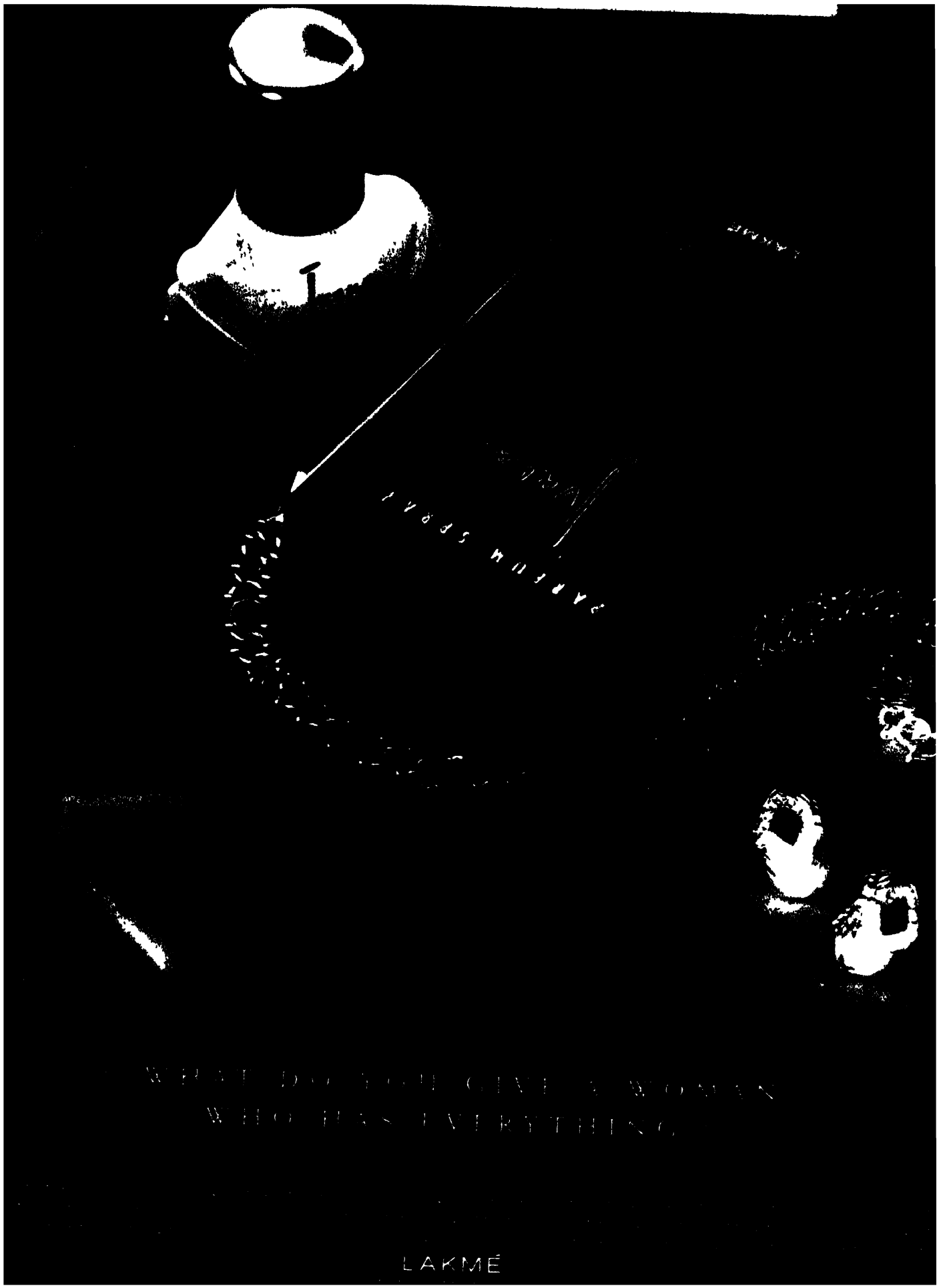
What do you dislike most in yourself?
That I do not have enough time to read and study more about my work
What is your most precious possession?
My beliefs
What objects do you always carry?
Usually a photograph of my wife Also my sneakers which enable me to dash to the playground whenever I have time to spare and join the boys at play
What makes you most depressed?
I used to organise cultural activities in my locality along with other friends We used to sing, dance, recite and perform plays After 10 years or so, the group dispersed Now, I feel very depressed when I see those bright men and women sitting idle and whiling away their time
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
I need not look like those well endowed heroes of the silver screen
What is your favourite word?
Ishe, ki ekta — a throwback on my East Bengal roots
What is your favourite journey?
A lake in Orissa I don't remember the name A large dam, a beautiful lake with a dense jungle on the other side of the bank and a crocodile sanctuary nearby I swam up and down the lake and just escaped an attack by one such creature
What is your favourite dream?
To work hard and work well The result, if there is one, for instance, the Onida Pinnacle Award, is always like an accident
What is your nightmare?
Betrayal of trust
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
My wife Also good food, football and acting
What is your source of sustenance?
My self-confidence
On what occasions do you lie?
Never to hurt anyone
What is your greatest regret?
Nothing I have learnt something from all of them
What has been your happiest moment?
While performing on stage, we all try to capture the right nuance, the state of perfect simulation It is a rare, fleeting moment — almost ephemeral But suddenly if I am able to reach that peak of perfection, I feel very happy
What brings tears to your eyes?
Watching the poor shivering in the cold, calling out in hunger, or when they are too emotionally spent to even respond to the death of near ones

How do you relax?
Work is relaxation for me Also sleeping
What do you envy most in others?
Nothing
How would you like to be remembered?
By my work
How would you like to die?
While on stage after my last act

What do you dislike most in others?

When people indulge in idle gossip while at work. It diminishes one's sense of discipline as well as creativity


GOLDEN MOMENTS, McDOWELL MOMENT


LAKMÉ

10 DECEMBER 1995

The Telegraph

POSTMORTEM

Tallying Well

■ The tête-a-tête between Shobha De and Mark Tully was very enjoyable and entertaining ('The Heart of Tully', October 15)

I would have loved the cover story more had there been some really caustic questions from De which would have provoked some equally raunchy rejoinders from Tully.
Debabrata Mohanty,
Balasore (Orissa)

■ It was a collector's item. When someone like De interviews someone like Tully the result is a heady brew.

As usual, De was not only very direct and bold, but also provocative. She targeted her questions well and Tully received them in the right spirit.
Debasish Sen,
Calcutta

■ The manner in which De distinguished the broadcaster Tully from the novelist Tully was praiseworthy.
Partha Pratim Modak,
Howrah

■ It was a sensational interview: De touched on almost every subject. The chatty style was delectable.
Nirmalendu Chakraborty,
Cooch Behar (W.B.)



Mark Tully: in love with India

■ Tully, as BBC correspondent and broadcaster living in New Delhi now for over a decade, has obviously developed a great love for this country and respect for the people.
B.N. Bose,
Calcutta

■ Could not anyone else have interviewed the irresistible Tully?
Subrata Ghosh,
Calcutta

The Other Side of Sharjah

■ Had it no association with cricket, Sharjah would have remained another petro-rich emirate attracting hordes of holidaymakers and shoppers from abroad ('Petro City', October 8).

It is amazing how the far-sightedness of one man could catapult this complacent desert city to a thriving cricketing centre.

And cricket in Sharjah means fiesta time: film-stars from India flying in, foreign tourists coming for the tournament and cricketer wives joining their husbands and adding to the glamour.

But there is the other side of Sharjah, too. Although the cricket organising committee boasts of maintaining a neutral stand, it has been observed that in any match between the two arch rivals, India and Pakistan, at the time of crucial decision making, it is the latter which is favoured.
Dipankar Koley,
Jhikra (Howrah)

Rekha: Online with Amitabh

■ Rekha would not be Rekha without her umpteen scandalous affairs and marriages ('Star Plus', September 10).

She owes a lot to Amitabh Bachchan for being what she is today. It was during her period of steamy romance with the Big B that she actually emerged as a mature individual and actress
Ivy Majumder,
Calcutta

INSIDE



The craze for Internet

Gautam Patole

PAGE 4

IS OUR world going to be as close-knit as our room? Very soon? Well, faster than you possibly think. We have reports from home and abroad and a special by cyber soothsayer Pritish Nandy Get hooked on Internet, the great communicator of the century

PAGE 26

RUCHI MALHOTRA, model and Miss Asia Pacific first runner-up here she comes!

SECTIONS

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Cover Gautam Patole

COVER STORY

GETTING HOOKED

Is the world shrinking further with Internet becoming an obsession? ***Arthur J. Pais*** *talks to Indians abroad to find out just how much it is*

JUST THE OTHER DAY, SUPROTIM BOSE, A CINEMA student in a small university town near Carbondale, was suddenly bugged by nostalgia — a desire to listen to the haunting songs composed by Hemant Kumar for movies like *Majhli Didi* and *Khamoshi*.

His Indian friends could not help him; they had heard Hemant Kumar songs from such films as *Solva Saal* and *Baat Ek Raat Ki*. But no luck with *Majhli Didi* or *Khamoshi*.

Bose thought of writing to his friends in India, but just for the kick of it, he posted a message on Internet

"And could you believe it," he says with a chuckle. "Within two weeks, I heard from more than 20 people who loved everything about Hemant*da*, and two of them had with them cassettes of practically every song Hemant*da* had composed "

A few days ago, he got into an argument with a friend over who had directed *Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam* The friend insisted that Guru Dutt produced and directed the film, apart from acting in it But Bose thought that the actual screen credit had gone to someone else The $50 bet was settled through Internet when a movie buff in Flori-

Miheer Mafatlal: His hobby is cyber



da said he had articles about the movie in which writer Abrar Alvi was identified as the director

In another small American city in the South, a 28-year-old engineer from Hyderabad posted a message on Internet saying that he is looking for an Indian bride who was raised in America "I somehow did not feel like advertising in the Indian publications here" Within a week, he got about 12 responses, three from women with Master's degrees in engineering

And in Stockdale, a medium-sized city in California, K Haridas has been wondering for a long time how best to get his two teenage children interested in Indian religions They were bored with the local Hindu temples "The priests cannot answer any of my questions" said one of his daughters

But when Haridas read in a local Indian publication that an engineering student in upstate New York city had set up a Shri Balajee temple on Internet, he encouraged his daughters to trace the engineering student.

After an hour of Internet surfing, the family got hooked to the Balajee temple "We could get a lot of interesting information about Tirupati and the meaning of so many rituals that we take for granted," he said "The Internet temple is being very helpful"

Haridas wonders why Hindu temple trustees encourage more Internet temples "There are so many Christian churches across America which have established Internet outlets to encourage the young — and in some cases the old to find out more about Christian faith"

"Hinduism, too, should make a solid effort to be in the 21st century, with the help of Internet," Haridas says His thoughts are echoed by Balamurali Krishna Ambati, the 17-year-old whizkid doctor "The faster the temple authorities get some young people to propagate Hinduism through Internet, the better it is for our community Otherwise, in a few years, we will find hardly any young people in our temples They have been thoroughly alienated because their parents cannot discuss Hinduism and had begun to feel that Hinduism does not really matter in a predominantly Christian country"

For thousands of Indians, particularly those who are in their twenties, and who live in small American cities where no Indian stores exist or opportunities to socialise with young Indians are remote, the Internet provides big help

"To place an announcement on the Internet bulletin board costs nothing," says Radhika Shankar, a writer for *Th*



Houston Chronicle "But you will have to pay for the time when you begin screening the response That may work out to be $3-$4 for about 10 minutes."

But, chatlines could cost $25 for an hour "It is amazing to get into one of the chatlines involving Indians in American," says Vijay Rao A few weeks ago he got into a chatline that discussed the musical legacy of R.D Burman "I got out after an hour, and poorer by about $30," he says "But there were some hardcore fans who were prepared to go on for hours They had just begun to discuss who was a better composer, father S D Burman or the son"

On a more serious level, about 20 Indian students started India Net about a year ago, to write letters to newspaper editors, state and national legislators, and fellow Indians, and correct what the students felt was the distorted news American media are unwittingly supplying

Last month, about 60 students and their elderly wellwishers met in Chicago to map the next steps for India Net

"The cyberspace technology can be used to our advantage a lot," remarked Venkat Krishnan, one of the founders of India Net "With hardly any investment except our time, we have been able to send letters to Congressmen telling them about what is happening in Kashmir, for instance And a lot of Congressmen have written to us"

India Net plans to recruit more than 500 volunteers across America in the next three years

Meanwhile, thousands of Indian-American high school students are getting hooked to Internet—and concerned parents wring their hands helplessly at community conferences while discussing the Internet craze among the teenagers

Some parents are worried about the rising costs of Internet chatlines set up by their teen children One New York doctor, who makes about $200,000 a year, was upset that his daughter blew up $200 in Internet chats "Just because I am making a lot of money does not mean my child should blow it up," he said

Another doctor said that his daughter had been using Internet chatline to complain to other teenagers that she had not been allowed to date

"I understand some people are using Internet to set up sex dialogue and there is a lot of pornography aimed at teenagers," said one father

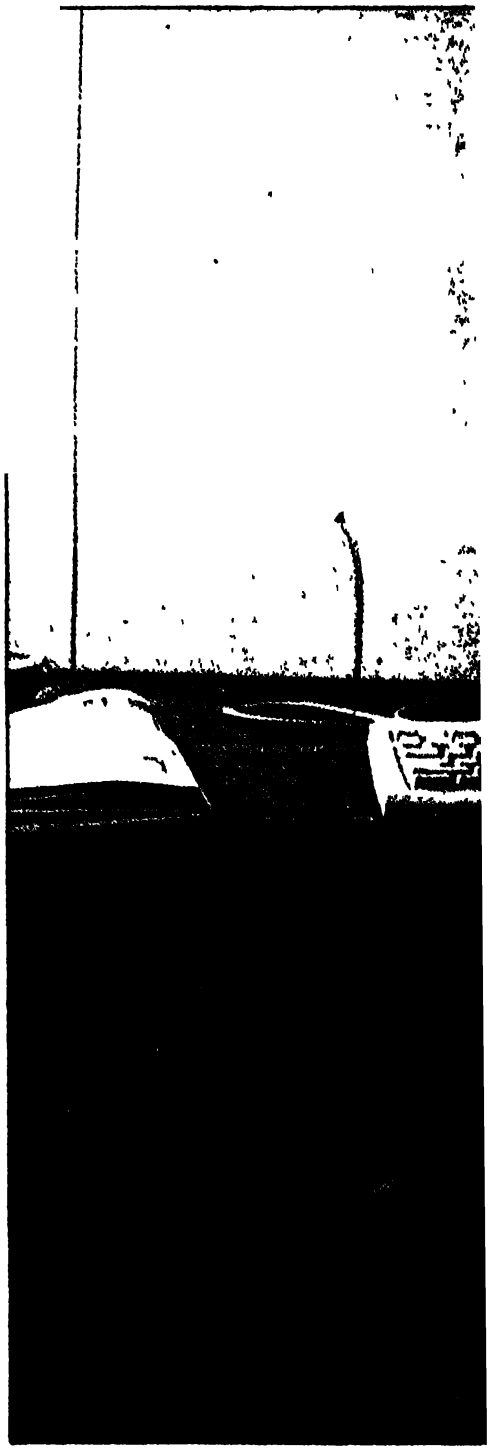
But chatlines can be therapeutic, too Several teenagers told this writer that baring their souls and minds over Internet helps them ease a lot of pain resulting from their bi-cultural homes

"We are often confused about identity," says a teenager "We are eternally worried about our parents' attitudes about dating, marriage, and letting us decide our own careers"

She adds "Discussing these issues over the Internet often get us good results and suggestions Of course, we have to deal with some crank or irresponsible people" Though certain etiquette is to be followed while using the chatlines, it does not mean that a crank cannot get your address—and start writing abusive letters A teenager got a letter through her e-mail which said, "Dotheads Cow-lovers go back to India"

Said a teenager "Certainly some redhead or member of a hate group wrote that letter But such responses are rare

"On the whole, Internet costs far less than going to a shrink"



Vijay Mukhi: Cyber guru

Yahoo was the famous yell of Shammi Kapoor some 30 years ago. Today it is his cyber search engine ***Shameem Akthar*** *spoke to him and other cybercelebs about what lesser mortals are missing*

Gizmo devotee Shammi Kapoor is making waves In cyberspace Since he went public over his unusual and, by his own admission, unexpected interest, in surfing the Internet his phone line is jammed by requests for interviews

These days he tries, rather weakly, to sidestep media petitions by handing out printouts on all that he could possibly say on the subject But we managed to buttonhole this recently-appointed chairman of Internet Users Club of India in his cubbyhole, surrounded by his beloved gadgets.

He submitted, rather morosely, to be subjected to another photo-interview session The stern facade crumbles when he begins to talk about his new addiction Gone, he smiles triumphantly, are the days when he whiled away his afternoon nursing a drink, two or more No longer does he puff his afternoons away over unhealthy cigarettes.

Today he is happy when his grandchildren clamber on to his knee, eager

to snatch the electronic mouse from his hand to zip through the exotic world of Japanese landscapes Or art-scapes that reveal the zany creativity of painter Vincent Van Gogh He is discovering worlds that his many film-shooting trips abroad never exposed him to

"It's as if a whole new world has opened up for me Every minute I am discovering something Things one never knew existed," says the Kapoor, rolling his magnetic green-screen eyes



'It's as if a whole new world has opened up for me. Every minute I am discovering something. Things one never knew existed,' says Shammi Kapoor, rolling his magnetic green-screen eyes that mesmerised our mothers, in astonishment



India's first CyberCafe at The Leela Kempinski

Gaurav Petkar

Pritish Nandy, creator of CyberCafe

that mesmerised our mothers, in astonishment And no, he is not faking this for a shoot This look of enchanted surprise is for real He is still reeling at this assault of unending discoveries

His interest in gadgets has been no secret He has, he laughs, always been pottering around nuts and bolts, trying to patch together his TVs and phones through make-it-yourself kits He stumbled into the charmed world of 'eWorld' when he window shopped at London's Macintosh showrooms His niece, Ritu Kapoor's easy felicity with a Mac Plus stirred his curiosity, too He discovered that losing his way, even blundering around by trial and error, in the vast, wide cyberspace was not a frightening experience after all He knows just how that wide-eyed child exploring the Never-Never land felt

And does the man spout computer jargon? In compuspeak, he entered Internet through a ramp on an online service provided by eWorld If these words leave you cold, it is time you learnt what they meant, advises Kapoor Unless you want to be left behind times by a world whizzing through cyberspace

His one regret is that there is no one in filmdom to share his cerebral hobby Shah Rukh Khan may surf the net only when shooting schedules permit, while in the related world of theatre personalities Alyque Padamsee might display his dexterity on cyberpathway by participating on Internet panels But as a lone showbiz surfer Shammi Kapoor has to endure the flashlights now, if only to promote the cause

The cause, at the moment, is to popularise the concept of Internet so that the intimidated novice learns to click on to cyberspace without the usual anxiety of a beginner And thereby to increase the demands by net-users And thus coax the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, which connects most Indian Internets now, into providing world-class service that will finally



We, too, will soon be there, predicts Vijay Mukhi, the man behind the Internet scene in Bombay. With a formidable list of 71 books on computers credited to his authorship, this cybercitizen is busy promoting Internet's cause

propel India into that century that Rajiv Gandhi only dreamt of

Also in the pipeline (sorry, cyberline) are plans to introduce Internet booths that will allow access to anybody who wants to log in for any information he wants from anywhere in the world

Kapoor is no corporate boss bustling over his financial empire or a heart-in-hand broker watching the scrip movement online He shuffles beatifically along on his search engine, Yahoo, following his fancy He no longer yodels (as in those filmi days of his), but excitement does grip him when he stumbles into celebrity chatlines while on Yahoo

Who does he bump into cyberspace but American President Bill Clinton? "I know Michael Jackson and Sandra Bullock have their chat sites Because of the time differences I never wake up early enough for these encounters" But this surfer has had a surfeit of celebrities He is rediscovering the world of ordinary people "I have made friends with people from around the world and some just down the lane We discuss everything," he smiles, humming hit songs from his films as he hunches before the colourful screen

Some sites are free, while Kapoor's pay site, Yahoo, has been created by two bored American college boys who wanted to while their summer away online A hobby that has transformed them into millionaires today

His 10-month tryst with cyberworld has redefined the entire concept of life for this 65-year-old actor His only regret lies in not having sufficient textbook knowledge of the computer world But the Yahoo man believes in the better-late-than-never code for life and has stockpiled his lair with manuals and books on the new screen in his life — MacWorld, MacUsers and Macromedia Animation Studio are some of the titles that have replaced the Irving Wallaces, Tennessee Williams, John O'Haras on his bookshelf

"Each stage in a man's life has its own phase, its own interests I used to be a voracious reader But each generation has a taste for only some brand of authors None of the authors from this generation interests me — the last author I picked up was John Grisham His books, *The Firm* and *The Rainmaker* were written in the style I loved But there are no others like him, so this current interest has filled the gap left

"*Shikar* I have left behind And golf is no longer the game of the old It has become competitive This hobby of mine makes me feel like a kid with a new toy Everything excites me I feel as if I am walking down the Louvre A whole new world has opened up," says this star of yesteryear whose favourite laurel today is the one delivered by VSNL chief B K. Syngal, who publicly appreciated Kapoor's net involvement

Now he can create movies and put them online — which he does He has linked his tinbox-sized Sony television, which glints with the typical arrogance of latest models, from where he can download his family movies or the channel programmes that grip his movie-driven interest He also feeds in scanned portraits of his beloved wife Geeta Bali But all this bending over the keyboard (he also has a laptop that accompanies him on trips) has given him the RSI syndrome

That peculiar throb on the knuckles that chronic computer-users get

But industrialist Miheer Mafatlal, another computer fiend, has learnt to work around this by taking constant breaks between cyberchats He rotates his arms to bring back circulation, walks around for a while

Not many industrialists have his in-depth knowledge of computers He amalgamates business with pleasure And his involvement with the Internet club is, he acknowledges, definitely linked to business opportunism "Where the colour of money is concerned it is all the same to me whether it is the dollar or the rupee For me it is also professional interest We plan to go into Internet in a big way, and are thinking of strategic alliances with international groups because that is the cheaper way of doing business But India is the market that we are targeting and my hobby-cum-profession gives me a certain edge"

His affair with computers started a quarter decade ago and he dates his wide area networking to his stint in the US Internet for this cyberwalker is too slow He prefers skidding breathlessly through eWorld Only a fraction of his electronic time is spent on online chats He browses on the World Wide Web where he has started hosting his own room called Cyber Spice Cafe He is also a regular 'visitor' to chatrooms of Digital Justice and the Digital Bill of Rights His lay interest in legal issues is stoked by the cerebral chats where people from across the world pitch in with their side of the arguments

On the Digital Bill of Rights chatroom cybertalkers have chucked the existing American Bill of Rights right out of the computer screen and have rewritten it to suit the rights of cyberusers At stake is the freedom of online users who, it is feared, may be denied permission to log-in where they will

It is not only the question of cyberporn sites which, moral-keepers on the net fear will wreck young, impressionable voyeurs who sit glued before 'blue' messages For a cybercitizen boundaries have become *passe*, asserts Mafatlal



It is not only the question of cyberporn sites which, moral-keepers on the net fear will wreck young, impressionable voyeurs who sit glued before 'blue' messages. For a cybercitizen boundaries have become *passe*

With promoters like him Internet users in India might just catch up with the rest of the world next year At least, that is what Mafatlal predicts And then, there will be no looking back Already we have a lot of catching up to do This month's Boston conference on the subject was held to toast the manner in which the new world of Internet has left the old world of computers behind

And how netkid Marc Anderessen, whose Netscape browser (an Internet software) has left whizkid Bill Gates and his Microsoft Windows '95 straggling behind

We, too, will soon be there, predicts Vijay Mukhi, the man behind the Internet scene in Bombay With a formidable list of 71 books on computers credited to his authorship, this cybercitizen is busy promoting Internet's cause Apart from innumerable panel discussions on his pet topic

Mukhi also initiates faltering, wide-eyed novices into the World Wide Web by offering them free access and online training

His involvement in his dream project, of propelling India for its place beside the rest of the world on the electronic frontier, is more than a mere addiction He observes quietly, "I wonder how I could have lived without all this all my life. Soon surfing on the cyberspace will become an integral part of everyone's life as essential as electricity One just cannot do without it"

His only message to the uninitiated is "Hook on You don't know what you are missing."

And this net joke is just to drive home his point. It goes What is O.J Simpson's password on the net? Slash, Slash Escape

No laughs? Then it is time one seriously got down to working on one's cyberdictionary

Samita Bhatia *surfs this new source of information technology to find out why it is addictive*

A fond and indulgent smile spread slowly across Ankur Bhatia's face The 23-year-old director of Amadeus India, the first Computerised Reservation System (CRS) to enter the country, had received a letter over the Internet from his brother in London "He is asking about our dog and is enquiring if he is well," he explained, a trifle amused

Meanwhile, Aniruddha (11) and Pradyumna (7), sat with their father Jairam Ramesh scanning the Net for Enid Blyton titles When they met with little success, Ramesh, former advisor to the Prime Minister and now TV personality and columnist, decided to log-in to literature on *neem* "We were working on a story for *Business Breakfast* on the *neem* controversy and Internet helped with instant access to information on the status of patents on *neem*," says Ramesh who finds the Net very handy in accessing technical literature

He scans the Net whenever he can for new World Bank publications and is looking forward to the time when Indian companies can be logged-in to for financial data and market shares

Perhaps, the most interesting site that Nakul Anand, vice president and general manager of Delhi's Welcomgroup Maurya Sheraton, has surfed is taking a guided tour of the White House, the official residence of the President of the United States! Anand, the motivating factor behind the Rs 1 5 crore Cyber Club at the hotel, says, "It was fascinating to hear the voice of the most powerful man in the world guide you through his residence One really surfs the Internet in quite an unstructured manner When you are seeking something special, all you have to do is zoom into it The information seems unlimited, and it's more out of curiosity that I go into areas like preview Hollywood films"

There are other hip Internauts who simply love to learn every strange (and, perhaps, useless wart) of the Internet and even enjoy memorising unpronounceable commands and options These keyboard-happy Internauts simply revel in the fact that technology's giant leap has made computers interactive and more useful to ordinary mortals

Bhatia says of surfers like himself, "They love to surf all the cool things that one can achieve on the Internet"

Internauts are discovering everyday, that opposed to a popular misconception that you had to be a geek to dabble in computers, the Internet is extremely user-friendly and interactive Besides, it heralds an era where the world will — and has already to an extent — shrunk to the size of a room

"You can even read a book on the Internet!" says Anand He has browsed through a gamut of texts on the Net, ranging from the works of William Shakespeare to those of Bill Gates Says a fascinated Anand, "Some files, I believe, are voluminous such as the entire *Moby Dick*"

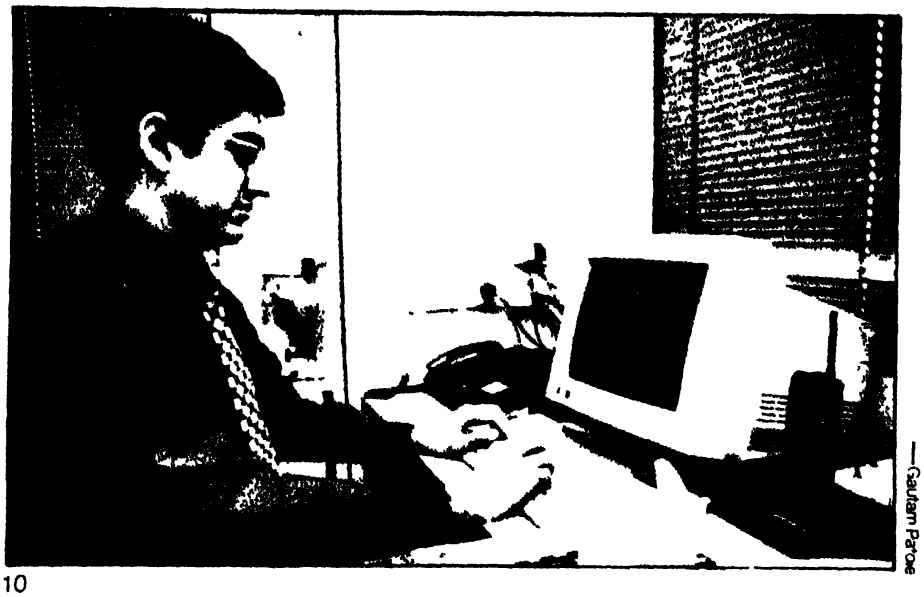
Anand finds the Net fascinating "Now I have access to so much ready information which was simply not possible earlier" Anand looks at the Internet for information, entertainment and communications "For a hotelier these three aspects are critical Our houseguests are surfing the Net for special information"

These computer buffs talk at length about the vistas that the Internet opens up to them Want to comment on anything about the American government that you approve of? Or disapprove of? (For, it is too soon to attack the Indian government yet) Just drop a line to the President of the US And while you are at it you could also drop in a note to the US Vice President The address is simple enough — President White House Government and Vice President White House Government

Some like Hans Brown who was caught surfing at Cyber Club, described the Net tongue-in-cheek as the world's best resource for "work avoidance" He added, "The fundamental principle that rules the Internet says that when you really, really have to get a report out this afternoon, first you must play Tetris!"

For those with a very ticklish funny bone the Internet is ideal when you

Ankur Bhatia Scanning the Net



Gautam Parole

want to hear some pithy jokes, for everyone needs a new joke now and then The Internet has long had a newsgroup called 'rec humour' in which people post what they consider to be their funniest joke

Indeed, much of what is there consists of complaints that a joke is not funny, and then more complaints that the complaint was not funny!

Because the Internet spans the world, many languages other than English are spoken on it So if you are interested you could try French or German and pick up the vocabulary

Back to serious issues that professionals log in to Surfing the Net is not just addictive, but also a leisurely pursuit Professionals like K K Venugopal, senior constitutional lawyer and president of the SAARC Lawyers Association, essentially logs-in to his VSNL connection for specific information

Venugopal's interest in the Net dates back two years and the onus of getting him hooked goes to his sons "My sons — one of whom is a computer software engineer in San Francisco and the other who is doing his doctorate in Harvard - - made me realise how communication has been simplified through the Net

"On the Internet we can very easily access US Supreme Court judgments as they are dictated in the court which some World Wide Web (WWW) servers are loaded with Hitherto, we had access to edited versions only," says Venugopal "Now lawyers can actually communicate with law schools internationally, or even with groups of lawyers who share similar interests

Amadeus' Bhatia, on the other hand, suggests a site for surfers where they can fast-forward into the past, as it were He explains that a wealth of historical documents and resources await the user on the Internet "Though I haven't been surfing it, the University of Kansas has an interactive service for historians, and that is really something great "



Over to the Cyber Club

Bhatia who is working on establishing a stronghold of Amadeus in the Indian market, targeting over 600 member agents by January, takes time out to surf the Net Worldwide weather information, clips of the latest blockbusters and latest pictures of Hollywood actresses are available You can even see a man landing on the moon, he reveals "Essentially, I use the Net for communication, specially since most people abroad are on the Internet It takes all of 10 seconds to transmit messages worldwide Next I'd like to get a site on the Net where we can put out our services "

Spending an average of four hours a week surfing the Net, Anand updates himself on international company profiles, specially when the hotel has some important guests due to check-in, international conferences and seminars held at the hotel also require Anand to keep himself abreast of information on the participating companies To the Cyber Club it is then

But the world can shrink to the size of your computer screen only if the system works Most subscribers of the Net on the VSNL, complain bitterly about poor connections Jairam Ramesh agrees with the other users "Connectivity is a serious problem It's easy to get a connection at the time I'm sleeping and it's very difficult and even next to impossible when I'm active! I also find that the graphics that we get are really not very good Something obviously needs to be done "

Venugopal's office, on the other hand, makes innumerable calls to the VSNL offices after hours of laborious trying for connections fail him

But even as VSNL gets its act together, log-in Internauts suggest for a bit of gossip, if nothing else As gossip is one of the most ancient human activities, the Internet does not ignore it

The Internet, because it is largely populated by humans, is as gossipy a place as any For small gossip, use the talk command, which enables you to type back and forth to another person on the Net But for serious gossip, online gossip network — Internet Relay Chat (IRC) enables people from all over the world to gossip 24 hours a day about nothing in particular



There are other hip Internauts who simply love to learn every strange (and, perhaps, useless wart) of the Internet and even enjoy memorising unpronounceable commands and options

*And **Pritish Nandy**, this time of India's first cybercafe fame, has the last word (the first, actually)..*

Wherever I go these days, it is cyber, cyber, cyber Everyone is talking cyber, trying out cyber, dreaming cyber Cyber is the latest fad on the world media scene and some of the clever newspapers — among them, *The Telegraph*, a newspaper always prescient, always ahead of its time — have already started carrying cybercolumns, cybersections and cybersupplements, apart from carrying regular stories about Internet and the new kid on the block Netscape, whose stocks have set Wall Street on fire and whose 22-year-old owner is giving sleepless nights to an already outdated, out of breath Bill Gates

So much so that the usually cautious Gates has already announced that Microsoft will now concentrate, for the next 365 days, only on Internet and developing Internet-based products To hell with everything else! Sony, too, has abandoned its obsession with television and audio to announce that early 1996 will see the launch of Sony computers that will try to reap the worldwide move towards cyber

Cybermedia, cyberentertainment, cybereducation, cybershopping and cyberlifestyle

The CyberCafe — India's first — which two of my Internet-savvy colleagues, Vijay Mukhi and Kanakasabapathy Pandyan, and I opened at The Leela Kempinkski on the first of this month, is overcrowded with visitors till two in the morning and Captain Krishnan Nair, chairman of the Leela Group, and an ardent media-watcher, who shared in the excitement of our creating it, can scarcely believe the huge media attention it's drawing

Celebrities roll in at all times of the day and night and the pretty hostesses who give them a guided tour of cyberspace are already clued on to some of the most exciting information hotspots

Darbari Seth wants to know the latest moves on the New York stock exchange Kanakasabapathy Pandyan helps him along Dom Moraes wants to find out more about an 18th century English poet called Thomas Chatterton Vijay Mukhi delves into the world of literary history with him Rameshwar Broota and Manu Parekh want to see what's on at the Tate Art Gallery next season Rajni Nair assists them Anupam Kher wants to know the precise difference between an AK-47 and an AK-56 Internet whiz Miheer Mafatlal shows him where to locate the expertise

Secret archives open up The Fort Knox of research is unlocked The latest information reaches you long before TV and the press report it Friends are made in chat rooms in cyberspace, where barriers of age, sex, caste, religion, nationality cease to exist and only ideas matter Ideas, images, facts And the sheer delight of accusing them, sharing them, blowing huge, gaping holes into them It is a challenge like none other The challenge of frontier media

What will Internet achieve? What *can* it achieve? These are the two questions I hear all the time Particularly, from curious journalists and young people who are the most anxious to know its potential

Newspapers and magazines look like heavy plodders in today's frenzied world and the very idea of cutting down huge, beautiful forests to feed newsprint factories revolts most young people who are environment-savvy TV, on the other hand, looks like an option for morons, with the lowest common denominator dictating public taste No wonder, there is a frenzied search on for the intelligent media option One that Rupert Murdoch cannot subvert One that the government cannot control under some pretext or the other

And that, right now, is cyber

No wonder, everyone swears by it No wonder, everyone wants to find out how to access it, corporatise it, control it But can they? Is it possible to do so? Can ESPN and Prime Sports battle it out in Cyberspace? Can Sony and Zee ever hope to reach millions of intelligent homes through an interactive cyber/cable system that can do your homework for you, shop, play, gamble and make money through securitised transactions? Can ABCL spot your talent on your homepage and make a star out of you?

Can HMV and Tips, Venus and



Time assess your musical skills through cybersampling and put you on their bestselling repertoire? Will Jonathan Cape read your poems and send you a book contract for half a million dollars? Can you consult with the world's best doctors about your grandaunt's gout? Can you compare the astrological predictions of Linda Goodman and Sushil Chaturvedi? Can you play bridge with Omar Sharief across continents, date Claudia Schiffer and see Isi Miyake's fall collection before newspapers publish one boring black-and-white picture and a 30-word reportage on page 19?

Can this column, read by only 5 million Indians reach 300 million, in different languages? Can you fix a date in cyberspace? Can you get married to someome thousands of miles away?

The answer in each case is, Yes

If you don't believe it, come to the cyberCafe when any one of us are around and we will show you how

Yes, virtually anything is possible That is the magic of cyber What you dream can be easily realised — as long as you know how to translate your idea into cyberreality It's a young, ambitious, ruthlessly driven medium — desperate to meet every challenge, every opportunity ahead That is why, sited at the cutting edge of technology, it can be your (and my) route to freedom

No more jute barons, *jhoot* barons No more editors, managing editors, executive editors, senior editors, associate editors, joint editors, news editors views editors Nor more producers, executive producers, channel producers, directors, creative directors, temperamental cinematographers No more megalomaniac media *maaliks* In cyberspace, we are all equals

Write what you want to Draw what you want to Capture on celluloid or magnetic tape or CD-Rom what you want to And log it in If what you have to offer is clever, challenging and innovative, there will be millions of takers But if you are just plain stupid, that too will show up No one will come back to your site again

When you are in an e-world chat room, no one knows who you are You could be a lovelorn Princess Di or a sex worker from Kamathipura You could be a six-year-old schoolboy with a devastating sense of humour or Dan Quayle with dyslexia. You can be David Hockney or Abu Nidal, Amartya Sen or the Happy Hooker, Stephen Hawking or just another anonymous nerd from MIT Who gives a damn! As long as you have something to offer, there are people ready to listen, and join you, may be help you along



What we need is interactive knowledge so that the pace of change can quicken. Information can lend power to everyone, big and small. The idea has become the crux of all enterprise. Nothing else matters. Not capital. Not factories

But if you are just another feckless yukkie roaming around in cyberspace and hoping to be entertained — as mindlessly as you have been entertained by, say, television — you will be as friendless at the end of it all as you were at the very beginning That's the fun of it all *You are. Therefore you exist* As Descartes would say

If you find me confusing, let me confess that I am Logical thinking is now boring and out What the new media is looking for is whacky, lateral moves Ideas that can change the world over night Factories are getting obsolete quicker Capital is earning less and less returns Technology is being so swiftly rewritten that the textbooks have shorter and shorter print runs What we need is interactive knowledge so that the pace of change can quicken Information can lend power to everyone, big and small

The idea has become the crux of all enterprise

Nothing else matters Not capital Not factories Certainly not labour These are all as obsolete as Baba Marx

Knowledge has replaced Money It has emerged as the new capital for societies like ours that are breaking out of old-fashioned and predictable, slow growth patterns

If cyber continues to grow at its current pace, the thin dividing line between TVs and computers will swiftly vanish, as will the print medium Everyone will talk to each other freely, openly, interactively The mouse will be your bus, your car, your train, your plane, your phone, your friendly neighbourhood genie Your computer will be your newspaper, your magazine, your movie theatre, your interactive bookshop where you can browse through the latest arrivals, your neighbourhood supermarket from where you can buy any goods, any services at any time of the day, in any currency that you find convenient

No MNC can price its medicines, soaps and toiletries differently in different markets without being instantly caught out No government can commit human rights violations without the news reaching everyone everywhere There will be no unreported in-custody deaths No Nellies No Bofors No Enrons Every misdemeanour will be instantly out

No editor, no media *maalik* can kill any story No politician can hide his misdemeanours any more One man and one machine can take on the might of the entire Establishment and win

Yes, information is crucial It makes all the difference between winning and losing in the marketplace as well as on the stock exchanges And, now, with the coming of cyber, more and more people can send out, receive, process information without being harassed by power elites That is why we need more and more people on the Internet, why a government like ours should encourage more and more gateways to open up so that the hiatus between the North and the South is breached and knowledge moves to where people can use it more effectively, more politically

And, above all, more sensibly and equitably

That is why, within the next few months, you will see us moving at a phenomenal pace All over India The CyberCafe is only a beginning It is just an information hotspot, a cafeteria A declaration of intent Many more things will happen that will make TV look about as interesting as last night's dinner leftovers As the world of cyber opens With new sites, new concepts that seem almost magical, reaching out and grabbing the potential of media in a manner that would have seemed unimaginable till now Just wait Wait for six months No more

Remember I predicted this

Just as I had predicted the TV boom exactly a year before it actually happened ■

EXTRACT

Standards of IMAGE

Beneath the logo and beyond the letterhead lie the creation of the corporate personality, the company character the institutional reputation What does it take to establish corporate culture or build a corporate identity programme? Corporate identity is not just a matter of intuition, but is something that is carefully contrived and developed

Mostly About Image

A flag, or a pennant, is a country's most conspicuous cue Most of us Indians have seen the evolution of the national flag from the time it had a *chakra* in the middle to its current form and it has always been dinned into us that the colours stand for various qualities that we ought to be emulating

But beyond that, a flag, whether it is the tricolour, or the stars and stripes or the red circle on a white background, is something that does not strike the average person as being a work of painstaking research How can the student of history forget, for instance, the searing effects of the blood red *swastika* on the flag of Hitler's Germany, which Albert Speer, Hitler's chief architect, described as being more effective than any flag "divided into three stripes of colour"

But for even these stripes of visual effect and nationalistic drama, there is a large chunk of expenditure on the conceptualisation and execution

The most recent instance of redesigning a flag has come out of the developments in South Africa The process is not simply one that concerns a flag for the new post-aparthied South Africa, but is part of a total search to possibly strike a new chord amongst a populace seeking to get international approval in the same measure as they are trying to bring about amicable multi-party rule

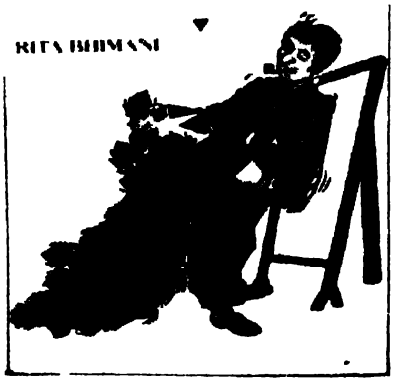
Vexilologists had to contend with 700 proposed designs for a South African flag, some of which were outright rejects like Bart Simpson at the beach, or a banana and an assault rifle substituting for the hammer and sickle Reporting on this, the Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service said that when the Commission of National Symbols recommended a new national motto, coat of arms and national flag, it was the national anthem that proved to be the most difficult to choose There were 119 songs submitted in 11 of the country's major languages So the Commission proposed that the south Africans sing two national anthems until a new government is elected The latest development is to retain *The Voice*, the existing anthem and add the Black nationalist hymn, *God Bless Africa*, as a co-anthem

Finding a consensus for the flag has not been easy, either Commission chairman Elize Botha said "It's clear that a flag is a national symbol is an extremely emotional issue We began to regard our work as an inquiry, very wide-ranging inquiry, into the hearts and minds of the people of South Africa"

The new 'Flag of Transition' that has emerged was ripped to shreds by khaki-clad demonstrators, while the average man on the street was not at all impressed by it Replacing the orange, white and blue tricolour which has been around since 1928, the new one has six colours Green and gold and black and red and white and blue, the graphic impact is of a 'Y' lying on its side It is not an easy process to effect visual change

But quite apart from the hallowed institution of the national flag, it is the international airlines which are probably playing a much larger role in carving out an identity for their country of origin than ever before Whether it be their colour combinations, their logos, or the whole face they present through massive advertising in all media, airli-

THE CORPORATE PEACOCK



BY RITA BHIMANI

***Extracted from** The Corporate Peacock New Plumes for Public Relations **by** Rita Bhimani, Rupa & Co ; Rs 195*

nes have made a fine art of image creation

However, with the large number of airlines competing not just for air space, or for media space, but for nicking out a little niche in customer consciousness, the problem no longer is one of blitzkrieg advertising, but of establishing a personality It is an identity that has the two-fold job of not only projecting an international airline in all its efficiency and epicurean claims, but also in maintaining the special flavour and character of the country of origin

This is where even something as basic as a symbol can be a crucial identity factor Look what happened to Air-India when, a few years ago, it went into a multi-million dollar exercise to change over to supposed contemporaniety The maharajah long established, and an endearing figure who could be made to do or say what no sterile symbol would ever do was suddenly dethroned and a costly and non-passionate sun made its appearance in his stead, draining all warmth and wit from the airline's identity Thankfully, the maharajah is back bestriding the advertising cocking a snook at all those who believed that they could susbstitute today's formless images with yesterday's timeless personality

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Identity is Ingrained Image

The creation of identity through a logo is just one pulchritudinous part of corporate personality The most visible part But relating identity to logo is like referring to a person's name without alluding to his other characteristics Companies all too often do a one-time expenditure on the creation of a new logo with its itinerant advertising back-up But once done, there is never a thought for how that company should continue to be embedded in the public mind

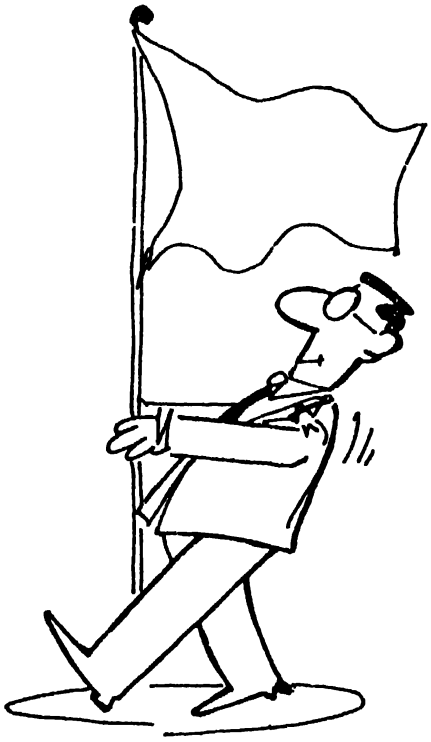
The reason why we are embarking on the finer semantic interpretations of corporate image, identity, culture and even soul, is because today's corporations are competing in an environment when, with the numerous brands on offer and the multifaceted operations that a single company is going into, there is a need to assert a distinct personality for each corporation

Sometimes, it is easy enough with the founders, or strong chief executives steering the way in which companies behave, react, interact and even retort when pushed to the wall in times of wrongdoing Most Indians will always be quick to cite the examples of the Air-India maharajaah as giving the airline its special character and even the links with its creator and with JRD are easily recalled and established Sometimes, a brand overrides its company of origin

Speaking on this subject to the Public Relations Society of India some years ago, Subhas Ghosal, a top calibre advertising professional and philosopher of that calling, talked about the fact that when an organisation has a complex mass of business or brands, or both, the creation of the value system, and, therefore, the emergence of the corporate personality is much more complicated

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It is easy enough for an agency to be given a brief to project a strong image of a company before a share issue, for instance Our business magazines and newspapers have seen thousands of attractive advertisments which emerge in a series to air the competences



and the charcter of a corporation In many cases, it may be possible to make an immediate impact, in most instances, consumer recall can be poor and the fundamental point about a company missed unless solid research has gone into the projection, and management themselves have thought about how they wish to be seen and known

Without citing any specific names, there is an instance we have culled where a corporation used to like being seen as a diversified one as it was in four distinct businesses Following a detailed analysis, though, it transpired that the strengths of this particular company lay, not in its multifarious activities, but in its competence as a distribution company, which is how it had garnered its profits in the first place

We find instances every day around us Banks that want to project their Indian-ness rather than their transnationalism, steel companies which have focused so much on their humanitarianism that they cockily proclaim that they also make steel, cigarette giants that now have One Hope, One Vision, the fertiliser company that sticks to the basics of saying Our Roots are Strong, the glass bottle manufacturer which Makes Technology Pay

But there are several companies which continue to indulge in platitudes, often using phrases that not only do not fit in their product, but which are obviously done for impact There is the paper and cement company which talks about taking giant steps across (with poor Bata limping in its slipstream no doubt!) the capacitor manufacturer who dreams of Turning Confidence into Success (putting tutorial colleges in the shade), or the credit card company which Makes It Easy (as does that well-known toy manufacturer), or the very well known line of that diversified company crows The Best Means of Growth Come from Within (all pregnant women beware you have competition!) And with a large number of companies in hot pursuit of excellence, you wonder that our industrial growth does not outstrip that of many developed nations

Germane to the discussion is how corporate personality or identity cannot be flung on like a shawl, but needs deeper contemplation Otherwise, a corporate mission becomes mere lip service, in the same manner as corporate intentions can misfire, if there were well-thought-out intentions at all

There are many consultancies today which have been formed just to deal with corporate image and identity — a vast and fascinating subject which holds challenges in equal measure for designer and strategy sifter alike -- quite apart from the recipient, the corporation, which can get the full benefit of professional personality build-up That is, if it has the will, the heart to spend on a good identity programme and the innate oomph to actually make it stand apart ■

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code: ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC 741	0800	1 2 3 6	IC 742	1030	1 3
			IC 742	1250	4 7
IC-743	0920	daily	IC 744	1150	daily
PF 701	1130	1 3 5 7	PF-702	1610	1 3 5 7
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2-028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF-706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
IC 721	1250	1 3 4 5 7	IC 722	1525	1 3 4 5 7
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 181	1600	daily
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
9W 511	1400	daily	9W 512	2150	daily
D5 402	0600	3 5 7	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
IC 676	0730	daily	IC 675	0820	daily
9W 202	0715	1 2 4 5 6 7	9W 201	0935	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 274	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	2000	daily	9W 211	1925	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2-103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
M9 305	0600	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 306	1140	1 2 3 4 5 6
M9-307	1700	daily	M9 308	2230	daily
IC 263	0630	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC-402	1715	daily	IC 401	1135	daily
4S-805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	1715	1 3 5
S2 006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 702	1630	1 3 5 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 3 5 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
D5-601/602	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 257	1145	4 7	IC 257	1540	4 7
S2 026/021	0850	1 2 3 4 5	S2 022/00	2005	1 2 3 4 5
D5-601	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
IC 703	0810	1 3 5	IC-704	1120	1 3 5
9W 611	1020	daily	9W 612	1310	daily
M9 321	1230	daily	M9 322	1510	daily

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
PF 705	0730	2 4 6 7	IC 230	1620	daily
PF 735	0730	1	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	PF 738	1730	1
IC 229	1310	daily	PF 736	1740	3 5
IC 703	0830	4 7	IC 704	1120	2 6
HYDERABAD					
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
9W 511	1400	daily	9W 512	2150	daily
IMPHAL					
D5 601/603	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
JAIPUR					
S2 026 027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2-028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
JODHAT					
IC 257	1145	4 7	IC 257	1540	4 7
LILABARI					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1
LUCKNOW					
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1715	1 3 5
MADRAS					
D5 402	0600	3 5 7	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1030	1 4 6
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2
D2 172	1640	daily	D2 171	1115	daily
IC 765	1720	daily	IC 766	2020	daily
NAGPUR					
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2130	2 4 6
PATNA					
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 405	1835	2 4 6
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1715	1 3 5
PORT BLAIR					
IC 285	0640	1 3 5	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
RANCHI					
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1715	1 3 5
SHILLONG					
D5 601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
PF-705	0730	2 4 6 7	PF 706	1510	2 4 6 7
SILCHAR					
D5 601/605	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 253	0745	2 4 6	IC 254	1025	2 4 6
TEZPUR					
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
ZERO					
PF 737	0730	3 5	PF 738	1740	3 5
VARANASI					
S2 014	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
VISHAKHAPATNAM					
IC-542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1030	1 4 6
ZIRO					
PF 735	0730	1	PF 736	1730	1

INTERNATIONAL

RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
KL 876	0345	7	KL 875	0135	7

KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 5	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
IC 855	1105	4 7	IC 856	1730	4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
TG 314	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AI 406	1910	[illegible]	AI [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ BUCHAREST					
RO 076	2150	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	0800	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BG 69[illegible]	1[illegible]	[illegible]	BG [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ DHAKA					
BG 032	0850	4 5	[illegible]	[illegible]	4
BG 052	1150	1 6	[illegible]	[illegible]	1 [illegible]
IC 723	1250	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1 [illegible]
BG 094	1900	1 [illegible]	BG 09[illegible]	1	1 [illegible]
BG 094	1910	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	1
BG 096	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ DUBAI					
[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	
■ KATHMANDU					

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1455	[illegible]
■ LONDON					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ MOSCOW					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4
■ PARO					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	KB [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ SINGAPORE					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ SOFIA					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ TOKYO					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
■ YANGOON					

AI Air India ● **BA** British Airways ● **BG** Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● **BI** Royal Brunei Airlines ● **D2** Damania Airways ● **D5** NEPC Airlines ● **IC** Indian Airlines ● **KB** Druk-Air ● **KLM** Royal Dutch Airlines ● **LZ** Balkan Airlines ● **M9** Modiluft ● **PF** Vayudoot ● **RA** Royal Nepal Airlines ● **RJ** Royal Jordanian Airlines ● **RO** Tarom Air Transport ● **S2** Sahara India Airlines ● **SQ** Singapore Airlines ● **SU** Aeroflot ● **4S** East West Airlines ● **TG** Thai Airways International ● **9W** Jet Airways

Departure Up	Time	EASTERN RAILWAY Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
311	[illegible]	Delhi-Kalka Mail		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Amritsar Mail		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Bombay Mail [illegible]		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Poorva (New Delhi) Express [illegible]		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Poorva (New Delhi) Express [illegible]		
307	[illegible]	Rajdhani Express [illegible]		
05	13 15	Rajdhani Express [illegible]		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Jodhpur Express		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express		
373	23 00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express [illegible]		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Guwahati Express		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Gorakhpur Express		
[illegible]	13 00	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express	4 [illegible]	
3009	20 40	Doon Express [illegible]	[illegible]	
00	[illegible]	Udyan Abha Toofan Express [illegible]		
3049	13 20	Amritsar Express		
3019	21 00	Kathgodam Express		
3021	16 05	Mithila (Raxaul) Express		
[illegible]	17 35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express		5666
3217	6 10	Black Diamond Express		5 [illegible]
3054	17 11	Coalfield Express	10 [illegible]	3[illegible]
3089	18 [illegible]	Asansol Express	8 [illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Danapur Express	5 50	
3071	22 30	Jamalpur Express		
3015	9 55	Santiniketan Express		
1159	15 25	Chambal (Gwalior) Express Dep Mon [illegible] & Thurs A [illegible]		
1171	15 25	Shipra (Indore) Express Dep Wed Sat & Sun Arr Sun Wed & Sat		
3327	14 30	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express		332[illegible]
1181	15 [illegible]	Chambal (Agra Cantt) Express Dep Friday Arr Tuesday		
Up	**Time**	**Sealdah**	**Time**	**Dn**
3141	13 40	Teesta-Torsa Express	6 35	
3143	19 15	Darjeeling Mail	8 [illegible]	3141
3111	20 15	Delhi Express via Mal[illegible]	[illegible] 15	31 2
5657	6 25	Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express	20 35	5658
315[illegible]	22 00	Gour Express	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	Katihar Express	1 15	5666
3151	11 20	Jammu-Tawi Express	15 50	3152
3133	20 55	Mughal Sarai Express via SRG [illegible]	12 30	3134
3103	18 20	Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express	10 [illegible]5	3104
5085	12 40	Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

Up	Time	SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
		Madras Mail	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Bombay Mail [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Ahmedabad Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Kurla Express [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Coromandal (Madras) Express [illegible]	[illegible]	81
		Fulaknuma (Secunderabad) Express [illegible]	[illegible]	7004
		Bangalore Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
801	[illegible]	Tata Steel Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
813	[illegible]	Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Titlagarh Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Ranchi Hatia Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Puri Express [illegible]	[illegible]	8003
81[illegible]	[illegible]	Jagannath (Puri) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	[illegible]	8046
[illegible]	[illegible]	Purulia Express [illegible] Arr [illegible] Sunday	[illegible]	8003
1	[illegible]	Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express [illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express Monday only	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express [illegible]	13 45	6321
	[illegible]	Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express via Visakhapatnam & Howrah [illegible]	13 45	6314
[illegible]	[illegible]	Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express [illegible] Howrah & Visakhapatnam [illegible]	[illegible]	
6316	[illegible]	Cochin Harbour Terminus Express via Visakhapatnam & Howrah [illegible]	13 45	6315
6510	[illegible]	Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 35	6510

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203496-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

RUSKIN BOND'S COLUMN

Ferns in Foliage



At the bottom of the hill there is a small rippling stream, its water almost hidden by the bright green, tangled growth along its course It is only by its sound as it chatters over the pebbles, that we become aware of it Here we came across many plants that delight to grow in such places water-mint, wild strawberries, wood sorrel, orchids, violets and dandelions, and a forest of ferns

The first thing one notices is a beautiful group of ferns growing almost to the water This is the Lady Fern, whose broad fronds must be quite four to five feet high, a delicate plant, frail and almost transparent in the fineness of its foliage, and looking so tender that you would think the sun and wind would almost scorch or shrivel it up But the abundant supply of flowing water keeps these ferns cool and fresh

When the frosts of winter come, the fronds will crumple up into a heap of brown fragments But their strength has by that time returned into the thick clump of roots to be stored and used for a still finer group of fronds next year

In the moist parts of any forest there are sure to be several other kinds of ferns such as the Male Fern, with its strong, upright fronds looking like a large green shuttlecock three feet high One of the commonest of Indian ferns is the maidenhair which grows along the west coast and in the Himalayan foothills During the monsoon, it can be found on almost every wall and rock a delicate, tender fern, easily torn by the wind

On the stump of a fallen tree grow the Prickly-toothed Buckler fern and the Broad Buckler fern, whose rootlets penetrate the soft, rotting wood to obtain their moisture They are hardy, often remaining green all through the winter The handsome Bracken fern often grows to a height of six or seven feet Then there is the lovely Hart's tongue fern, great clumps of which grow beside the forest paths It has broad, green crinkled fronds and is quite unlike other ferns

The history of ferns goes back to the mists of antiquity. There was a time when ferns and plants like them filled the earth. It was a wet and dripping time. Flowers would have been of no use at all but spores could carry on their lives in the prevailing dampness



If you look at the back of the fronds you will see that from the little heaps of rust-coloured spore cases, that this is indeed a fern, all ferns grow their seeds in this way

There are several hundred varieties of ferns They are easily pressed and preserved They may also be grown indoors in pots But they are loveliest in the open, in cool, damp places, in the depths of the forest or by the side of a mountain stream

The history of ferns goes back to the mists of antiquity There was a time when ferns and plants like them filled the earth It was a wet and dripping time Flowers would have been of no use at all but spores could carry on their lives in the prevailing dampness Some ferns grew as large as trees

The falling stems of these mighty tree ferns were floated together by mighty streams, carried away to the sea and buried under sand and mud The remains of these plants being thus shut off from the air, could not rot but were slowly changed into coal The impressions of leaves and stems of these ferns can be distinguished even now, in many pieces of coal

As the earth became drier, ferns retired to the damp, shady spots in which we now find them They are a declining family but let us hope they will remain with us for some time for a forest stream without ferns would be like a maiden whose loveliest tresses have been shorn

(Sanctuary Features)

BEJAN DARUWALLA

ies
March 21 - April 20



Ganesha says the full moon reactivates your interest in house, journey, collaborations A spot of renovation, decoration is also envisaged A touch of romance midweek adds the necessary spice to life Expect visitors and keep contacts buzzing Time for some recollections and plans for the future

Taurus
April 21 —May 20



Anything connected with finances and work turns out well A job switch, overtime work, taking on extra responsibilities, handling more than one department at least temporarily, are foretold Yes, there will be too many irons in the fire Loans and funds, buying selling once again are highlighted

Gemini
May 21 — June 20



While finances and family posers are important, you will meet quite a few interesting and sexy persons A little care in relationship is however advisable Hectic romance and marriage collaborations are possible So also, are hurt feelings and heart burns Long distance connections are foretold

Cancer
June 21 — July 20



Despite some needless opposition, rest assured you will find enough work to keep you busy Also, please expect some good news By reaching out to people and places, you will certainly bag contracts and assignments December 12-15 is for good news and fresh ideas Health caution essential

Leo
July 21 — August 21



Time to let the world know how good you and your friends really are, and true to tell, you are good You will have silky grace and finesse in relationships Your full share of travel, visitors, relatives news, views, children should keep you fully stimulated Time for contacts and contracts

Virgo
August 22 – September 22



Very surprsingly, you will blow your own trumpet and that of your friends as well There is also an intense concentration on work, finances, food and services, a magnificent quartet for sure Do accept invitations even if you feel they drain your energy Finish pending work and start a new one

Libra
September 23 — October 22



Time for thrills and spills, change in the nature and scope of your work Home, property and renovation/decoration will be mighty important Many of you will be launching out on deals and projects A temporary union or separation is more than possible Journey and contacts on the cards

Scorpio
October 23 – November 22



You will have to be a quick change artist, because you will be forced by fate to play numerous roles Yes you will do so with aplomb and elan December 12-15 are the suggested dates for it Watch out for business openings, travel possibilities contacts and tenders buying, selling You will be very busy

Sagittarius
November 23 – December 20



Though you are on a slightly choppy sea, expect things and matters to right themselves for you This holds specially true of bank balance finances loans, investments, health relationships, buying and selling Travel, visitors, attending conferences and meets are predicted for you this week

Capricorn
December 21 — January 19



Better gird your loins and get work done While it will be incomplete, at least a start will have been made Romance blossoms and that should be most welcome For money and laughter, Tuesday through Friday should be ideal Try to focus on personal work and expenses

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18



The full moon activates your imagination, stirs your emotions and ignites your inspiration Result? Success Use diplomacy, wit amusements rather than the bayonet and the cudgel to get work done Group activity will lead to happiness The trick is to have friends and make them want you

Pisces
February 19 -- March 20



Gains will be registered More importantly, you will have the dash and panache (thanks to Jupiter) to go right ahead Those in education distribution, research sales, films, travel agency, editing, the arts science and research do a grand job of it Do find the time for family and friends

BIRTHDAYS

December 10: Ganesha says, true, the sun-Saturn square could make for delays and upsets Trouble with parents and elders.

December 11: Moon and the sun indicates success after repeated efforts and intense concentration Journey, ceremoney and publicity are fated.

December 12: Venus sextiles Saturn, giving you grace and charm as well as patience and determination, needless to say it is a combination assuring love, respect and money

December 13: Moon trines Mercury helping enormously copywriters, newsmen, traders and brokers, brides and grooms to settle down quickly

December 14: Moon trines Mars giving you just that extra thrust of enthusiasm so sorely needed for success in anything you like to do. Careerwise you have it made Children, and romance should be cause for joy

December 15: The moon's last quarter take you right up to the pinnacle of happiness There is an excellent chance of wish fulfillment

December 16: Moon square Mercury there could be complications, delays, misunderstandings and so on By May it should all be over

smanship in International Standard 22/22 karat gold and
jewellery Dealer in precious and astrological stones

P. C. CHANDRA
J E W

A jewel of jewels

Riders to the Sea



For all the modern inconveniences of the cities, my heart lies in the wild and green places of the world So I leapt at the chance to cross the sea to the Irish county of Donegal whose craggy coast faces the northern Atlantic

The ferry we chose crossed from Stranraer on the Scottish coast to Larne in Northern Island To catch it we drove north through England, up a motorway clogged by roadworks as motorways often are to the small town of Congleton Here we B&Bed (Bed nd Breakfasted) in a farm belonging to the Hollinsheads who took in guests to supplement their income from home cured bacon and beekeeping

Mr Hollinshead was proud of his bees He fed us honey and told us that every year he imported queen bees from New Zealand and mail-ordered them all over England

England is longer than it looks and so we set off early the next morning, passing the Lake District to our left and crossing the Scottish border close to Gretna to where, in former days, young English lovers eloped to wed We were well in time for the ferry and had plenty of opportunity to complain about the exorbitant fares Stena Sealink, a privatised arm of British Rail, was asking The gulls followed the ferry out to sea and I tossed sausages to them for the pleasure of seeing them hovering over us to catch them

We landed at Larne and drove off It was early evening but this was summer and it wouldn't get dark until well into what should be night What made Northern Island different was that suddenly there were no B&B signs No one came here for a holiday

The town of Dungiven in particular testified to the damage caused by the many years of "troubles" between Catholic republicans and Protestant unionists The police station was designed to withstand militant attacks It consisited of walls of yellow armour-plating, with a look-out post whose windows were covered with thick metal bar

One in every three shops in the high street had windows broken and doors boarded up A group of skinheaded youths idled on a pavement We drove on past lampposts painted in the colours of the Irish Republic's tricolour and signposts to the town of Londonerry where the 'London' had been obliterated by black paint

It was getting late Beyond the city of Londonerry, we passed an unmanned, electronically-monitored border crossing and were in another country where B&Bs miraculously reappeared

The next morning we arrived in the tiny village of Downings, on a narrow peninsula jutting into the Atlantic There is no green more deeply brilliant than that of the rolling hills of Ireland Innumerable purple orchids dot the bogs The fragrant sheep-grazed pastures are full of uncounted tiny flowers and the hedgerows of wild roses, honeysuckle and deep red fuschia The tall crags above the shore are deep grey, and the sea gin-clear and intensely blue The wind is so strong that you can lean into it and not fall, and so cold that in our little modern cottage we kept a peat fire burning

There is no green more deeply brilliant than that of the rolling hills of Ireland. Innumerable purple orchids dot the bogs. The fragrant sheep-grazed pastures are full of uncounted tiny flowers and the hedgerows of wild roses, honeysuckle and deep red fuschia

The centre of social life is the pub, because alcoholic beverage, particularly the Guinness stout, is not abhorred but revelled in We based ourselves in the Downings bar, whose walls were decorated with portraits of the great Irish literary men like Wilde, Yeats and Joyce, and of sepia photographs of the villages in the days of sail when women salted herrings and packed them tight into wooden barrels

In one corner, sat the older people, who spoke mainly in the Gaelic language By half past nine, the place would fill up with younger locals and tourists, many of them Catholics from Ulster, and every night there was a regular party going on, with young children running all over the place At about 11 the live music started, and we could never stay awake long enough to see closing time

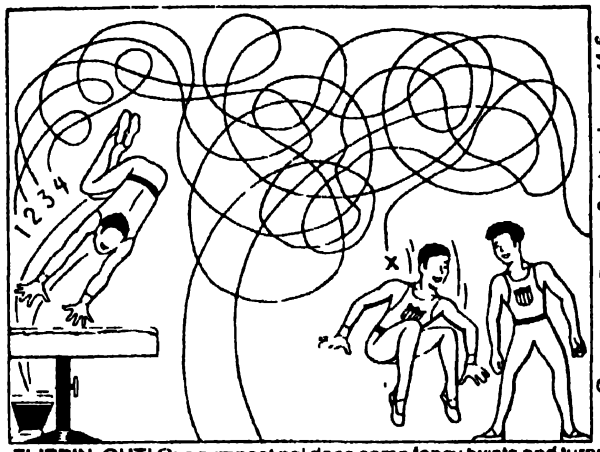
There I met a school teacher from Newry in Northern Island, who told me how if they wanted the children to play soccer, considered an English and therefore hated game, they had to do so in secret Only Gaelic games were allowed in school But he also said how much more relaxed life had been since the peace process started and, although he suspected that both Sinn Fein and the Unionists were looking for the opportunity to appear martyrs, the common man wanted peace

He rose to get in another round Wrapped in the comfortable pub atmosphere in a land where people love to lie abed until late in the morning, the enmities between Irishmen seemed distant But even in idyllic Donegal they were not, as was shown by the posters stuck to wayside trees and reading 'Peace through British Withdrawal'

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

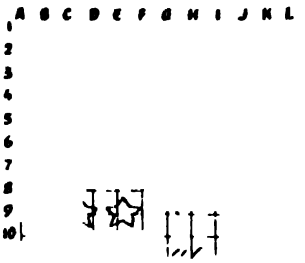
HAL KAUFMAN



FLIPPIN OUT! Our gymnast pal does some fancy twists and turns before landing on his feet Can you trace his route?

HEAR THIS! Empty wagons make the most noise says an adage Here's another in a similar vein Afte rall issa idandd one mor eiss aidthand one Rearrange spacing for sense Time limit 2 min

Aiter all s said and done more is put into it



QUICK DRAW SHOWCASE

HOLD THAT POSE! A certain creature is putting on a show above To catch the act, simply add lines in accord with letter number coordinates

Start at F-11, draw a line from there to F-8, to C-8, to C-11, to F-11

Draw from F-11 to H-10, to F-6, to F-8

Start again, draw from I-11 to I-9, to K-6, to G-3, to G-1

Use a sharp pencil draw straight lines

Be sure to draw lines in accord with letter and number coordinates

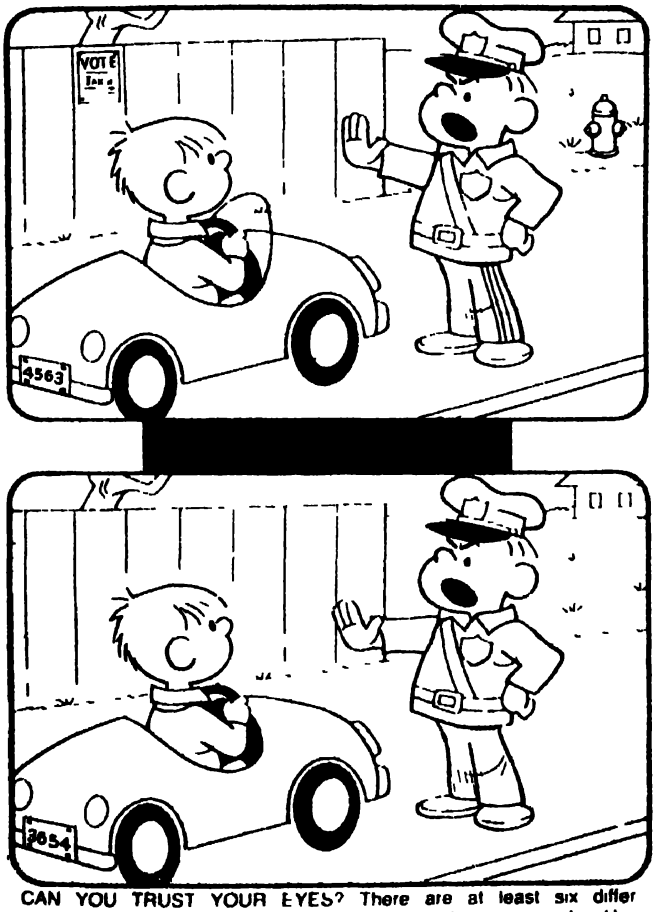
Add colours later, if you wish

Spot Check! Two stacks of cards are placed on the table "Pick a card from this pile, remember its value, and place it in the other pile" says the magician At which point he or she searches through and finds your card

Secret In advance, prepare the piles as follows All odd cards - ace (counted as a "one"), five, jack king, etc are contained in one pile All even cards - queen, ten, eight, etc are contained in the other Thus, any non conforming card is easy to spot



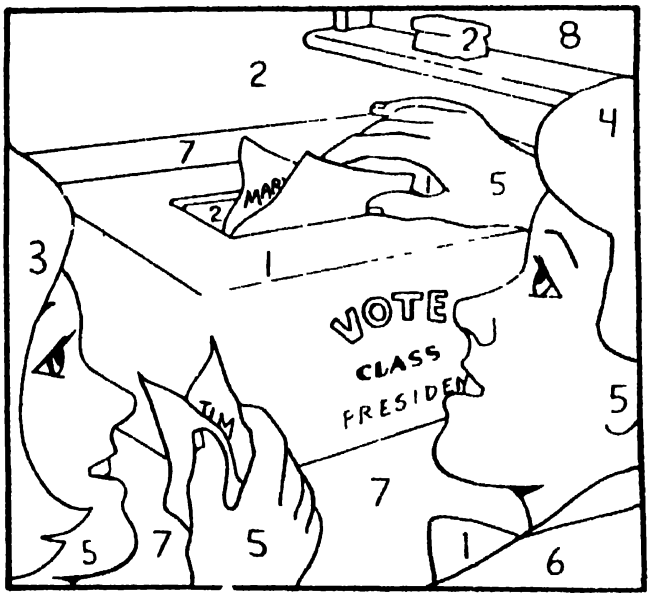
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Poster is missing 2 License is different 3 Windshield is missing 4 Arm is lower 5 Stripes are missing 6 Fireplug is missing

FUNSPOT



CLASS ACT! Who'll win the class election? Answer's in the ballot box Colors 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

BALLOTER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

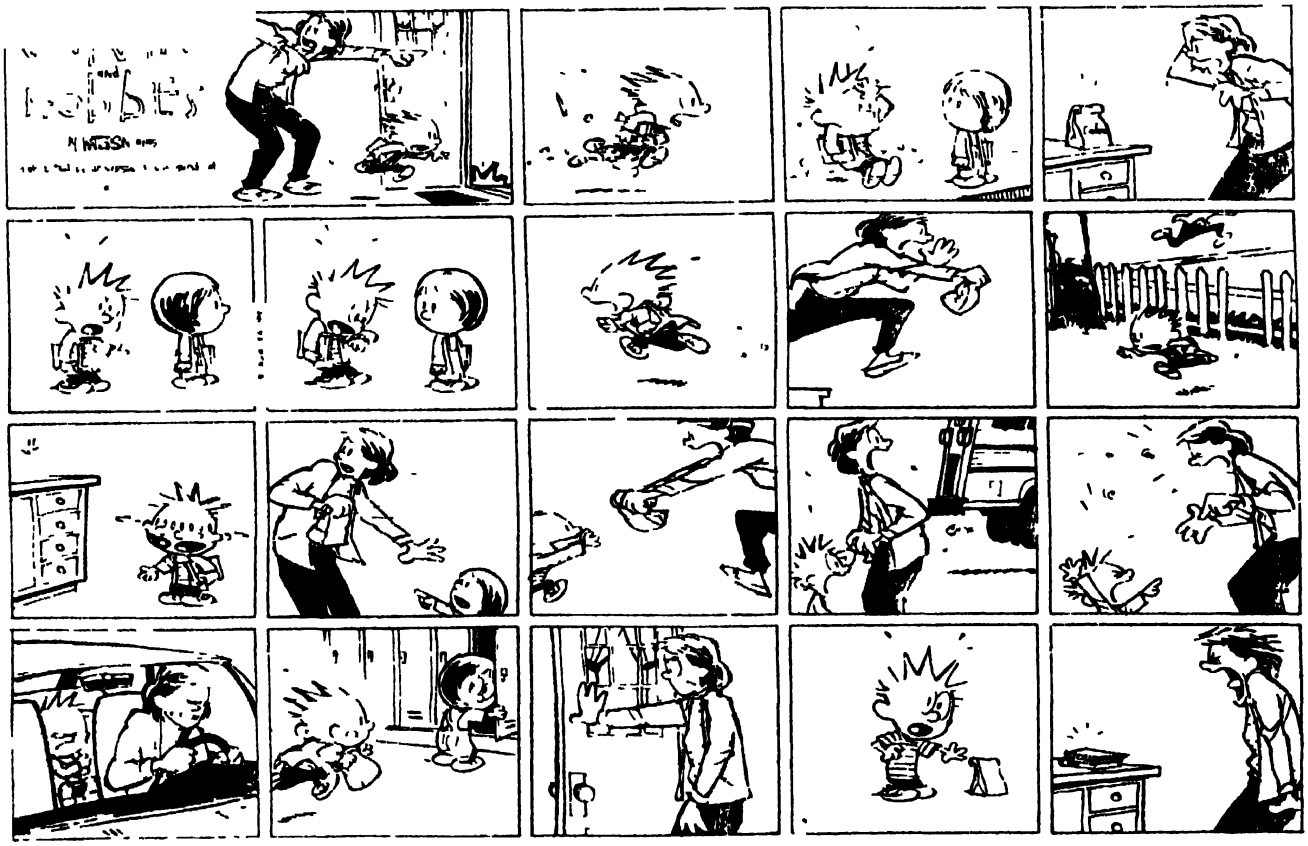
Possible twosome Real bon

COMICS

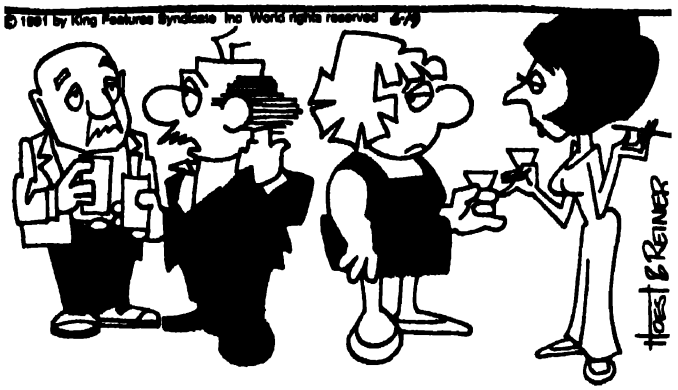
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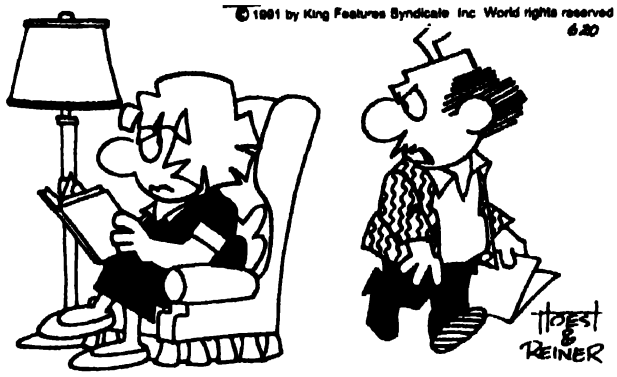
CALVIN AND HOBBES WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS



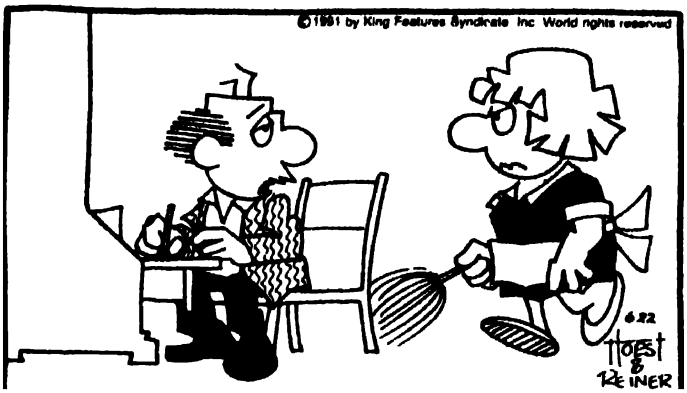
"FOR WHAT THAT DRESS COST ME, I'VE GOT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME."



"YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER···ONLY SHE'S OUT OF TOWN AND YOU'RE HERE!"

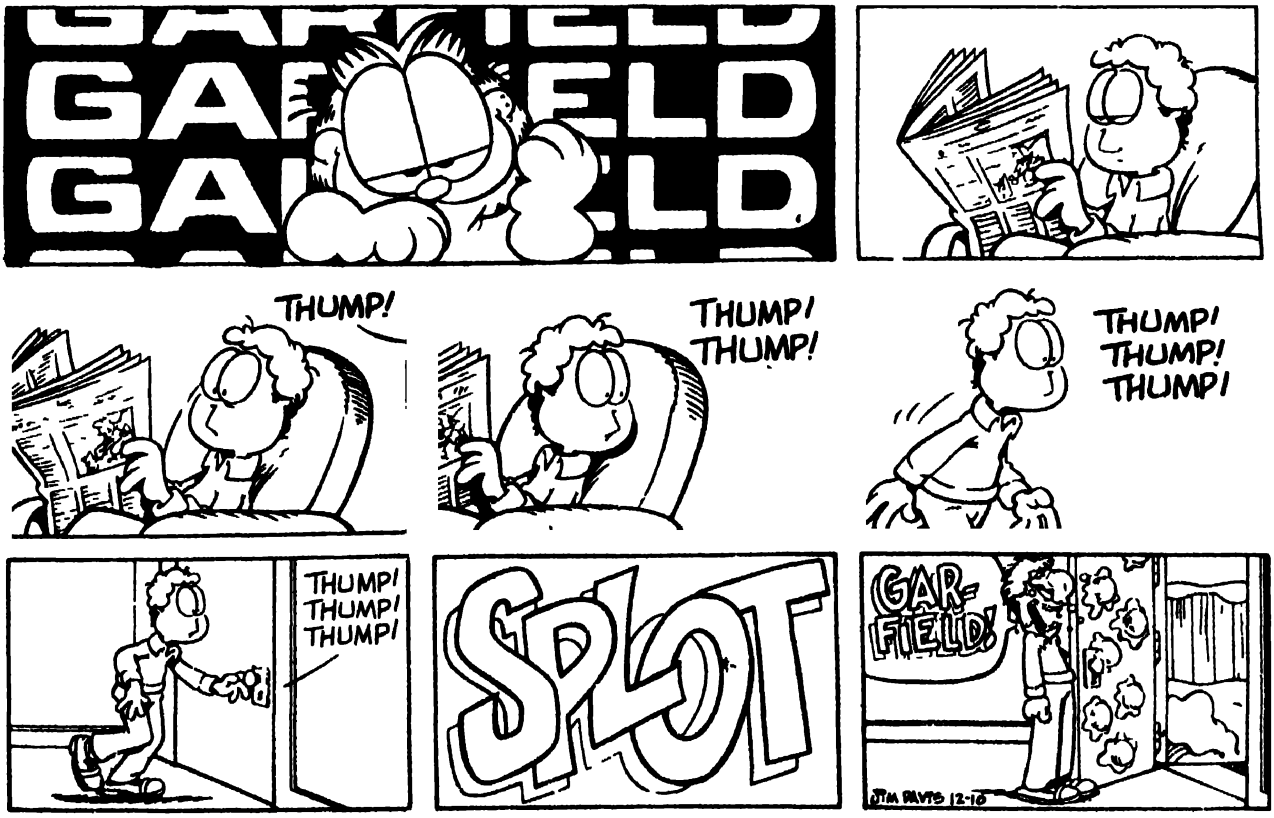


"THANK HEAVEN! I THOUGHT IT WAS MY MOTHER-IN-LAW!"

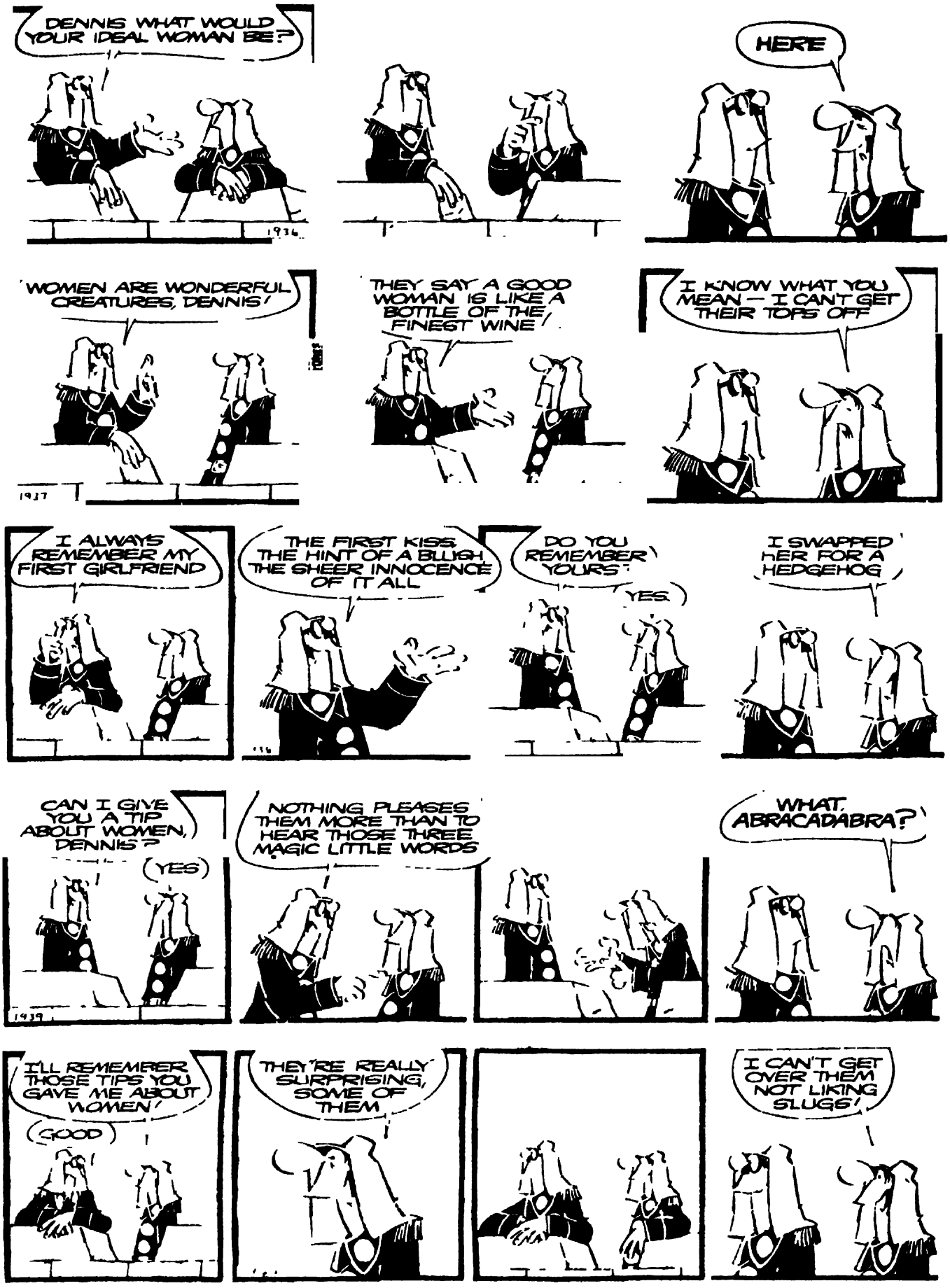


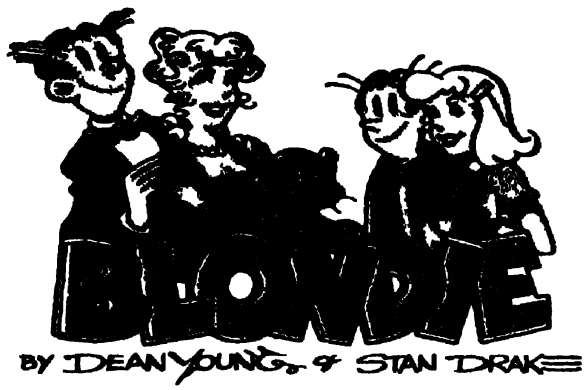
"I'M WRITING YOUR MOTHER··· IS 'BUSYBODY' HYPHENATED?"

GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

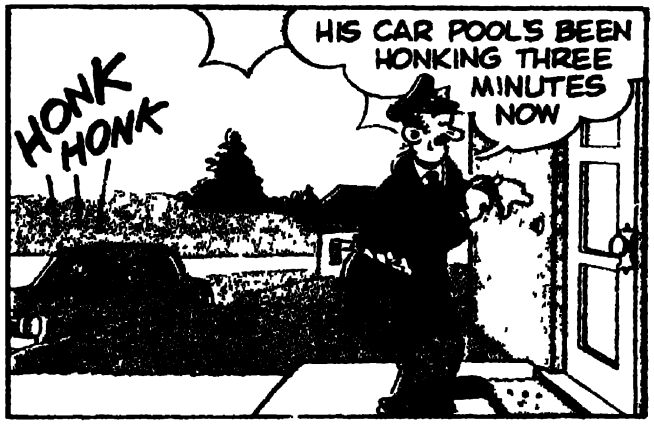


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



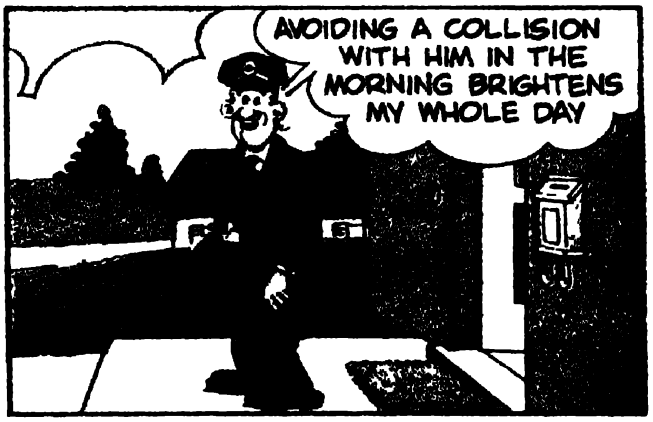


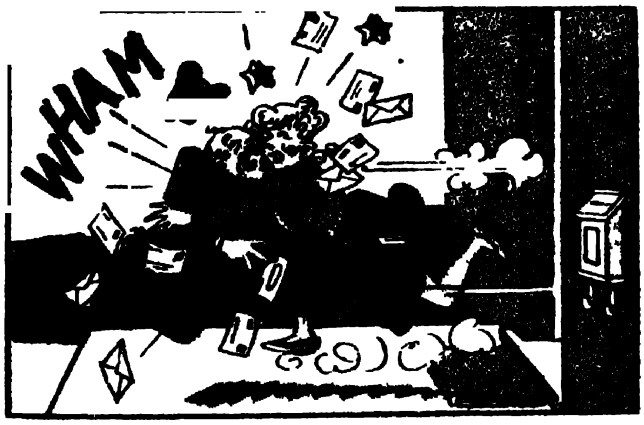




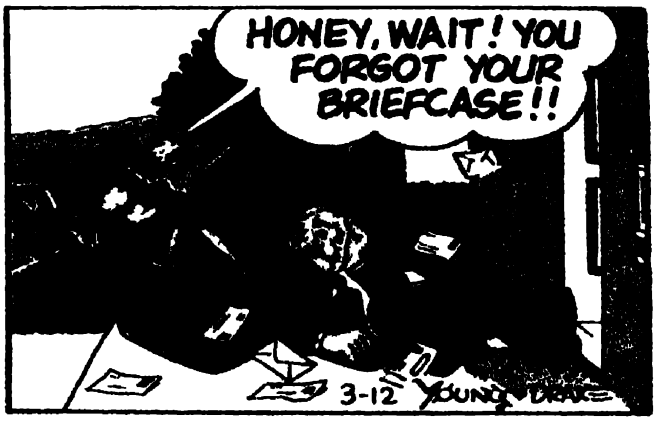








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LIMELIGHT

RUCHI RICH

She's just been soaking up titles and awards lately. ***Samita Bhatia*** *met supermodel Ruchi Malhotra, who did India proud at the Miss Asia Pacific Quest*

Would she opt for conflict or change? "A bit of both," said Ruchitra Malhotra, "for without conflict there can be no growth, just stagnation." That's what clinched her the second runner-up title at the Miss India contest earlier in the year

Then she headed for Manila for the Miss Asia Pacific Quest having bypassed the Miss International contest held in Tokyo This year the destination was Baguio City, 60 kms off Manila for the coveted Miss Asia Pacific title That's where this leggy lady went on to dazzle the judges breaking a record of sorts by bagging three titles and US $15,000 in cash and prizes.

The svelte Delhi model was adjudged Miss Talent when she swirled to a Rajasthani folk song from the Sridevi blockbuster *Lamhe* And as she sashayed down the stage in a long gown crafted by designer Ritu Kumar, she walked off with the Miss Best Gown accolade. Hailing from a services background, the penultimate question posed to her was dealt with a natural poise and led up to her being selected among the five finalists

How does it feel to belong to a family of soldiers, the anchor person quizzed Ruchi. "There are a lot of weapons, but there is a universal weapon throughout the world — love. And that's the feeling that makes the world go round."

But the clincher was a stereotyped question that deserved an equally hackneyed answer. What were her views on marriage? Cliches came pouring forth — "love, trust, faith" and the usual spiel. The other four finalists were asked questions that could have helped them tot up high scores, and I expected to be declared the fourth runner-up "

Yet, much to her surprise, she was home and dry and not very disappointed at having missed the crown by a mere one point.

"I'm not less beautiful or less intelligent by having lost the crown by one point. It's all a matter of luck really, and one mark doesn't make any difference," — or does it?

Ruchi is now the official spokesperson for the Miss Asia Pacific for the next one year and will be invited to Manila for any official 'do' along with Miss Korea who had bagged the title

Ruchi adds as an aside, "Miss Korea had three interpreters each of whom were more conscious than Miss Korea herself The



judges couldn't take away her marks just because she couldn't speak the language. A majority of the judges came up to me and actually apologised, for they were certain that I was going to win."

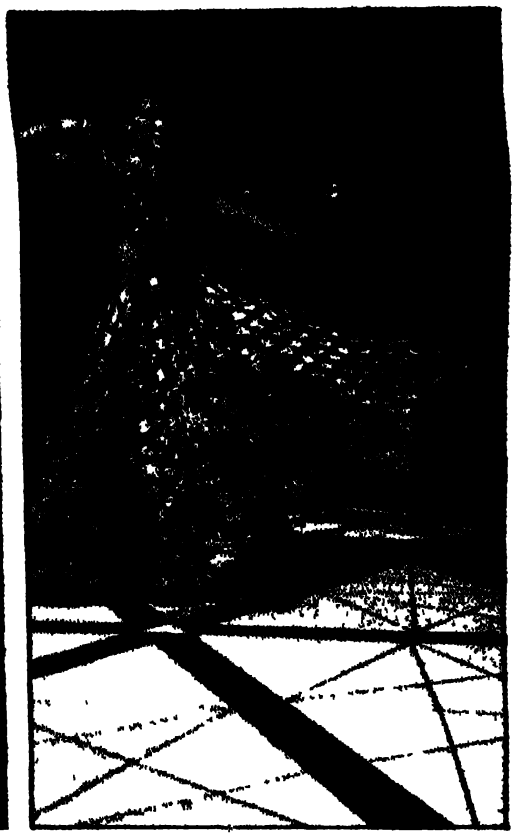
Ruchi returned home to an ecstatic welcome. The Malhotra bungalow was adorned with marigold buds and her proud parents, Satish and Ritu Malhotra. They are convinced that after the Miss India contest she would do very well at the pageant."

Her parents weren't the only ones who were convinced even before Manila that Ruchi would emerge with flying colours Designer Ritu Kumar who put her wardrobe together was surprised that she didn't win the crown And designing for Ruchi was no different from designing for Miss Universe or Miss World contestants

"In designing a wardrobe, just one philosophy operates — draw from your own cultural strengths and don't ape the West Five departments worked together actively to put together the wardrobe," Ritu states, "most of which was more updated than creations currently selling in the West." No wonder that Ruchi's casuals, the national costume and evening gown got rave reviews from an international audience.

Her parents on the other hand have more reason to preen. They are proud of the fact that their Liril Girl is to be 'aired' on a 104-episode serial for Zee TV from December 2. In the multi-starrer, *Tanaav*, Ruchi plays a young, gregarious model-aspiring-to-be-an-actress who pulls the family together in time when things begin to fall apart And if this Deepti Naval, Parikshat Sahni starrer fares well, Ruchi may just land herself a role in films "If the offer is good no reason why I shouldn't take it on," she confirms





Sumiko Mangal Narain

While there is jubilation in the Malhotra household today, the parents hadn't exactly been over the moon a couple of years ago when their daughter had decided to take up modelling as a career A "pucca" Delhiite, Ruchi passed out from Holy Child Convent School and followed it up with a BA Pass course through correspondence It was in the second year of her graduation that she decided to take to the catwalk As it normally happens, the pretty 20-year-old got into the profession "quite by chance" with her model friends egging her on in the direction. Boyfriend Rajiv Makhani included

"Believe it or not, I had opted for the science stream in school, so when I decided to take up modelling my parents were dead against it Since I was only in the 12th standard, my parents' objection amounted to a near ultimatum It was almost like saying either you stay in this house or go out and fend for yourself. But there was no way I wasn't going to model."

Ruchi bided her time and after her board exams she had her portfolio made — again, much against the wishes of her mother

To keep peace at home, Ruchi decided to settle on something more concrete and did a course in interior designing Her hopes for studying architecture were "dashed" when she didn't make it to any school for architecture But I guess I was destined to model and do well at it as well "

Parents come around — as they did even for former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen — specially when they saw the hard work that went behind each shoot and each ramp show So did Ruchi's who found that modelling had become a very professional field

Having got the green signal Ruchi moved from campaign to campaign Dubai, Kuwait, Hong Kong, Mauritius, Nepal and Kuala Lumpur beckoned. Today the Liril Girl has prestigious campaigns like Lux International, Walls Icecream, Thumbs Up, Kelvinator refrigerator, Aristocrat Whisky, Woodland Shoes and Lakme to her credit

With Indian girls on the international ramps, the spotlight at pageants is increasingly being turned on Indian participants Ruchi is convinced that this is essentially because the girls themselves have become aware of their own potential. Adds Ritu, "To make it work, the girls have also to have a conviction in their Indian identity "

What of the future? While issues related to the environment and children are very significant, Ruchi has her sights set elsewhere. "As we are living in a world built by the older generation, it's a gross injustice to discard them when they become aged I want to create homes and clubs for them where they can come and relax I'm going to be charting out plans with Sandhya Homes for concretising these ideas "■

POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Debabrata Banerjee

You

It's not that you would
come across my poem,
Whenever I might
contribute one

You love special kind of
leaves, flowers
and fragrance

Today if you have
interest in travelogue,
Tomorrow it may be
short stories only.

You live in the
neighbourhood,
But you have your own
rules to follow.

So it's an unending
search for me,

To know whether you
enjoy travel in a given
time,

Or love to look at the
fishes in the aquarium,
Cosy and comfortable
in your room.

It's pretty easy for you
to move from one
mystery
To another depth

While I keep on
guessing which flower
is your favourite now
Or whether a pair of
ear-rings would suit
you best next week

You would have moved
to another city, by then

Saibal Chakravarty

A Pattern, A Poem

A sky is born
In my mind
an enchanted forest
grows,
I am now
an ecstatic pattern of
being.

My sky is an endless
poem
of beating wings and
the songs of birds
my forest blossoms,
leaves swirl,
the rain finds its feet,
its hushed feet

In the southern skies
a cascade of lights
breathe

Soft words
grow into stories.

I grew up
in a field of light
the blue ocean was my
companion

that living blue today
shines in your eyes
A new poem
is at work here

The promise of a shy
rainbow,
a breathless silence,
and over the dark trees
the coming of an opal
moon

Dip Sengupta

Evening Reverie

The crane has stretched
its wings,
Holding the sun in its
back
It shall glide through
the tepid evening air

There, high up in the
dumb sky
The clouds have put on
a saffron attire

And here the trees
stand still

They have doffed their
green hats
And worn a scarf of
pale orange gloss.

The tomb of fresh
blueness
Is sacrificed to the
parting sun.

Its eloquence is lost in
the cold greyness.

How far are you?

The darkness of an inert
world
Creeps into my lonely
heart

And stifles the glowing
light of love

Swagatam Mukhopadhyay

FOCUS

THIS, PLUS THAT!



Film directors under the Plus banner

As the satellite channel war rages on, Plus Channel took a step ahead to become India's largest entertainment conglomerate. Plus has more to offer besides TV entertainment — Plus Films, Plus Music and Plus Events. Well, that's Amit Khanna Plus.

These new divisions were launched at an exclusive party (invited: 1,500; attended. 4,000) on the lawns of the Juhu Flying Club, Bombay. The party was a gala affair which began with cocktails (even the waiters were tipsy) and dinner, and ended with champagne breakfast to watch the "rise of the new sun of entertainment".



Amit Khanna of Plus Channel

Anybody who was anybody in the film and TV industry was there

"You can say we are now a complete entertainment company," says Amit Khanna, managing director, Plus Channel The Group plans to invest Rs 600 million in a huge studio complex at Andheri. Another studio facility is to be completed at NOIDA by early 1996.

Plus Films division already has 12 feature films in various stages of production. They are being directed by wellknown directors like Mrinal Sen, Shyam Benegal, N. Chandra, Balu Mahendra, Sudhir Mishra, Basu Chatterjee, Mahesh Bhatt and Sai Paranjpe, Mrinal Sen, Goutam Ghosh, Mahesh Bhatt, Lekh Tandon and K. Vishwanath.

Plus Music plans to offer popular musical hits of the day as well as audio books like *Tarkash*, an anthology of poems written and recited by Javed Akhtar and *The Messenger* by R.K. Narayan, recited by Rahul Bose

Plus Events plans to organise musical extravaganzas, corporate events, stage-sports shows and live-concerts by both Indian and international performers

People say there's more to ABCL and Plus than the names Amitabh and Amit ■

BREAKING BARRIERS

It's fun to surf through Net and get wired to cybermusic or digital symphonies But it's more fun to return to good ol' college, mingle with the young, bright faces and be part of a truly musical experience

St Xavier's College is all set to provide a rare fusion of Eastern and Western music today. In celebration of the golden jubilee year of the B Com. department, the Alumni Association presents the event at the college ground

Called *Beyond Barriers*, the programme presents maestros like Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia in duet with Louis Banks on piano and keyboards. There will be Shivamani on drums and percussions and Ustad Sabir Khan on the tabla along with bass guitarist Karl Peters

Beyond Barriers, claiming to be the musical coup of the year, will donate the proceeds from the concert to various charitable and philanthropic causes. The organisers also plan to take up a project to beautify Park Street

FIRST PERSON

RUCHI MALHOTRA, *the Liril girl with the winsome smile, had her face splashed on the front pages recently as the first runner-up at the Miss Asia Pacific contest held on an island off Manila. Stilettoed, she towers close to six feet and encased in Ritu Kumar creations she made waves in Baguio City as the first contestant ever to walk away with three awards — Miss Talent, Miss Best Gown and the runner-up title. A qualified interior designer, when Ruchi walks off the ramp for good it will be work for the aged of the country for which the ball has already been set rolling.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

A blissful feeling that is inside you And you can't experience it until you do something nice for others

What is your greatest fear?

Losing my self-respect and the love of my near and dear ones

Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?

I believe that there's a man behind every woman's success My strongest influences have been my father and late grandfather

What do you dislike most in others?

Punctuality and professionalism are important to me and thus I dislike unprofessionalism and those who don't respect other people's time

What do you dislike most in yourself?

I'm very selfish, very impatient and very impulsive These, I believe, are the true traits of an Aries woman Otherwise, I'm pretty okay

What is your most precious possession?

My confidence and my faith in God, my parents and friends

What objects do you always carry?

My confidence which is my lucky charm and my Sai Baba in my wallet

What makes you most depressed?

Seeing people sitting idle without doing anything concrete You live only once and if God's given you a brain, use it, or you may have missed a chance Next time round, you might be born a dog

What do you dislike most on your appearance?

Nothing I love myself

What is your favourite word?

Love

What is your favourite journey?

Anything that can be accomplished in a minute I hate travelling My ears pop during a flight, I hate train loos, and car rides give me a backache

What is your favourite dream?

I have lots of dreams But the favourite is getting married and having as many babies as I possibly can have

What is your nightmare?

I am petrified of lizards The worst nightmare I had was being surrounded by lizards of all sizes Also, my greatest fear is also my nightmare

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

Someone very special A very dear friend of mine whom I'm not going to name anymore

What is your source of sustenance?

My hard work and being a woman

On what occasions do you lie?

I only tell white lies — that, too, when it's imperative I'm honest to myself and also to others

What is your greatest regret?

I never regret anything

What has been your happiest moment?

It's yet to come It has to be something more permanent unlike this ephemeral title that'll last just for a year

What brings tears to your eyes?

My friends tell me I'm very strong as I rarely cry However, I can't answer this one It's going to be very upsetting

How do you relax?

By working out

What do you envy most in others?

Those who never ever give up hope in life.

How would you like to be remembered?

Just as a normal human being who tried to a make a difference

How would you like to die?

Do you mind! I'm only 22 years old! Peacefully, in my sleep, I guess.

What do you dislike most in others?

Punctuality and professionalism are important to me and thus I dislike unprofessionalism and those who don't time



Sunday Mirror Magazine



But he ends up saying "Sorry, you've got to wait" Everytime No wonder, more and more people are coming to us Because we react faster and deliver quicker

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The pleasant way to keep mosquitoes away

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The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

Splash: Different Kinds

■ 'The Greening of Tourism' (September 22) showed the Magazine was concerned about serious issues also (used as we are to seeing only pictures of luscious models and stars splashed across the pages)

Like any industry, tourism also has its positive and negative sides the fat foreign exchange and the socio-cultural environmental degradation Both have to be accepted

As far as the negative aspect is concerned it would need a little careful planning on the part of the government and hoteliers and keeping an alert eye on the environment

Sunil Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ On the eve of Diwali we were looking forward to some fireworks, but the cover story was a big disappointment that could not match the festive mood

What happened to the Magazine's splash of fashion models and celebrities?

Laltu Ghosh Chowdhury,
Calcutta

■ When thinking of promoting tourism in India, it would be wrong to keep only foreign visitors in mind Agreed, they bring in mega-bucks but domestic tourism cannot be neglected

How many of the diehard Indian traveller can afford five-star accommodation? It is this class which needs to be taken care of by providing good hotels in different locales

Kingshuk Bose,
Jamshedpur

■ We are more concerned about foreigners coming to India when actually the emphasis should be on local tourism

West Bengal, for instance, despite having excellent toursim potential — sea beaches, hills and forests — badly neglects this sector



First of all, the roads are not maintained well, the luxury coaches of the department are so poorly maintained that one thinks twice before boarding a bus. Information is not readily available and there is no concerted effort to 'sell' holiday packages

Rabi Haldar,
Calcutta

Real Value

■ It is good the Magazine cares to focus on 'celebrities' like Banamali Banerjee, too ('Still Green', November 12)

That there are people like Banerjee who still carry on the old world values like dedication, devotion and service to a cause was heartening

Debanjan Banerjee,
Calcutta

Doll Hype?

■ The Barbie doll is not that big a craze in Indian middleclass homes as it is abroad ('Doll of a Doll', November 12)

Indian toy manufacturers should launch a series on a shy and demure doll which could take on the Barbie brigade

Rakesh Verma,
Calcutta

■ What is it that makes Barbie sell more — the doll itself or the media hype?

Arta Mishra,
Cuttack

INSIDE



Jagdish Yadav

PAGE 4

THE STORY of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, the sarod maestro who turned 50 recently, is that of a man on a pilgrimage in quest of a larger awareness

PAGE 26

CAN THE baby's future be decided from the womb?

Amjad Ali Khan

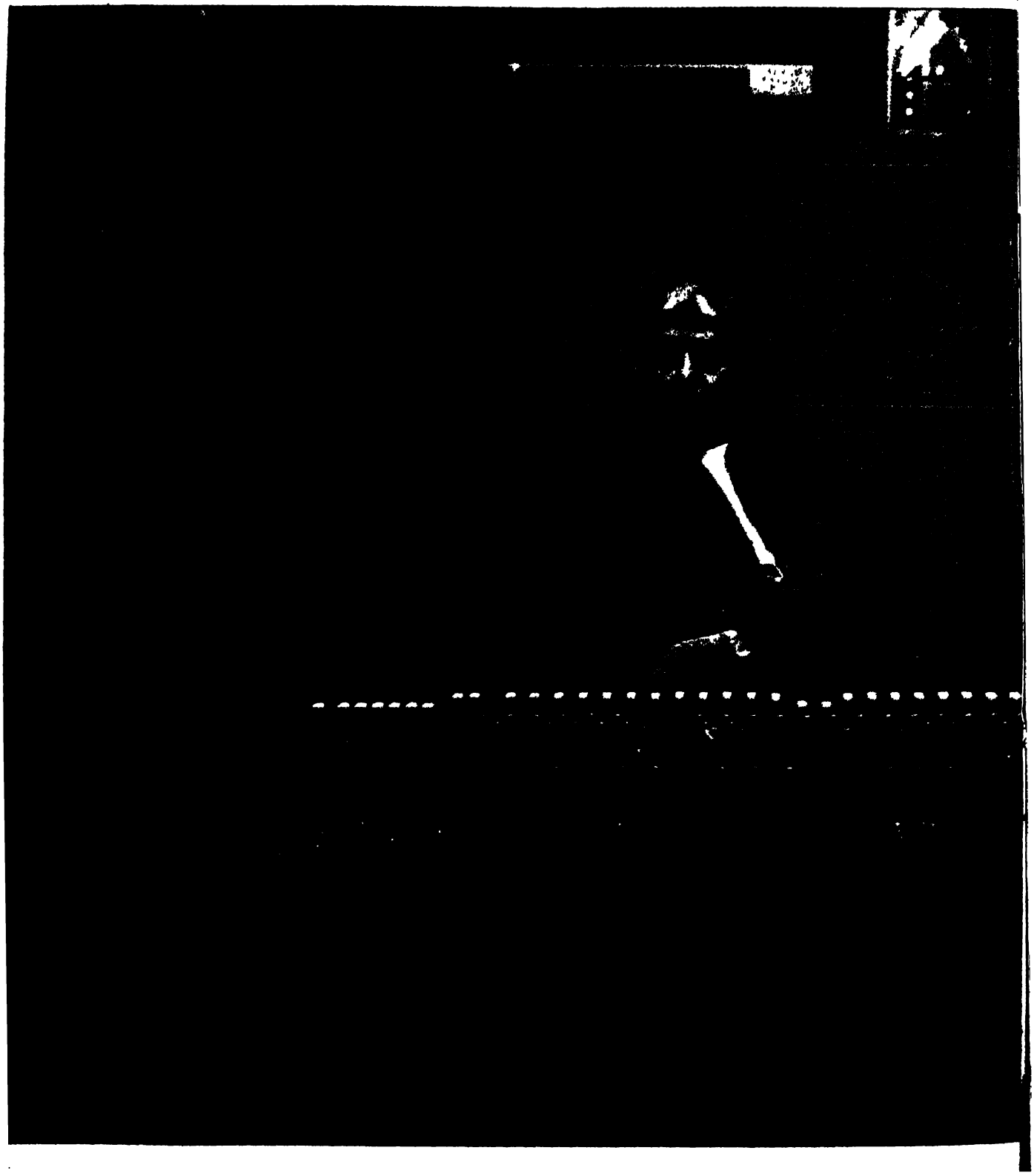
SECTIONS

16 TIME TABLE
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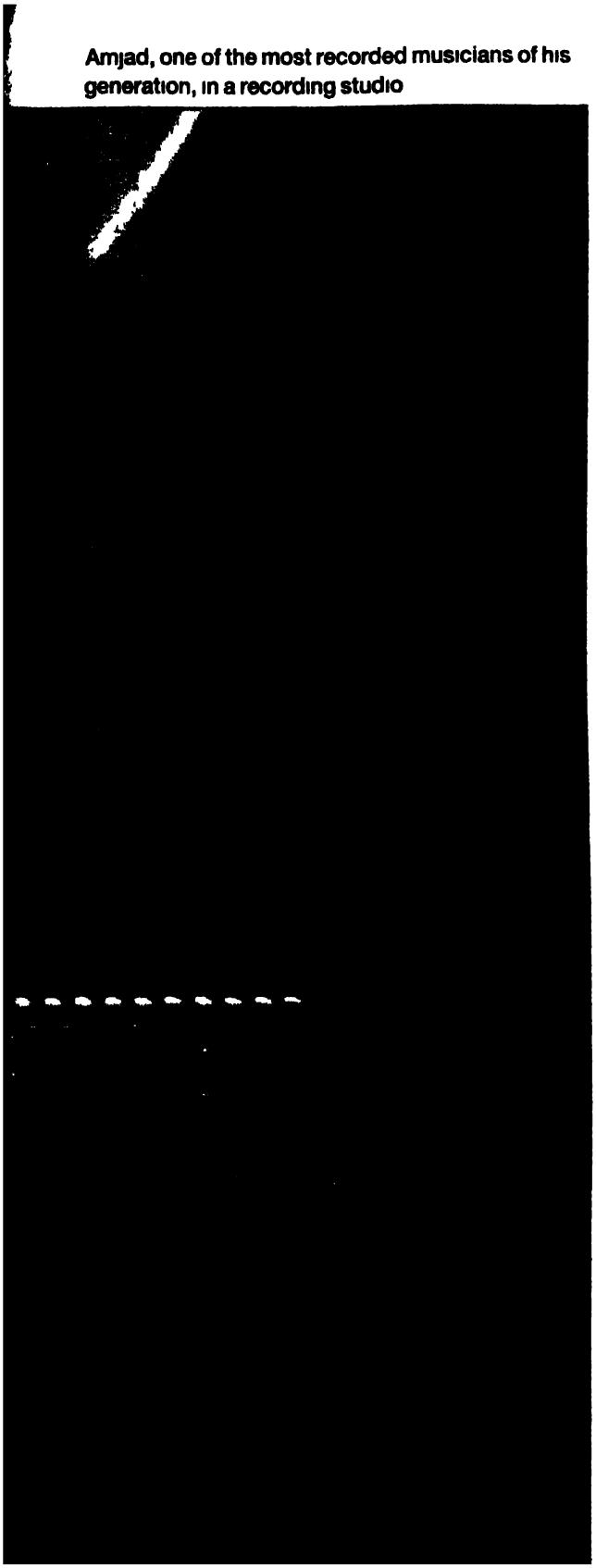
Cover Jagdish Yadav
artwork by Krishnendu Chaki

COVER STORY

PLAY ON...



Amjad Ali Khan, the Sarod Samrat who turned 50 a couple of months ago, is still in search of a larger awareness It is as a seeker that he lives ***Raghava R. Menon*** *narrates his story*



Amjad, one of the most recorded musicians of his generation, in a recording studio

HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL MUSICIANS USED TO DISDAin the music recording business They believed that any recorded piece of music, whether brief or long, was a priori false This was among the primary reasons why several great musicians of the early part of this century were never recorded on disc or tape There is something in the nature of raga which makes it true only at the time of singing or playing. "Sung and recorded and played again, it is no longer music," thought Thakur Jaidev Singh, "but a deposition It was good only for a court of

Divine inspiration





Lost in an infinite world of ragas

law where the raga's technical features, its obedience to its rules and prescriptions can be evaluated and judgment passed As music it was dead "

The raga's life gushes out at the moment of making, a minute later it is all reminiscence and recall Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan, who resisted recording his music all his life, had one additional objection Besides the curious immediacy of the art which recording destroys, he believed that ragas were part of the spiritual life of man and possessed a life which can be dishonoured only at one's peril Recording the raga disinvested the raga of its spiritual potency It became merely a good facsimile

In this context, there is an implicit paradox in the fact that Amjad is among the most recorded musicians of his generation, both within India and outside Accounts of his life and art on film and video abound Beginning with the James Beveridge film, documentaries on Amjad have appeared with a certain frequency every few years The Films Division documentary, directed by Gulzar, is among the many sensitive portraits of Amjad and his time There is another called *Divya Drishti* or Divine Insight, and another account was shown as part of the serial on Indian music called *Sadhana* In addition there is a Japanese JVC Production

Despite the fact that Amjad's musical tradition is among the oldest in his instrument, Amjad's musical culture does not betray the slightest trace of that defensiveness, either in its evaluation of itself or in respect of art itself, that Indian musicians often manifest He rarely, if ever, argues that classical music is divine or spiritual, or that he himself has any access to this spirituality Spirituality, he has known from his father, is someth-





With Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle and vocalist Balamurali Krishna

ing lived, and the best proof of any belief in your life is the life you live The listeners know what Amjad's art is all about He does not have to say much Among the younger musicians Amjad has contributed the largest number of new ragas to Hindustani classical music These new ragas form a whole corpus of musical material whose implications to the infinite world of ragas can only be determined in future years A very large number of the 20 or so new ragas of Amjad's fashioning have been discovered through personal emotion, of one kind or another, and not made as though in cold blood from the stuff of scales They have a certain emotional immediacy in them rather than a statement of *vadi* and *samvadi*, or the strict grammar of the up and down passage of *swaras* in a pre-stated order Looking for a *pakad* at this early stage of the life of the raga is like trying to find out if a child has a liver, as it lies kicking and laughing in its crib The peculiar aura of those ragas not having been constructed exclusively out of scales, but from feeling, often affronts the musical grammarian, who, before he hears the whole raga, anguishes over the seeming absence of the precious rules of raga-making It is often forgotten that all the ragas of our tradition which seem as natural and proper today as sky or air, have been born from feeling The laws of ragas are organic and their true test is an awareness of this larger truth, which is the proof of the law it obeys There is little use of a *vadi* and *samvadi*, and *aroha* and an *avaroha*

With Ustad Bismillah Khan





After a life-long app ɔnticeship



With Pandit Ravi Shankar



With painter M.F. Husain



The family with Gulzar

and an indubitable *pakad*, if the result of all this construction gives you a raga which you would hardly care to hear again

You feel sure that Amjad's new ragas have not been concocted from scales but from the power of immediate feeling For example, listen to raga Priyadarshini and you will wonder at its despair, more than at the grief of the event of Indira Gandhi's passing from which the raga was born As you hear it, you recognise that the event demanded something more That is why the raga expressed a despair in the fate of the nation, rather than the loss of a great and immortal woman There is Kamal Shree for another and a more recent assassination, that of Rajiv Gandhi There are other subjects too Raga Subhalakshmi, which was named after Amjad's wife, was born in celebration of the power and the strength of sacrifice of Indian womanhood There is the raga Sabari Malai born from Amjad's pilgrimage to the temple of Sabari Malai high up in the Western Ghats in Kerala There are several others of varying feeling and sensibility There are Shyam Shree, Haripriya Kanada and Ganesh Kalyan All these have the authority of genuine response to one or the other of life's compelling predicaments This perhaps is the only assurance that they would outlast him and his time

It is in the making of a *shishya* that a master is tested As a *shishya* himself Amjad had lived a life that had the right direction, and his inclination towards his father and guru brought to life a formidable commitment which increasingly sculpted the landscape of his mind and his art with the gravity and grace that distinguishes his art today

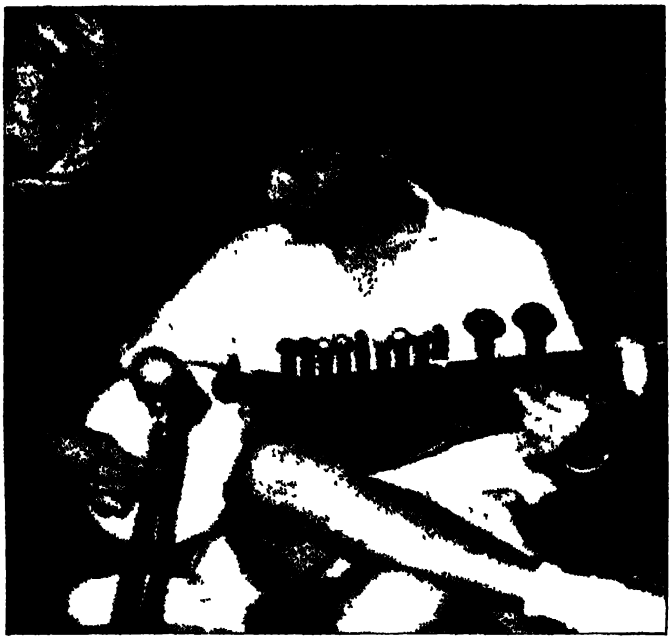
Obviously, only one who himself has lived the life of a true *shishya* can know what the physical and psychological characteristics of a student who has the makings of becoming a *shishya* are and only such a person is qualified to decipher the tell-tale signs of and clues that foreshadow the possiblity of a true finding in the art

Amjad continues to be, psychologically, the *shishya* of his absent father by carrying with him in his life the resonance of his father's musical essence and genius This circumstance surfaces in many small and delicate ways Like his father, he is just a croon away from song The same bard-like intonation sings in his sarod There are also the many new ragas which



Amjad discovers with a curious apperception of the fleeting quality of life's most tragic moments He is able to introduce the ragas that relate to monumental tragedies — the passing of Indira Gandhi and of Rajiv Gandhi consumed by holocausts of fire and brimstone — with a linear narrative drive and the undertow of despair and hope that these historical events contained

The Bapu Kauns which Amjad had recently dedicated to the Father of the Nation on the memorial of Gandhiji's 125th birth anniversary is a case in point This raga was played in the conventional manner through an *alaap, jor* and *jhala* followed with a *tintal gat* The opening sequences of the *alaap* was played in a phoenix-farm style, with tentative groping movements that gathered musical values as the *alaap* grew, gaining a distinctive configuration that ripened into the magical geometries that seemed to have returned to the Indian subcontinent, with shape and a direction that were no longer searching but were introduced through short, terse phrases



The young Amjad performing in school



Amjad with Hemant Sen, the oldest living maker of sarods, in Calcutta

By the time the *jor* began, the style had developed sharp contours and you thought of *chaun-chaona* and the sudden retraction of the national movement which was part of the Himalyan blunder of the time The playing started to grow outwards, through its rippling boundaries that expanded like the tide at noon, going out and returning in continuous repetitions, before the stepping in and out of three notes in the middle register with the sudden mid-phrase pause of imprisonment

The *jhala* seemed like the planned chaos of the Partition riots, and the long *meends* opened promising vistas of freedom The fading out on a long *gandhar* seemed like a prolonged *Hey Ram* This was the way the great Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan saw ragas not as little bits of science, or, indeed, of art but as organic, living beings passing relentlessly through time

This is the consequence of a temperament and can be bequeathed either through skill or as a part of nature In his students, Amjad has lit tapers that are difficult to put out, and in his sons, there is the additional dimension of a blood line, an environment that is like the silence between two chords

Amjad's formation of the annual Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan Award honours every year a musical stalwart whether of the North or the South

This is a public avowal of a matured *shishya* in Amjad, an Ustad after a life-long apprenticeship, and a continuing affirmation of his psychological and spiritual sources which is the only real anchor a man can ever truly possess

Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan introduces his son, Amjad, to Jawaharlal Nehru



Extracted from** The World of Amjad Ali Khan* **by Raghava R. Menon; UBSPD; Rs 595

INNEREYE

BEJAN DARUWALLA

Aries
March 21 - April 20



Two trends, says Ganesha, operate simultaneously The first includes buying, selling, wining, dining, entertaining and get-togethers The other focusses on job and it is this trend which will be in sharp focus in the next 20 days Children and studies also play a major part in your life A week with pace

Taurus
April 21 —May 20



The moon's last quarter enables you to take the initiative, be it business or pleasure You will have to cut corners in your desire to expedite matters House and property may get a facelift You may even go for buying, selling, leasing or renting it Conception of child is possible

Gemini
May 21 — June 20



It could well be journey time or moving time or both You are in a period of transition That much is certain One step at a time should do the trick Do expect visitors, strangers, even foreigners to liven up things for you December 20-21 offers fair scope of making money Enjoy yourself

Cancer
June 21 — July 20



You could be making money, but for that, you may have to fan out to people and places, reach for their heart strings and thrum on it Actors, artists, astrologers, poets, filmwallahs, psychics, doctors and musicians find the week particularly lucrative and challenging

Leo
July 21 — August 21



It is a tremendous heave-ho once again but the results will be wonderful, and therefore, you don't have a reason to complain By sheer guts and personality projection, you will win the game Get set to expand your business, or make changes conducive to it Those dealing in the written word do well

Virgo
August 22 — September 22



From December 22, the sun enters a different sign according to Western astrology, giving you an extra edge over others in terms of trading and artistic genius thanks to imaginative sympathy and a terrific boost in confidence Journey, ceremony and good news complete the picture

Libra
September 23 — October 22



Mars once again heralds victory for you However, expenses will multiply Many Librans will be changing gears mentally and physically, becoming more active and thus raring to go You will be able to assess your own performance very objectively, and that, to say the least, is rare and praiseworthy

Scorpio
October 23 — November 22



The strange quality of the week is tremendous work ethics, mixed with a great ability to relax and recharge almost at will It is this which produces the aces for champions and enables them to be victors From January the full impact of it will be felt by others Enlist in clubs and organisations

Sagittarius
November 23 — December 20



While you will have to slog it out, rest assured gains will be registered A love affair and a shake-up are foretold Travel stars of the last week invite you once again Your moves will be inspirational The health of parents and in-laws might cause you serious worry So beware

Capricorn
December 21 — January 19



The moon's last quarter favours unions, partnerships, journeys, including pilgrimages and long distance connections and collaborations The loans and funds trend of the last two weeks also persists now Therefore, there is positive hope for you You do interface with people

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18



Ganesha says, love has you by the throat, money starts to trickle in and it could pour too, your friends work for you and your loved ones prove true A proposal and an offer for marriage comes to the eligible Over the next 23 days, loans and funds will be more easily available. Health caution essential

Pisces
February 19 — March 20



Attachments and emotional links vie for top priority, with hard work and headway causing a certain tension, but for that very reason, making the week mighty exciting There is also a danger of separation or a parting, so play your cards adroitly Pets and colleagues play an unusual role

BIRTHDAYS

December 17: Moon-sun sextile, Ganesha says, offers avenues of work and play, communication and contacts. Those in media outshine others.

December 18: Jupiter sun-conjunction gives you dramatic flair, a fondness for living it up, and more importantly, the means to do so. It is this factor which makes you charismatic.

December 19: Moon sextile Mercury gives you the innate ability to draw crowds, so please do away with shyness and inhibition.

December 20: Moon-Neptune conjunction suggests victory after opposition. It would be best to chip away at obstacles rather than meet them head-on.

December 21: Moon-conjunction Jupiter is a sure-fire indication of success. Matters about children, education, journey and work, specially in governmental circles love and engagement are favoured.

December 22: The new moon indicates that expert advice must be taken in during long term decisions. I don't want you to agonise over it. Expenses are heavy.

December 23: The Mercury-Mars conjunction gives you a chance to start afresh and this time you will do [illegible]. The trick and ticket is to build a strong base.

BIG DEAL

Hollywood wonder, Steven Spielberg, record mogul, David Geffen, and former Disney film impresario, Jeffrey Katzenberg, announced the creation of DreamWorks recently ***Mark Tran*** *reports on Hollywood's new flame which has never burned brighter*

DreamWorks has all the exuberance and idealism of a new venture Visitors descend in droves to the recently unveiled Hollywood studio, the phones ring incessantly and what was once the games room is now the scene of intense business lunches Although everyone wears short sleeves and jeans, the atmosphere is far from laidback at the adobe-style offices of Steven Spielberg that serve as its temporary headquarters

Just over a year ago, Spielberg, Hollywood's most successful director, record mogul David Geffen and former Disney film impresario Jeffrey Katzenberg, announced the creation of DreamWorks at a press event that generated more excitement than any Oscar ceremony Not since the formation of United Artists in 1919 has Hollywood seen such a high-powered cast go into business for itself

Expectations are high, although quite a few people are waiting for the mighty threesome to fall flat on their faces Actor Tom Hanks summed up the sentiment on Wall Street and Hollywood when he said "I guarantee that, when their first film premieres, everyone will say, 'This is it? This is what these three geniuses have come up with?' Unless it immediately enters the pantheon as one of the three highest grossing films of all time, everybody will ask, what's the big deal?"

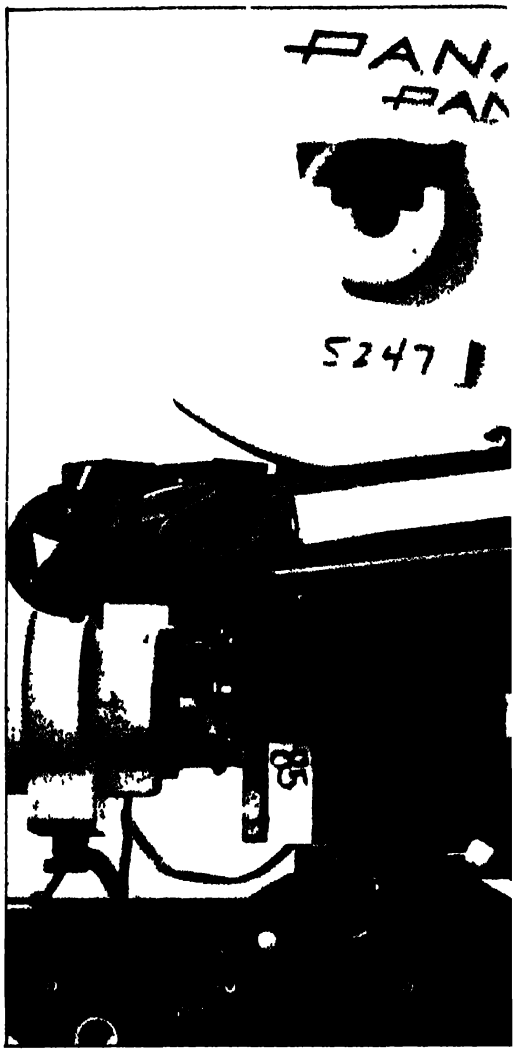
Still, the three friends chose a propitious moment to form DreamWorks Hollywood's flame has never burned brighter More than ever, America excels in the manufacture of fantasy and its entertainment giants have become an economic sector as important as computers or cars

As Jack Valenti, head of the Motion Picture Association of America, boasted "We have a $4 billion surplus in our balance of trade, and I don't know of many other industries that can make that claim " With American entertainment companies dominating global mass culture, DreamWorks stands to join this elite group and make its founders even more successful and wealthy

Hollywood's reach should become more widespread still as delivery systems proliferate and converge at the same time, with cable, computer, telephone line, satellite and television jostling to deliver its products to all parts of the globe Grand claims have been made for DreamWorks already

One friend and supporter, Bob Zemeckis, director of *Forrest Gump*, believes that, if it succeeds, DreamWorks will transform the way Hollywood does business The company plans to be a leaner alternative to its big competitors at Time Warner-Turner Broadcasting and Disney-Capital Cities/ABC

As a new company, DreamWorks does enjoy the advantage of being small and nimble "When you meet these film people at parties, you think 'terrific', but after a while you realise that a lot of these studio executives are mid-range development people and they are basically bureaucrats from some 19th-century Russian novel, ' said one aspiring screenwriter in Los Angeles "These studios are so large and have such an overblown base, they are not cost-efficient "



Steven Spielberg Will this dream work?





Barbra Streisand and Paul Newman: Manning a studio proved tough



In keeping with the notion that DreamWorks should be a writer-friendly company (although all studios say this) a career writer has been put in charge of the day-to-day running of the DreamWorks film company There are eight executives in the film team, ridiculously few by Hollywood standards None of them holds a formal title

DreamWorks is parting with traditional Hollywood practice in other ways Equity will be split with all employees, including secretaries Writers and animators will get a share of gross movie revenue And, in an ambitious move, DreamWorks plans to distribute its films in the north American market, rather than handing that task and a hefty slice of any profits to one of the major studios Having raised some $2 billion in funding, DreamWorks has now begun making deals and appointing personnel

Getting the money was easy Investors from Samsung, the South Korean conglomerate, to Calpers, the California state employees' pension fund, beat a path to the company's door although, as it happens, neither put money into the venture Among those that did were Paul Allen, co-founder of computer software company Microsoft, who put in $500 million, and Microsoft itself, which invested $50 million The rest came effortlessly the three friends put in $33 3 million each and structured the company so that they get 67 per cent of the firm's profits They hold 100 per cent of the voting stock

DreamWorks intends to be a full fledged entertainment company, involved in live-action features, animated films, television production, music and multimedia Geffen will run the DreamWorks music company Spielberg, who is folding his Amblin Films into DreamWorks, will be in overall charge of the live-action film unit and Katzenberg will be responsible for animation as well as for television The core of the multimedia effort comes from the alliance with Microsoft

In multimedia, DreamWorks has moved quickly, unlike its sister studios, to embrace Silicon Valley Its partnership with Microsoft will focus on developing interactive entertainment, particularly adventure-based games and children's stories The joint venture will exploit any device the next decade produces, from computers to video game machines to new electronic networks to interactive television

The first fruits of the alliance — probably computer games — should be on the market for Christmas 1996 Notwithstanding all the talk of its being a streamlined company, DreamWorks has allowed itself one extravagance Spielberg is overseeing the construction, at a cost of $200 million, of a state-of-the-art studio near Playa del Rey His partners would have preferred to avoid such a big outlay upfront, but Spielberg has his heart set on a fully digital studio where everyone is linked together to a computer network

The team assembling the studio says it will feel comfortable and friendly, designed for the creative community, not the technical community The picture would not be complete without any number of deals a studio has to make DreamWorks has lined up several These include a 10-year arrangement with the Home Box Office cable network, a unit of Time Warner, giving HBO exclusive movie rights to DreamWorks titles The price of each movie will depend on its success at the box office

While the pieces are beginning to fall into place, scepticism abounds Barbra Streisand, Sidney Poitier and Paul Newman created First Artists Production in 1969 It has vanished Director Francis Ford Coppola almost went bankrupt with his American Zoetrope studio in the Eighties Orion Pictures enjoyed initial success until a string of bad movies drove it into bankruptcy Savoy Pictures, the most recent entry is still establishing itself

True, none had the combination of talent of DreamWorks and the three partners have enjoyed enormous success But these days it takes more than successful films to make a studio profitable For Disney, box-office revenue for *The Lion King* will be dwarfed by profits from other sources — music, consumer merchandise and video games Other studio heads are, however, worried Robert Daly, co-chairman of the durable Warner Bros studio, said "They're starting from scratch So this won't be something you'll see tomorrow But they are a major competitor Absolutely"

(The Guardian News Service)

ESSAY

CHANNEL VISION

Chandal Swami is the latest to go in for the electronic medium.
***Ramendra Kumar** checks out on the godman's celestial channels*

Chandal Swami, the *sanyasi* emeritus of Bharat was sitting in his room with his man 'Monday to Sunday' Mamaji. Chandal was a very unhappy man. Thanks to the likes of Rakesh Pellet and Badan Mal Khurana his life had become one long ordeal The CB Eye, the Pain Commission and the Media were all hounding him He could not leave the country, he could not even feign illness and he just could not avoid the paparazzi with their embarrassing questions Even the electricity supply to his tiny 70-room *ashram* had been severed and the Dilli Administration was threatening to demolish it

Earlier, his car used to go unchecked, straight to the front door of the present PM Pee Wee's house But now, Pee Wee avoided him like the Surat plague Last night, when he had telephoned Pee Wee on his hotline he had been told by his secretary that the PM was away while in the background he could clearly hear the PM humming a Telugu rap song Chandal was really hurt Pee Wee and he had known each other since the time when Pee Wee was a mere President of the AP Congress Unit and Chandal was a struggler Since then both had risen, achieving the pinnacle in their respective careers And all along they had always maintained contact with each other When Chandal was roaming the Himalayas in search of Tantrik Nirvana, he would regularly send Pee Wee Picture Postcards

Pee Wee, on his part, in between taking split second decisions, would drop a line or send a verbal pout or two Later, when both had settled down in Dilli they would meet on weekends and discuss the latest in *Mantras, Vibhutis* and *Nakshatras* as well as the Arjuns, Tiwaris and Sonias Chandal had helped Pee Wee in winning many a political battle, fixing many a nefarious deal and handling many a slimy rival And now, the ungrateful Pee Wee was even refusing to acknowledge his existence Chandal felt like picking up the phone and singing *Dost dost na raha* in the PM's turncoat ears

The same was the case with his other political friends Arf Arf Kaan, Chandal Shaker and many others who had sought and received his benediction and benevolence were acting as if he was nothing more than a mere acquaintance they had chanced to meet at the Kumbh Mela or the neighbourhood Som Yajna It was really disgusting

Had he been an admirer of Guru Butt he would have sung *Yeh duniya agar mil bhi jaaye to kya hai* But being a Gromda fan he began fantasising and mumbling to himself,

Pellet mila mujhe raste mein,
Maare char joote maine saste mein,
Pee Wee ki maine taang todi
Mein sach kehta hoon Pamela ki kasam,
Main piya nahin whisky, beer ya Som

After an hour of fantasising, Chandal looked at Mamajee and said, "Mama, I have to do something drastic or these jokers will finish me"

"Gurujee, why don't you ask Barood Ibrahim to smuggle you to Dubai?"

"I had thought of that but you know Mama, in Dubai I will have nothing to do The people of Dubai are not as gullible as Indians I cannot fool them all the time I'll be rendered absolutely jobless and I'll get thoroughly bored I can't leave Bharat I'll have to resurrect myself here itself But the question is how?"

"Why don't you try your usual methods? Take a non-repayable loan from the Sultan of Brunei and bribe the C B Eye and Shri Pain"



"Mama, I think you are getting senile Do you think if I could bribe I wouldn't have tried it But there is no use The public opinion is against me and no one is going to let me off easily My one-point programme should be to change the public opinion Unless I become the darling of the masses, my goose will be cooked rare and tender"

"But how will you achieve that? Act as the hero in Madan Fix-it's latest blockbuster *Nana meri Naani Diwani*?

"No, stupid, nothing as silly as that And now stop your prattle and let me concentrate"

Chandal got up and started pacing the floor, his face a picture of concentration Suddenly he stopped, turned around quickly and walked to where Mama was sitting and staring into space He slapped him on the back an declared, "Mama, I have got divine inspiration I know exactly how to become the most adorable person in Bharat"

"How?" Mama asked sullenly, rubbing his back

"I am going to start my own satellite channel As you know TV today is the ultimate persuader It has the maximum reach and the greatest impact It is even more potent and powerful than Tantra Vidya With my own channel– Chamatkari Chandal Television or CCTV I can create real magic"

"But that needs a lot of money Where will you get the funds from? Most of your funds have been exhausted in hiring *sadhus* and arranging false medical certificates?"

"Shh! Stupid If CB Eye hears this they will issue a non-bailable warrant I'll get the money from my dear friend Sultan of Brunei"

"And what will you show on CCTV?

"I'll start with three channels The first will be a music channel called *Chandal Oye* It will telecast music videos round the clock"

"But that is being done by many other channels?"

"There will be one essential difference All the songs telecast on this channel—rap, bhangra, rock pop, geet, ghazal, bhajan, etc will be entirely devoted to my life and times I will commission the top singers in each genre to compose in my honour"

"The second channel will be an educative one It will be called *CC I ducation* and will feature the state of the art educational programmes I will invite my dear friend Barood to present specially designed training programmes on 'The art and science of bomb blasting' This can include a special session by Sunju Tada Baba who can elaborate on the art of buying AK-56 rifles, hiding and melting them and subsequently pleading innocence My friend Adha Nan Kashoggi will enlighten the viewers on the various nuances of dealing in arms

"The channel will also feature a special programme called *RDX Top Ten* It will focus on the creative uses of RDX and will be a mind-blowing experience for the viewers Once my channel becomes popular, citizens of Bharat will attain such expertise that people from all over the world will flock here to learn the basics Instead of foreign exchange going out, money will start pouring in Wherever there is a blast people say, 'By jove! That was a terrific blast Must be an Indian mind behind it' Every brutal assassination will have people swearing, 'Ooh, la, la! What a neat job It's got to be an Indian No one else can do it with such finesse'

"So what if we have not been able to achieve anything in the field of sports or science or literature At least in the area of death and destruction, murder and mayhem we will become *numero uno* I will also invite the second most infamous inmate in Swamidom, Asathya Pie Baba, to take classes"

"What will he teach? The nuances of Afro Hairstyling?"

"No, dammit He will teach people tricks — 'How to make *vibhuti* fall from a self portrait, etc etc My dear friend Osho Randy will be a special guest?"

"O Osho, but he is dead"

"Godmen don't die They must move from *moksha* to *nirvana*

"But will these godmen come to your rescue?"

"Of course, they will, I will tell them — 'Swamis of the world unite You have nothing to lose but your stains'"

Chandal paused to take a breath and continued, "The third channel will be devoted to Chat Shows Shamela Bored, my sweetiepie, will indulge in an intimate *tete a tete* with all the celebrities she has slept with The list is pretty long and the show can go on for months In each episode, Shamela will reveal some intimate details of the celebrity like his pet passion and his favourite position"

"Will a lot of celebrities be interviewed?"

"No, no, all that is too mundane In any show the celebrities will interview me Each day a new celebrity will be invited to seek my advice and blessings" ■



TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code: ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC 741	0800	1 2 3 6	IC-742	1030	1 3
			IC-742	1250	4 7
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
S2-026/027	0850	1 2, 4 5	S2-028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
PF 301	0830	1 2 3 4 5 6	PF 302	1200	2 4 6
			PF-302	1500	1 3 5
IC 721	1250	1 3 4 5 7	IC 722	1525	1 3 4 5 7
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 181	1600	daily
9W-511	1400				
D5-402	0600	3 5 7	D5-401	1230	2 4 6
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
IC 676	0730	daily	IC-675		daily
9W 202	0715	1 3 4 5 6 7	9W 201	0935	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	2000	daily	9W 211	1925	daily
D2-104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
M9 305	0600	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 306	1140	1 2 3 4 5 6
M9 307	1700	daily	M9 308	2230	daily
IC 263	0630	daily	S2 025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1135	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	1715	1 3 5
S2 006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9-301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC 702	1630	1 3 5 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 3 5 7	PF 738	1740	3 5
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 257	1145	4 7	IC 257	1540	4 7
S2-026/021	0850	1 2 3 4 5	S2-022/00	2005	1 2 3 4 5
D5-601	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
IC-703	0810	1 3 5	IC 704	1120	1 3 5
9W 611	1020	daily	9W 612	1310	daily
M9-321	1230	daily	M9 322	1510	daily
PF-301	0830	1 3 5	PF 302	1500	1 3 5
IC 701	0830	4 7	IC 230	1620	daily
RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
KI 876	0345	7	KI 875	0135	7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC 229	1310	daily	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	IC 704	1220	2 6
IC-777	1615	3 5	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
9W-511	1400	daily	9W 512	2150	daily
D5-601/603	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
S2 026/027		1 2 4 5	S2 028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
IC 257	1145		IC-257	1540	4 7
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1715	1 3 5
D5 402	0600	3 5	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC 542	1115	1 4	IC 541	1030	1 4 6
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
D2 172	1640	daily	D2 171	1155	daily
IC 765	1720	daily	IC 766	2210	daily
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
D5 406	1330	2 4	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 812	1515	1 3	IC 811	1715	1 3 5
IC 285	0640	1 3	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1715	1 3 5
D5-601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
D5 601/605	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 253	0745	2 4 6	IC 254	1025	2 4 6
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1030	1 4 6
KB 105		2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855		TG 313	1240	1 3 6
IC 855	1105		IC 856	1730	4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
TG-314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 5
AI-306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6
[illegible]					
RO-076	2150	5 7	RO-075	1200	5 7
[illegible]					
IC-225	0800	1	IC 226	1020	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG 697	1655	2 5
[illegible]					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG 092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC-723	1250	1 2 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 2 3 5 6
BG-094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG 093	1830	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5
[illegible]					
BI 107	2100	6	BI 108	0730	7
[illegible]					
RA 214	1215	2 4 6	RA 213	1130	2 4 6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC 747	1115	1 2 4 6	IC 748	1435	1 2 4 6
LONDON					
BA 142	2115	3 7	BA 143	1515	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARIS					
KP 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KP 106	1105	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 41	2345	5	SQ-416	2230	2 5
BI 108	0830		BI 107	2000	6
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1820	6
YANGOON					
IC 727	1530	1 7	IC 228	1955	4 7

AI Air India ● **BA** British Airways ● **BG** Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● **BI** Royal Brunei Airlines ● **D2** Damania Airways ● **D5** NEPC Airlines ● **IC** Indian Airlines ● **KB** Druk-Air ● **KLM** Royal Dutch Airlines ● **LZ** Balkan Airlines ● **M9** Modiluft ● **PF** Vayudoot ● **RA** Royal Nepal Airlines ● **RJ** Royal Jordanian Airlines ● **RO** Tarom Air Transport ● **S2** Sahara India Airlines ● **SQ** Singapore Airlines ● **SU** Aeroflot ● **4S** East West Airlines ● **TG** Thai Airways International ● **9W** Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	7 30	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13 00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	238[illegible]
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tue Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23 30	**Jodhpur Express**	1 40	2306
2019	6 20	**Shalabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	0[illegible]
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tue Fri & Sat Arr Tue Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	22 00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	11 35	3046
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13 00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	1 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 00	3010
3007	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16 05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17 35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	11 55	3318
3029	17 11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8 15	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5 10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santhaldia Express**	15 10	3016
1159	15-25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Mon Tue & Thurs Arr Mon Thurs & Fri	7 55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Wed Sat & Sun Arr Sun Wed & Sat	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4 30	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express** Dep Friday Arr Tuesday	7 55	1182

Sealdah

Up	Time		Time	Dn
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6 35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20 15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchenjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22 00	**Gour Express**	5 15	3154
5663	20 00	**Kalkhar Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11 20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	1[illegible] 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	0 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2811	11 05	**Coromandel (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	17 10	2842
7003	8 00	**Falaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	[illegible] 45	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 15	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	0 55	**Tiltagarh Express**	5 00	8006
8015	21 10	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10 40	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15 10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
1321	16 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express** (via Howrah) Sunday only	16 10	
	11 05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express** (via Howrah) Saturday only	10 45	2422
6322	22 35	**Guwahati - Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
	11 05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
	13 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13 45	6313
6314	[illegible] 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tue Sat Arr Tue Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	
	14 05	**Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains, 2203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203498-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays)' In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

Reaching for the Sky



There was but one tree in the street known as Gali Ram Nath an ancient banyan that had grown through the cracks of an abandoned mosque and little Ali's kite had caught in its branches The boy, barefoot and clad only in a torn shirt, ran along the cobbled stones of the narrow street to where his grandfather sat nodding dreamily in the sunshine of their back courtyard

"Grandfather," shouted the boy "My kite has gone!"

The old man woke from his daydream with a start, and raising his head, displayed a beard that would have been white, had it not been dyed red with mehndi leaves

"Did the twine break?" he asked "I know that kite twine is not what it used t be"

"No, grandfather, the kite is stuck in the banyan tree"

The old man chuckled "You have yet to learn how to fly a kite properly, my child And I am too old to teach you, that's the pity of it But you shall have another"

He had just finished making a new kite from bamboo paper and thin silk, and it lay in the sun, firming up It was a pale pink kite, with a small green tail The old man handed it to Ali, and the boy raised himself on his toes and kissed his grandfather's hollowed-out cheek

"I will not lose this one," he said "This kite will fly like a bird" And he turned on his heels and skipped out of the courtyard

The old man remained dreaming in the sun His kite shop was gone, the premises long since sold to a junk dealer, but he still made kites, for his own amusement and for the benefit of his grandson, Ali Not many people bought kites these days Adults disdained them, and children preferred to spend their money at the cinema Moreover, there were not many open spaces left for the flying of kites The city had swallowed up the open grassland that had stretched from the old fort's walls to the river bank

But the old man remembered a time when grown men flew kites, and great battles were fought, the kites swerving and swooping in the sky, tangling with each other until the string of one was severed Then the defeated but liberated kite would float away into the blue unknown There was a good deal of betting, and money frequently changed hands

Kite-flying was then the sport of the kings, and the old man remembered how the Nawab himself would come down to the riverside with his retinue to participate in this noble pastime There was time, then, to spend an idle hour with a gay, dancing strip of paper Now everyone hurried hurried in a heat of hope, and delicate things like kites and daydreams were trampled underfoot

He, Mehmood the kite-maker, had in the prime of his life been well-known throughout the city Some of his more elaborate kites once sold for as much as three or four rupees each

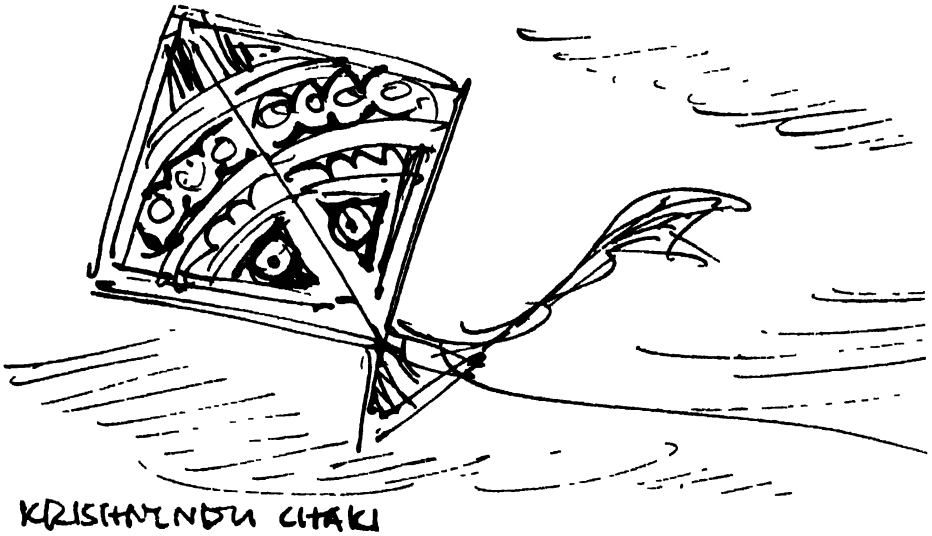
At the request of the Nawab he had once made a very special kind of kite, unlike any that had been seen in the district It consisted of a series of small, very light disks, trailing on a thin bamboo frame To the end of each disk he fixed a sprig of grass, forming a balance on both sides

The surface of the foremost disk was slightly convex, and a fantastic face was painted on it, having two eyes made of small mirrors The disks, decreasing in size from head to tail, assumed an undulatory form, and gave the kite the appearance of a crawling serpent It required great skill to raise this cumbersome device from the ground, and only Mehmood could manage it

Everyone had heard of the 'Dragon Kite' that Mehmood had built, and word went round that it possessed supernatural powers A large crowd assembled in the open to watch its first public launching in the presence of the Nawab

At the first attempt it refused to leave the ground

The disk made a plaintive, protesting sound, and the sun was trapped in the little mirrors, and made of the kite a living, complaining creature And then the winds came from the right direction, and the Dragon Kite soared into the sky, wriggling its way higher and higher, with the sun still glinting in its devil-eyes And when it went very high, it pulled fiercely on the twine, and Mehmood's young son had to help him with the reel, but still the kite pulled, determined to be free, to break loose, to live a life of its own And eventually it did so



The twine snapped, the kite leaped away toward the sun, sailed on heavenward until it was lost to view It was never found again, and Mehmood wondered afterwards if he had made too vivid, too living a thing of the great kite He did not make another like it, and instead he presented to the Nawab a musical kite, one that made a sound like a violin when it rose in the air

Those were more leisurely, more spacious days But the Nawab had died years ago, and his descendants were almost as poor as Mehmood himself Kite-makers like poets, once had their patrons, but no one knew Mehmood, simply because there were too many people in the *Gali*, and they could not be bothered with their neighbours

When Mehmood was younger and had fallen sick, everyone in the neighbourhood had come to ask after his health, but now, when his days were drawing to a close, no one visited him True, most of his old friends are dead and his sons had grown up one was working in a local garage the other had been in Pakistan at the time of Partition and had not been able to rejoin his relatives

The children who had bought kites from him 10 years ago were now grown men, struggling for a living, they did not have time for the old man and his memories They had grown up in a swiftly changing and competitive world, and they looked at the old kite-maker and the banyan tree with the same indifference

Both were taken for granted, permanent fixtures that were of no concern to the raucous, sweating mass of humanity that surround them No longer did people gather under the banyan tree to discuss their problems and their plans only in the summer months did a few seek shelter from the fierce sun

But there was the boy, his grandson, it was good that Mehmood's son worked close by, for it gladdened the old man's heart to watch the small boy at play in the winter sunshine, growing under his eyes like a young and well-nourished sapling putting forth new leaves each day There is a great affinity between trees and men We grow at much the same pace, if we are not hurt or starved or cut down In our youth we are resplendent creatures, and in our declining years we stoop a little, we remember, we stretch our brittle limbs in the sun, and then, with a sigh, we shed our last leaves

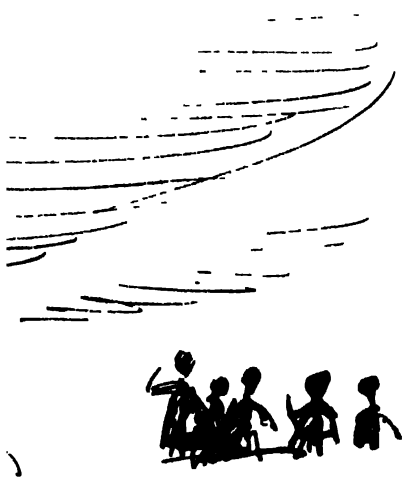
Mehmood was like banyan, his hands gnarled and twisted like the roots of the ancient tree Ali was like the young mimosa planted at the end of the courtyard In two years both he and the tree would acquire the strength and confidence of their early youth

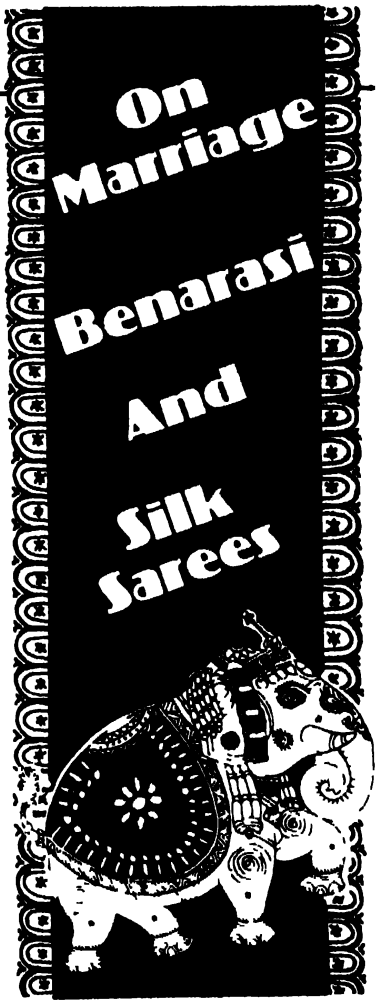
The voices in the street grew fainter, and Mehmood wondered if he was going to fall asleep and dream, as he so often did of a kite so beautiful and powerful that it would resemble the great white bird of the Hindus, Garuda, God Vishnu's famous steed He would like to make a wonderful new kite for little Ali He had nothing else to leave the boy

He heard Ali's voice in the distance, but did not realise that the boy was calling him The voice seemed to come from very far away

Ali was at the courtyard door, asking if his mother had as yet returned from the bazaar When Mehmood did not answer, the boy came forward repeating his question The sunlight rested on his flowing beard and flew to the mimosa tree, and a sudden gust of wind caught the torn kite and lifted it into the air, carrying it far above the struggling city into the blue sky

(Sanctuary Features)





Indian Silk House

COLLEGE STREET
MARKET
CALCUTTA



Letter From Wales



And do you remember which railway station has the longest name? Yes, of course, it's on the tip of your tongue It is indeed Llanfairowllgwyngyllgogerychwryndroowllllantysiliogofofoch

This charming station whose name means St Mary's Church in the hollow of white hazel near a rapid whirlpool and the church of Saint Tysilio near the red cave, lies in North Wales on the main line to Holyhead and is the oldest station on the Isle of Anglesey. You may think that time hangs heavy with the Welsh that they can afford to spend so much time just pronouncing a place name but that is not the case The name was invented by a local humorist and is generally abbreviated to Llanfairowllgwyngyll

It lies in very Welsh Wales, where street signs are in Welsh, where Welsh is the first language and where even unruly children laughing and joking on the branchline back home after school speak in Welsh among themselves

Despite the tide of English culture, schools are still converting to Welsh as the medium of instruction The local radio station is in Welsh and the Welsh TV channel rejoices in typically Welsh occasions I spent one evening watching a harp contest where groups of girls strummed melodies on the national instrument In the villages of North Wales, English is the natural language of the walkers, trekkers, and tourists on which the economy of the mountainous Snowdonia National Park depends

But village society, which helps to maintain a proud sense of Welsh identity is still a potent force This was clear in the small village of Betwys-y-Coed which stands in the valley of the Conway river, on the hill railway line which runs through the most splendid countryside from the northcoast south to the old slate mining town of Blaenau Ffestiniog

Betwys-y-Coed boasts a small railway museum Here, it was that I learnt that many modern words are not much different in Welsh Train is, well, *tren* But the words for railway *rheifford* and station *gorsaf* have a more genuinely Celtic sound

Across the road from the station building is a large village green and a thickly forested hillside, at the foot of which nestles the square grey stone tower of St Mary's Church The church is an important centre of surviving village communities

I was in Betwys-y-Coed on Remembrance Sunday when, at 11 am, a two-minute silence is still widely kept in remembrance of those who gave their lives in two World Wars The morning service at St Mary's was put forward to incorporate the two-minute silence and was also unusual as it was conducted in English A few minutes into his sermon, the vicar began to read from a letter which, he told us, only 10 people in the world had ever seen The congregation leaned forward to listen better It was a letter written by a 19-year-old Welsh soldier in the trenches in World War I to be handed to his parents in the event of his death

●●●

Despite the tide of English culture, schools are still converting to Welsh as the medium of instruction. The local radio station is in Welsh and the Welsh TV channel rejoices in typically Welsh occasions

●●●

In the letter he thanked his family for their love, for their scrimping and saving so that he could have a university education He told them that their effort had not been wasted, and that he had valued the opportunities they had given him, and the faith in God he had learnt from them and which had never deserted him Some of the concepts of this voice from the beginning of the century seemed old fashioned to us at the end of it, when anything more than duty to personal self interest is liable to be derided But the young man's voice still came through clearly and sincerely The letter ended with words of comfort to his family The vicar looked down on us "The letter," he said, "was delivered I never met my Uncle John, but I feel that I did know him"

The vicar, then, had shared with us the personal grief of his family Tears came to many eyes in the congregation but the difference that had struck me between values then and now must also have occurred to the vicar Among the hymns sung were the lines, *Quench our fevered thirst for pleasure, shame our selfish greed for gain, and shame our wanton selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul*

At the conclusion of the service, both the Welsh and the English national anthems were sung, and the Welshness of the occasion was again very evident

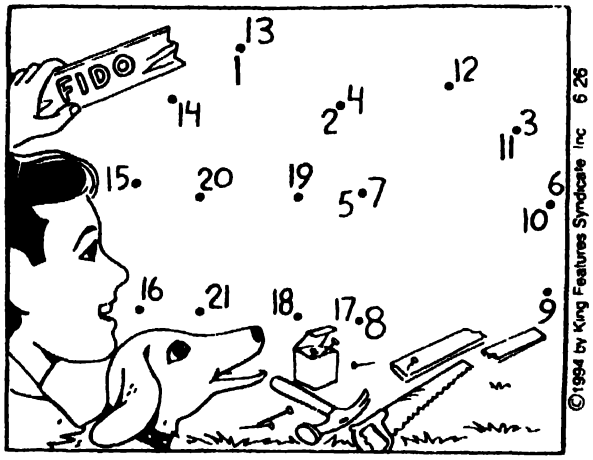
That evening, in one of the hostelries which line the main street, a member of the regular congregation recognised me from church "I must apologise for the singing of the national anthem in English," he said, "but it's not sung much around here"

I told him it didn't matter After all, I came to Wales not just for the mountains and forests and salmon leaping, but also because it was still Welsh

(Sanctuary Features)

JUNIOR WHIRL

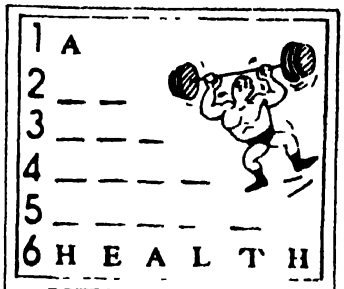
HAL KAUFMAN



WHAT S UP! Fido s pleased by something he sees What s that? To find out insert missing lines from dot to dot

EARS HOW! A chanter and several drones are music to the ears of the player of a certain musical instrument Hint It s an instrument that s often heard at a parade What s that?

It s a bagpipe (bagpipe) Chanter and drones are the pipes of pipes



BOTTOM LINE IS HEALTH

JUST five steps will implement this HEALTH plan Object is to start with A, add one letter and rearrange the others in each step, until the word HEALTH is reached below Definitions of possible step words are as follows

1 Indefinite article (A — in place)
2 Surprise sound
3 Dr Seuss story "The Cat in the ___"
4 Command barked by sentry
5 Wood or metal worker's shaping tool
6 Freedom from illness (HEALTH in place)

1 A 2 Ah (or Ha) 3 Hat 4 Halt 5 Lathe 6 Health

Four Out! Four numbers of the sequence 1-12, namely, 1,3,10 and 12, are missing from the blank squares below You are asked to insert them so that four four-number rows across and down, and five side-by-side blocks of four numbers each, will total exactly 26

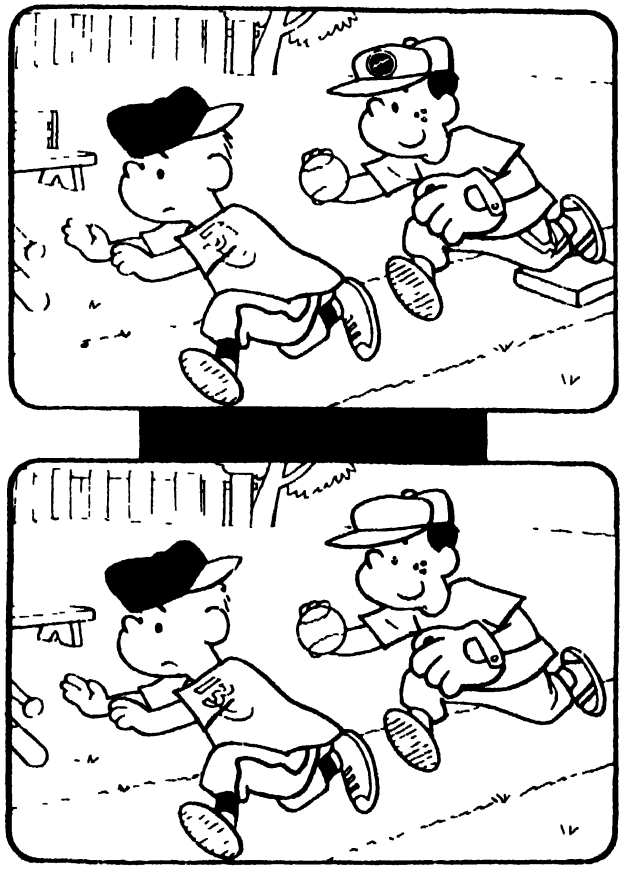
How quickly can you comply?

Remember, numbers to be inserted are 1, 3, 10 and 12, which in themselves total 26, and fill blocks at centre

Place 12 and 1 in top two blanks 3 and 10 in blanks below them

	2	11	
5			8
6			7
	9	4	

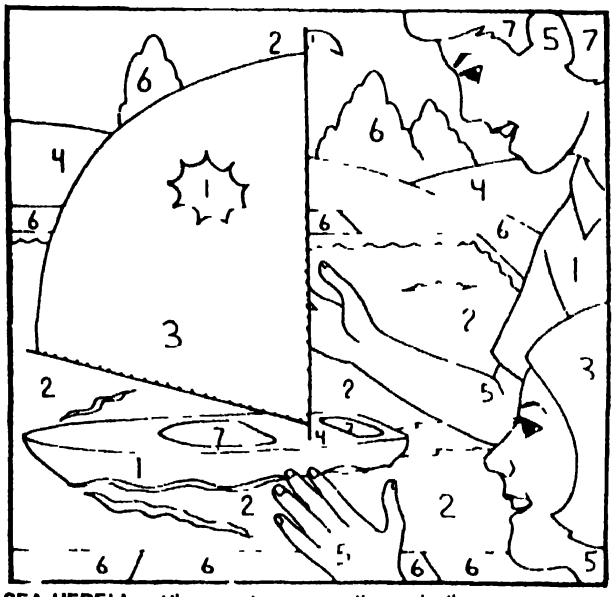
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

DIFFERENCES 1 Fence is different 2 Backrest is missing 3 Number is different 4 Cap logo is missing 5 Stripe is missing 6 Base is missing

FUNSPOT



SEA, HERE! Avast there mates we re setting sail in the swimming pool Code 1 - Red 2 - Lt blue 3 Yellow 4 Lt brown 5 - Flesh tones 6 Lt green 7 Dk brown 8 Black

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

DUMPSTER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

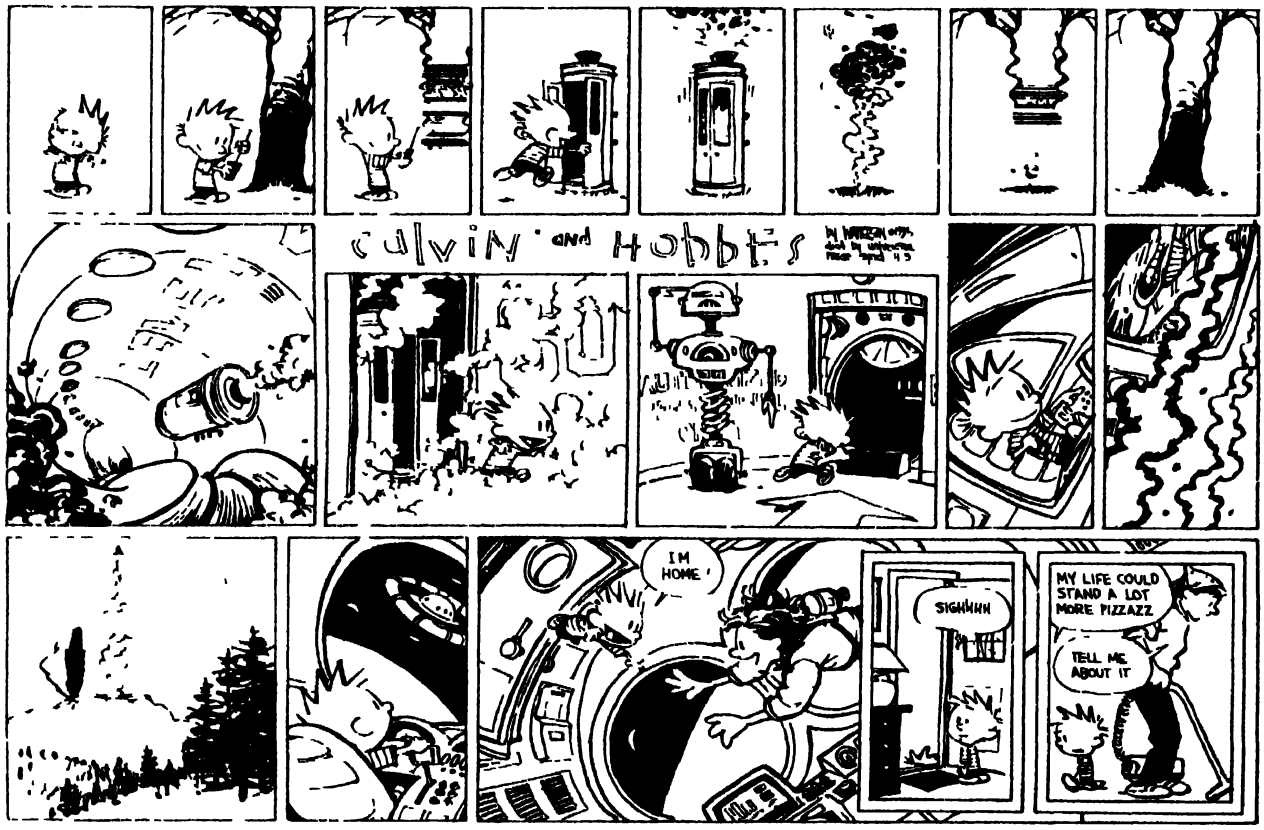
Possible two some Dum pest

COMICS

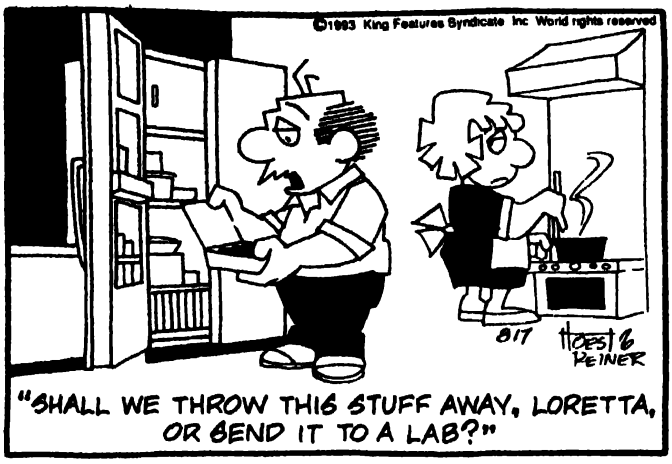
ARCHIE

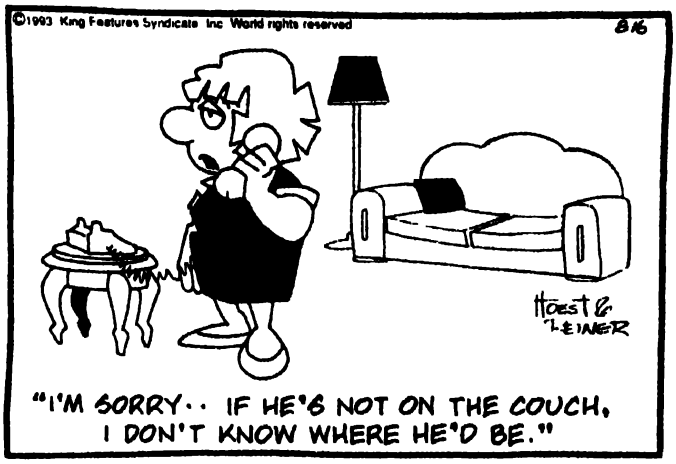


CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON

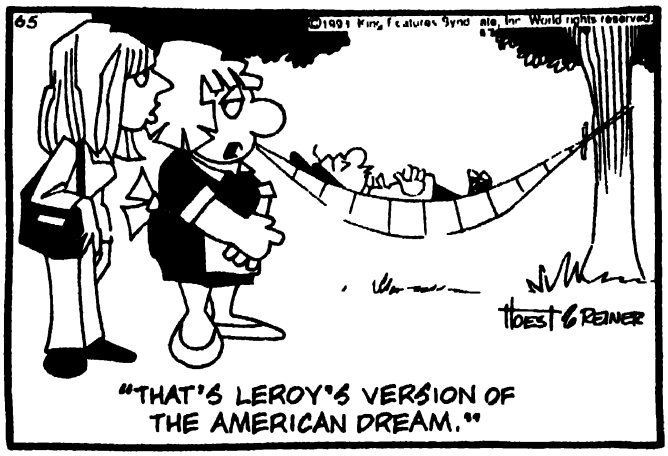


THE LOCKHORNS

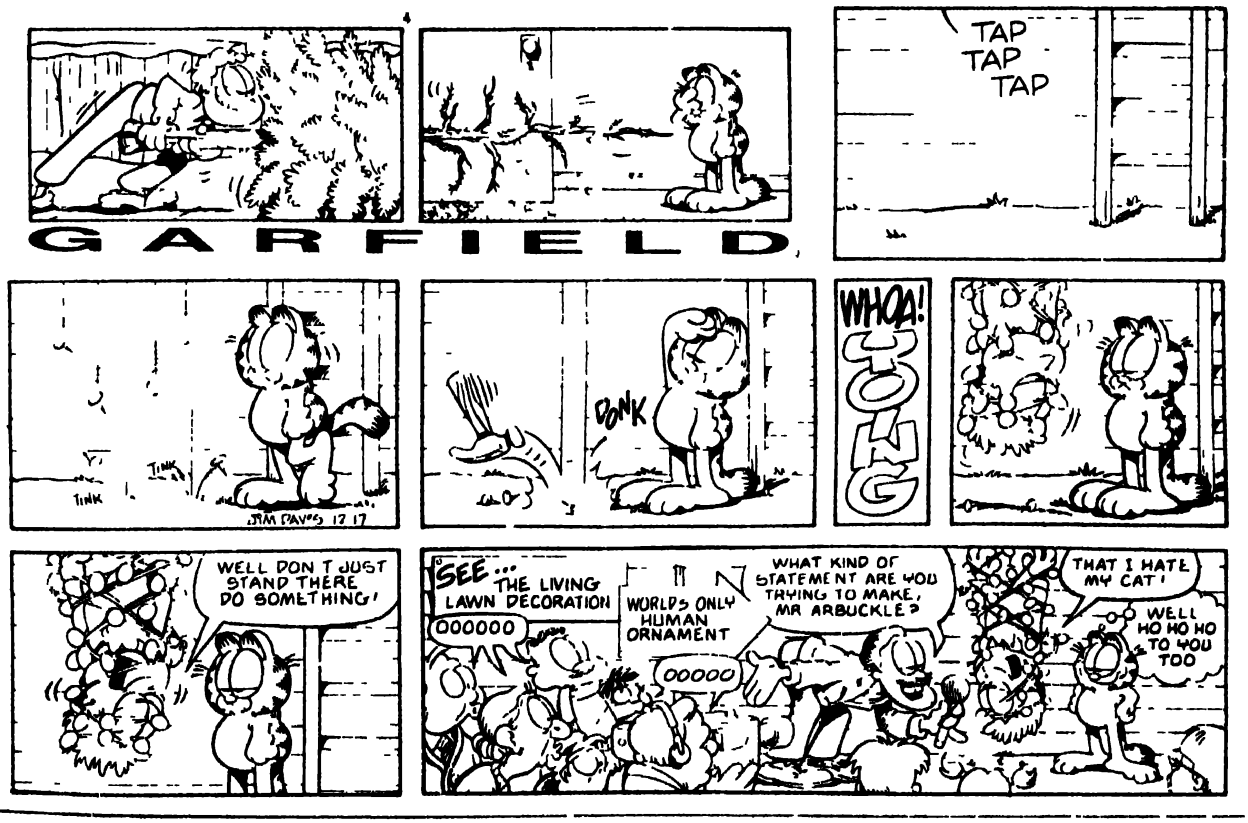








GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS

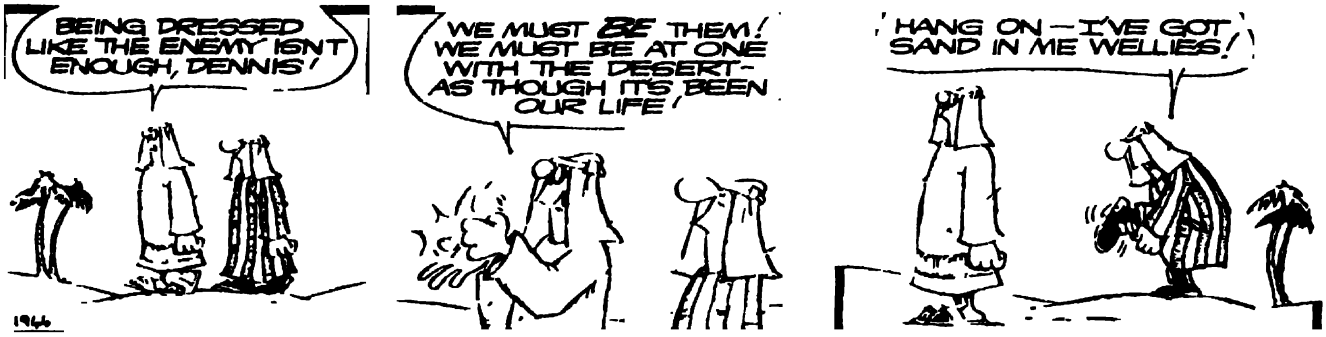


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP

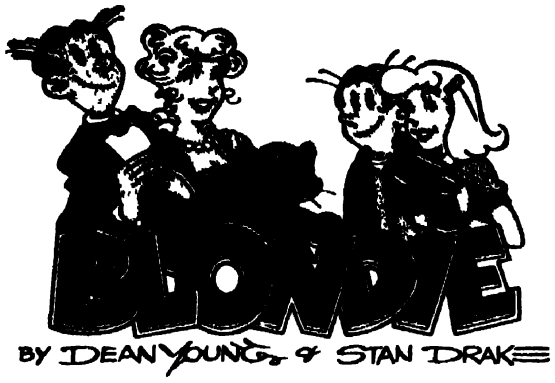


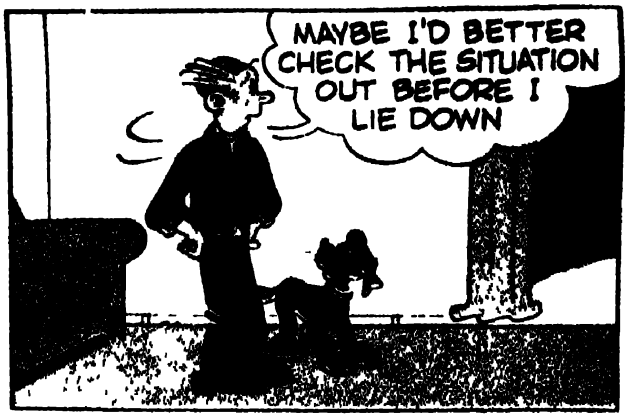








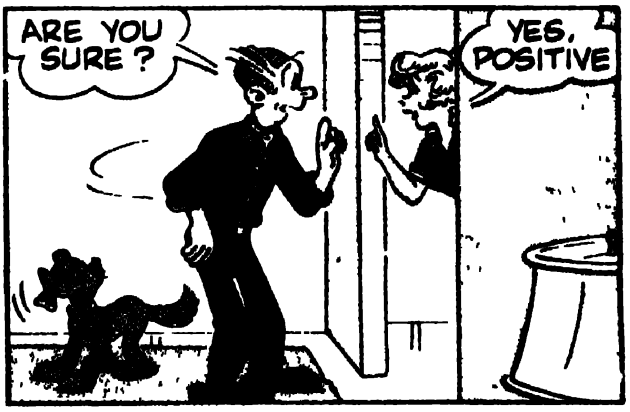




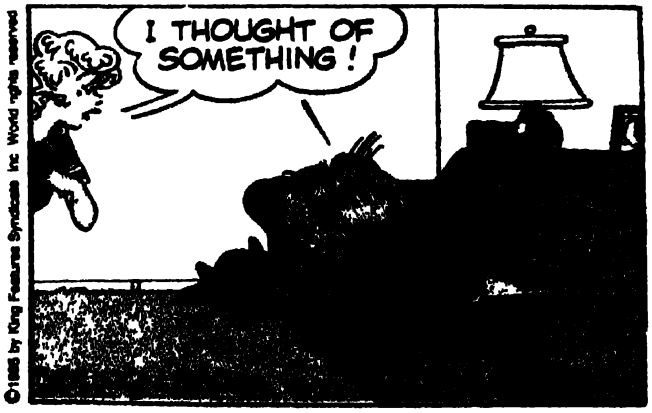












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FOCUS

IN GOD'S LAB

Should new parents Robert De Niro and Kim Basinger take experts' advice, they would soon end up having geniuses on their hands ***Emily Smith*** *probes the fascinating phenomenon of deciding the babies' future from the womb*

Like most doting dads, Robert De Niro, whose former girlfriend Toukie Smith used a surrogate mother to carry their twin boys to full term, wants a wonderful future for his children

But what can parents like De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer, Kim Basinger and Alec Baldwin do to ensure that they give their kids the best start in life?

One expert believes that a child's future begins on the night of conception

He says that babies born in the summer months will shine in their academic careers, leaving cold comfort for the seasonally disadvantaged

If he is right, heavily pregnant Jane Seymour — soon expecting the arrival of twins — must resign herself to living without a pair of pint-sized professors

The study analysed the birth dates of 2,525 top-scoring medical graduates at the University of Tokyo over the last quarter century, and found most of these gifted students were born in the summer

But British professor Steve Jones, winner of the Science Book Prize, says that he wants "a retrial" "I demand a large research grant to do my own study"

Professor Jones was born in March — as were Albert Einstein and John Major

Sometimes, parents cannot guide their baby's future from the womb Michael J Fox, Michelle Pfeiffer, Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise, Isabella Rossellini, Kirstie Alley, Jamie Lee Curtis and Mia Farrow adopted some or all of their children

But even if their child's chances were blighted by a winter birth, there's hope for happiness ahead

Adoptive parents could even end up with a mini-Mozart — if the child begins musical studies before the age of 13

Edward Taub of the University of Alabama, says that up to the age of 13, children have a chance to excel in music After then, it's too late

"There is an abrupt change between ages 12 and 13 that appears to be quite dramatic," says Taub, who has studied magnetic images of the brains of children who play stringed instruments

He says the images demonstrate that larger and more complex neuron circuits form in violinists who started their training early in life than others who began later

Languages, too, are better learned in childhood After the age of 10, it is unlikely that a person can learn to speak a foreign language without an accent

But why do children need such early stimulation to achieve academic and artistic excellence? And why do so many neglected children develop into unhappy underachievers?

Studies show that the human brain is physically affected by early experiences, with connections between nerves being established during mental and physical stimulation

Dr Michael Meaney, a psychiatrist at McGill University in Montreal, also points out that a control point for the release of stress hormones is developed early on in infancy

People who experience high stress levels when young develop a highly reactive system, Meaney explains, while those raised in a calm environment have more placid systems

This means that every parent has the chance to improve their child's future

There is evidence that vital development of the brain begins in the womb Says Dr Carla Shatz, president of the Society for Neuroscience, "The nervous system isn't waiting for birth to flip a switch and get going"

And scientists agree that the human brain continues to develop after birth

For example, the frontal cortex — which may be involved in early and

John Travolta and Kristie Alley with the babi



Studies show that the human brain is physically affected by early experiences, with connections between nerves being established during mental and physical stimulation. Dr Michael Meaney, a psychiatrist at McGill University in Montreal, also points out that a control point for the release of stress hormones is developed early on in infancy

cognitive development — increases in metabolic activity at six to 24 months.

And according to experts, the specific areas of agitation are significant

Dr Geraldine Dawson, from the University of Seattle, links the reduced activity in an infant's left frontal lobe, and a corresponding agitation in the right lobe, with a severely depressed mother

This, she says, is because the left frontal lobe is activated when a person feels happiness or interest — the right lobe is stimulated by negative emotions

Says Dr Dawson "Our hunch is that there may be a critical period for emotional development between ages eight and 18 months

"This is when kids learn to regulate emotions It is when attachment forms"

Something as simple as touch can be vital in affecting the child's future

New York psychiatrist Dr Myron Hofer found that by licking their young, mother rats influenced their pup's heart rate, growth, immune system and temperature

Other researchers have discovered that baby rats over two weeks old develop fewer hormone receptors in their brains, and fail to grow normally, if they are deprived of this licking

Dr Hofer explains that human mothers, by holding, rocking, feeding and even looking at their babies, are helping to develop the child's brain

"The infant is laying down a mental representation of its relationship with its mother," says Dr Hofer of the first six months of life

"These interactions regulate the infant's neural mechanisms for behaviours and for feelings that are just beginning to develop"

So how does all this happen?

Dr Harry Chugani of the University of Michigan explains that when children are born, they have fewer synapses — connections between nerve cells — than adults

By the age of two, the child's synapses have reached adult levels and continue to increase from four to 10 years

Then, says Dr Chugani, they begin to drop until, by the age of 16, the child's synapses have stabilised at a typical adult level

From a genetic base, the brain has now been 'shaped' by experience — for better or worse

Dr Daniel Alkon, chief of the Neural Systems Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland, says "We know that a child learns trust and self worth in the first two years When a parent neglects a baby on a daily basis, the child is conditioned to expect isolation A recipe for depression has been acquired from experience, handed down from one generation to another"

One special study of 45 neglected orphans, later adopted into loving families, demonstrates the legacy of suffering caused by maternal depravation

The Romanian orphans, victims of an oppressive political regime, were housed in poorly staffed institutions Unloved and understimulated, they were fed with cold bottles propped over their bodies

The children bore physical marks of their emotional suffering, some, aged 10, were closer to three-year-olds in appearance than their well-cared for counterparts

After adoption, the children's general health, weight, powers of communication and ability to function socially improved

The children still react poorly under stress, and weak emotional ties make them more likely to wander off with strangers than others of their age

But scientists hope that with tender love and care, the rescued Romanian orphans will have happy futures

Explains Dr Mary Carlson of Harvard University, "I think that if you believe in critical periods [of development], you can find ways to take advantage of that plasticity"

Dr Megan Gunner of the University of Minnesota agrees "The one thing we have learned is that children need to feel safe and protected That alone leads to appropriate biological growth"

(*Asia Features*)



Looking forward to a bright future

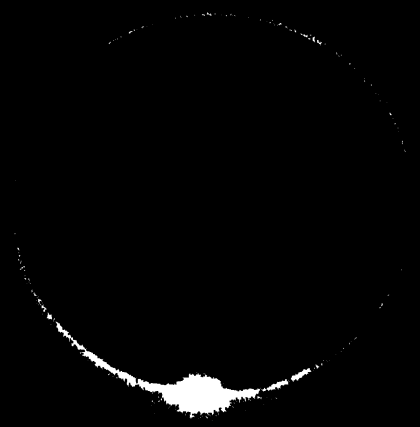
Something as simple as touch can be vital in affecting the child's future. New York psychiatrist Dr Myron Hofer found that by licking their young, mother rats influenced their pup's heart rate, growth, immune system and temperature

atured in *Look Who's Talking*



Poetry

Selected by Debarati Mukherjee



Nausea

Excite me
Unravel
within
forgotten folders. Open
road
that was and yet turned
in ruins. It now scales
my
slime walls to reach the
top.
Torrents churn
darkness inside
tortuous tunnels
Caged souls
in thousands squirm
towards freedom

Saplings of freedom
sprouting
in the fertile soil of gut
I face the pallid green
face of morning.

Suchandrima Banerjee

Separate Lives

We all lead our separate
lives
entombed in our
separate quiet
ambiguities
And when sometimes
our eyes meet
over a cup of coffee
maybe
we shudder with
light
from the departures
shrill
in our
caught in an eyelid's
reflection

Ourselves
amalgamate thoughts
redress our dreams
under sweaters
meet in
lobby
We all lead our separate
live
[illegible]
[illegible]

Kalyan Brata Das

I am Waiting for the Sunrise

I was waiting for the
sunrise
When [illegible]
the [illegible]
I was waiting for the
sunrise
When [illegible]
[illegible]
I was waiting for the
sunrise
When [illegible]
[illegible]

I was waiting for the
sunrise
When smiling
faces went in to abort
the unborn girl child
I was waiting for the
sunrise
When the 16
year old came to polish
my shoes
[illegible]
then my eyes?
I am still waiting for
the sunrise
[illegible]

Tirthankar Mitra

HUMOUR

MAID TO ORDER

***Bikram Vohra** on how to get yourself hired by domestics*

A friend of ours fell apart because the maid upped and left

"We are going crazy," he moaned over the phone, "How could she do this to us?"

She could She did And that is the way it is So many of us cannot take it, we have become far too dependent on help in the house Pretty soon, the roles will be totally reversed and employers will be interviewed

I can see it now, an ad in the classifieds section calling all prospective employers to line up for interviews between 10 am and noon at the Domestic Help agency and to please bring their testimonials with them

A room full of candidates waiting nervously to be called in by the maid and her tribunal It is your turn to be summoned

"Do sit down"

"Thank you"

"So, you want a maid"

"Yes, please"

"Why can't you do your own dirty work?"

"We have three children and my wife works so we find it very difficult"

"What sort of people are you?"

"I beg your pardon"

What sort of people are you, tell us about yourself, we can't just have our maids and houseboys working for anyone who came off road"

"No, of course not, you are right, one has to be careful these days"

"You can't imagine the kind of people we get looking for household help, things are so bad we can't trust anyone"

"Trust, trust is at a premium but we are a nice family, no really, we are caring and understanding and we don't mess up the place and we always leave some prawns for the maid or the cook"

"Hmmm, why have you changed domestics three times this year, it says here in your CV that one houseboy lasted only three weeks, would you like to explain?"

"You see, he was rude to me, he was rude to my wife, he was rude to the children and he made 10 cups of tea a day"

"You resent domestics having tea?"

"No I don't"

"It sounds as though you do, what sort of person are you who keeps count of how much tea is consumed"

"Sorry, I did not mean it that way, they are welcome to the tea, I'll stop counting, have all the tea they want, hahaha"

"It is not funny, human dignity is not a laughing matter, do you have any references from your last four domestics?"

"Well, I have one from my old gardener, he wrote saying he misses us"

"Show me please it says nothing about missing you, he says he misses the place and he also says you haven't kept your promise to get his son a job, are you the sort of person who makes promises he has no intentions of keeping just because pople are poor is no reason to exploit them"

"I am sorry, I did my best, I'll try again"

"What is your living accommodation like, does the maid get a separate room and what about TV rights?"

"We have a small set she can have"

"Colour?"

"No"

The interview board looks horrified One member laughs mirthlessly "Do you know this is 1995," he says

You cringe and promise to give your 31-inch set, "Just clear us a maid"

"It isn't that simple, we have to check you out and you have to fill in this form and bring us the addresses of two people whom know you, a salary certificate and a letter of recommendation from the last two domestics who worked for you"

"I don't know where they are," you say, accepting an eight-page comprehensive form

The questions pertain to working hours, rest hours, day off, overtime, workload parameters, extra duties, food preferences, termination benefits, recreation and medical responsibilities

Halfway into filling the form you throw your ball point pen into the air, fling aside the papers and say, "I don't want a maid or a houseboy"

"Whyever not?"

Because I want to sign up for being one, this is life, this is security, this is great ■



FIRST PERSON

GAUTHAMI, *the Southern sizzler entered Hindi films with* Pyar Hua Chori Chori. *Kamalahasan's award winning* Thevar Mangan, *where she played his mistress, was one of the roles that brought her great acclaim Perhaps, one of her most memorable moments on film has been as the star of the A.R. Rahman-Prabhudeva hit song* Chikpuk Raile *from the Tamil film* Gentleman. *Recently, a big break came her way when Subhash Ghai cast her opposite Jackie Shroff in his forthcoming film,* Trimurti.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Peace, peace and more peace
What is your greatest fear?
That I'll wake up one day and find all my fears have come true
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?
My mother
What do you dislike most in others?
Hypocrisy
What do you dislike most in yourself?
My hypersensitivity
What is your most precious possession?
My mind, I never want to lose it
What objects do you always carry?
My Walkman, a book and some money
What makes you most depressed?
I can get that way for no reason at all
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
I'm okay, I guess
What is your favourite word?
I like to use as many as possible
What is your favourite journey?
In a good car, on a good road
What is your favourite dream?
That I'll wake up one day and my life will be perfect
What is your nightmare?
That I'll wake up and find half my dreams have come true
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Peter Pan
What is your source of sustenance?
The love my family gives me
On what occasions do you lie?
I try not to
What is your greatest regret?
None so far touchwood

What has been your happiest moment?
I've had a few but I'm still waiting for the happiest one with bated breath
What brings tears to your eyes?
The innocence of old people and children
How do you relax?
With my family, my dogs, music and books
What do you envy most in others?
Nothing I'm happy with myself
How would you like to be remembered?
As the one and only Gauthami.
How would you like to die?
Peacefully and gloriously

What is your most precious possession?

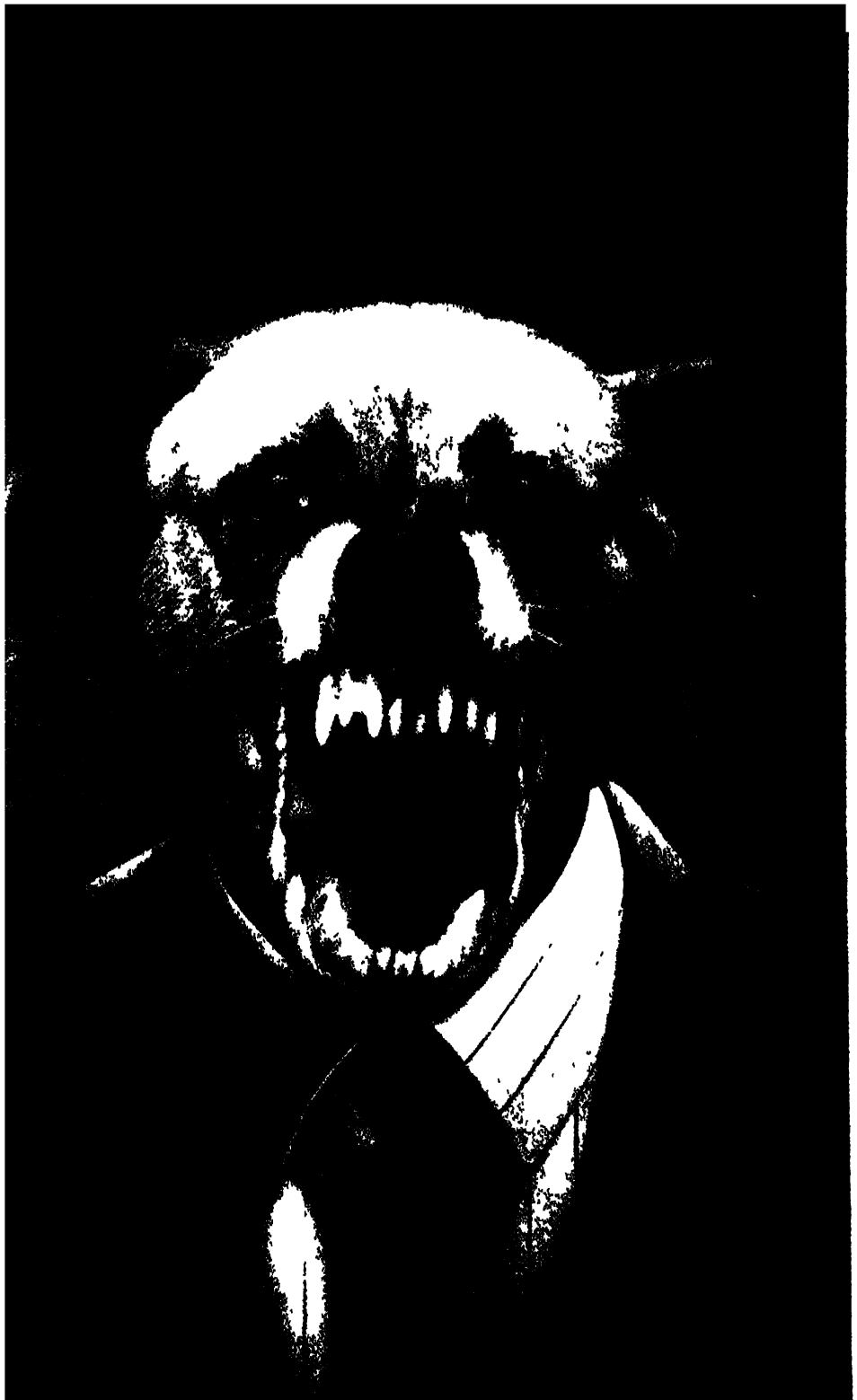
My mind; I never want to lose it

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

Peter Pan



Jagdish Mali



...AND HIS ADVERTISEMENT
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MRF TYRES

24 DECEMBER 1995

The Telegraph

POST MORTEM

University Blues

■ India still has a long way to go in streamlining its education system that will not only yield good results and produce bright students, but also weed out politics and other nefarious activities that pollute our campus ('One University, 8 Nobel Winners ', October 29)

We wonder at America producing the largest number of Nobel laureates The American system of education is so fashioned that it produces such scholars.

The biggest handicap for a student is funds and when that is available the student can give his/her best

The urgency to earn a degree is so strong here (to get employment at any cost) that students have very little option to explore their areas of interest

Paritosh Sanyal,
Calcutta

■ Till we get rid of politics in the campus we can never have a clean system of education in India Unionism, political rivalry and quotas are some of the banes of this system

No other country has witnessed students immolating themselves on the streets to protest a government decision to allow reservations

Somnath Mukherjee,
Calcutta

■ It is good the Magazine is trying to acquire a serious image.

Nabanita Chowdhury,
Calcutta

Swimming with the Tide

■ Sangeeta Rani Puri's First Person (November 19) was delightful here is a teenager who has dreams of giving India an international medal

Mahesh Kapasi,
New Delhi



R.D. Burman: Master

Mera Bharat Mahan

■ Ramendra Kumar's Essay, 'Mr Bharat How Mahan?' (November 19) was an excellent piece of satire

The witticism and imagination was mindboggling

Sanchari Ghosh,
Howrah

■ I add the name of one more person in the Mr Bharat pageant: Harsh-ad Loota (*nee* Mehta) telling Narasimha Rao, *"Isharon ko agar samjho, raaz ko raaz rehne do"*

Anirban Sanyal,
Rourkela

East-West Fusion

■ Whenever one thinks of fusion of Eastern and Western tunes in Indian music, two names immediately come to mind Salil Chowdhury and R D. Burman

I fully appreciate Gautam Bose's complaint (Post Mortem, November 12) that the Magazine has not done justice to RD by not publishing a cover story on him

Panchamda's compositions for films like *Padosan, Amar Prem, Kati Patang, Aandhi, Masoom* and *Parichay* will forever remain embedded in memory And whenever RD and Gulzar paired the result was sheer magic.

On his second death anniversary in January, the Magazine should pay homage to this great musical talent

Indranil Bhattacharya,
Naihati (W B)

INSIDE



Rohan Vaid

PAGE 4

IN THEIR complete devotion to The Cause, activists have to sacrifice plenty on the home front, too, apart from the pressures on them often filtering down to their family members The Magazine spoke to the kids and other family members of some activists to understand just how much they have to sacrifice for society at large

Vandana Shiva with son Kartike

SECTIONS

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28 POETRY
30 FIRST PERSON

Cover Rajesh Kumar

COVER STORY

The sincerity of most activists to The Cause may be unquestioned, but the consequent pressures often take their toll even on other family members. Often, it has resulted in a broken marriage or a neglected child ***Seema Paul*** *and* ***Shameem Akthar*** *spoke to some of the activists and their kin and discovered that in their frenetic dedication to the cause of society at large, they forgot to tie the shoelace of the little kid at home*

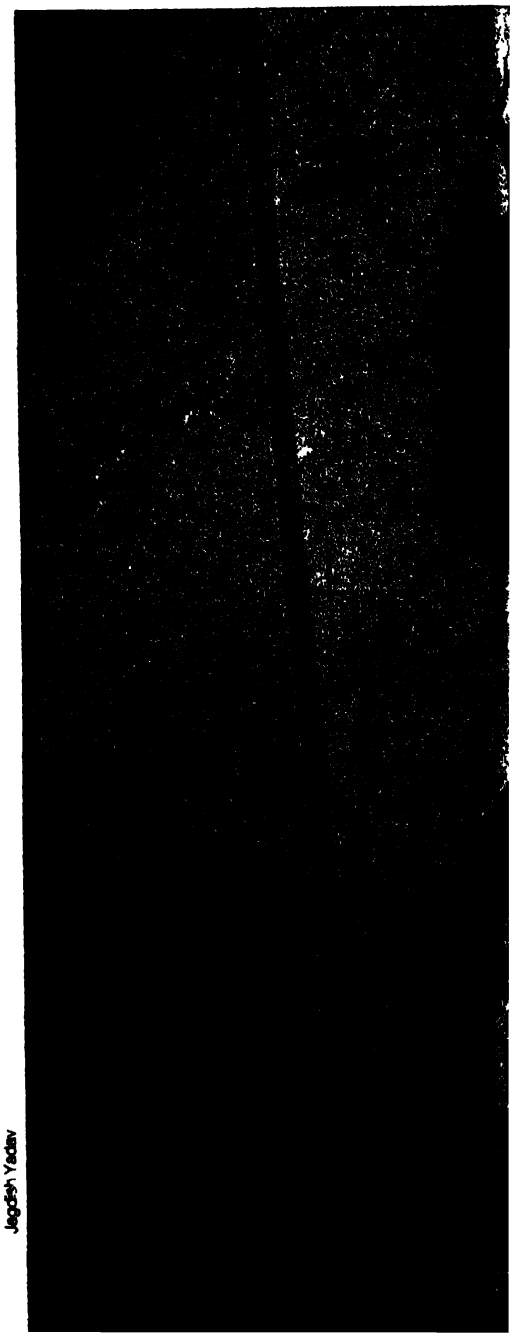
The CAUSE and EFFECT

THE KHADI-CLAD, *JHOLA*-CARRYING ACTIVIST IS AN ECCEntric in the best of times. He goes about reforming society —rather an aspect of it—with such zest that all else seems trivial to him In the bargain, he not only forgets his own needs, sometimes he even rides roughshod over the feelings of those who immediately surround him: his own children or parents

Achieving a balance between his home life and his passion for societal reform seems well nigh impossible to him. Rather, he justifies the lack of it, saying that life cannot be compartmentalised. At times, he may end up forcing his worldview down the throats of young, impressionable children. And when he does not exactly do that, it may be that his children grow up so differently from him or her that all the preaching appears to be only for the public

Isn't it a hard life for the poor activist. always being judged by outsiders? Always having the dice loaded against himself in such public evaluations. But then his singleminded, tangential passion for social reform makes him or her all too vulnerable to such public nitpicking —even when his sincerity to the Big Cause may be beyond challenge!

Look at **Medha Patkar**: Pursuing the cause of the tribals of Narmada Valley with such zeal that nothing else seems to matter to her. Having given up her home, her city (Bombay) and a plush job with a foreign-funded, corporate style NGO that fetched her a good salary (and an Ambassador car to boot,) she now lives in the Valley like one of



Jagdish Yadav

the tribals.

She even walked out of her marriage several years ago because she could not compromise on her societal responsibilities beyond a point.

Of course, there were temperamental differences as well which made them highly mismatched, according to Patkar, but activism was definitely a reason for the break-up.

Her ultimate goal in life now is to stop the mighty Sardar Sarovar dam. If that involves going on a hunger strike or plunging herself into the waters of the beautiful Narmada (calling it *'jal samadhi'*), so what, she says. What her ageing parents and an architect brother living in Bombay feel about her decision, obviously does not matter enough to take her away from her mission

"After all," she reasons, "decisions such as these are taken by a democratic process within the Narmada Bachao Andolan and the family can have no role in it!"

This reply so put off her architect brother some years ago when he came down to Ferku-

Vandana Shiva with her son. 'I never impose my views on my family'





'Someone,' reasons Indu Tai, 'has to work for the rural poor also. And some families must make sacrifices. If we have to be one of them, so be it!'

va to persuade her to give up her hunger strike, that he has since maintained a stony silence on her subsequent strikes Nor do her activist parents, **Vasant** and **Indu Khanwilkar**, on the other hand, dare to meddle with her affairs

Indu Tai, as her mother is lovingly addressed by those who know her, initially used to travel down to the Valley to sit by her side and quietly watch her daughter wither during the course of her fasts But she was always too afraid to tell her what to do

Over the years, however, she has resigned herself to the situation and does not tax her ageing body by undertaking harsh journeys But her concern for her daughter Medha's safety and security remains strong and she is forever trying to obtain information about her wellbeing on phone or through the NBA offices in Bombay

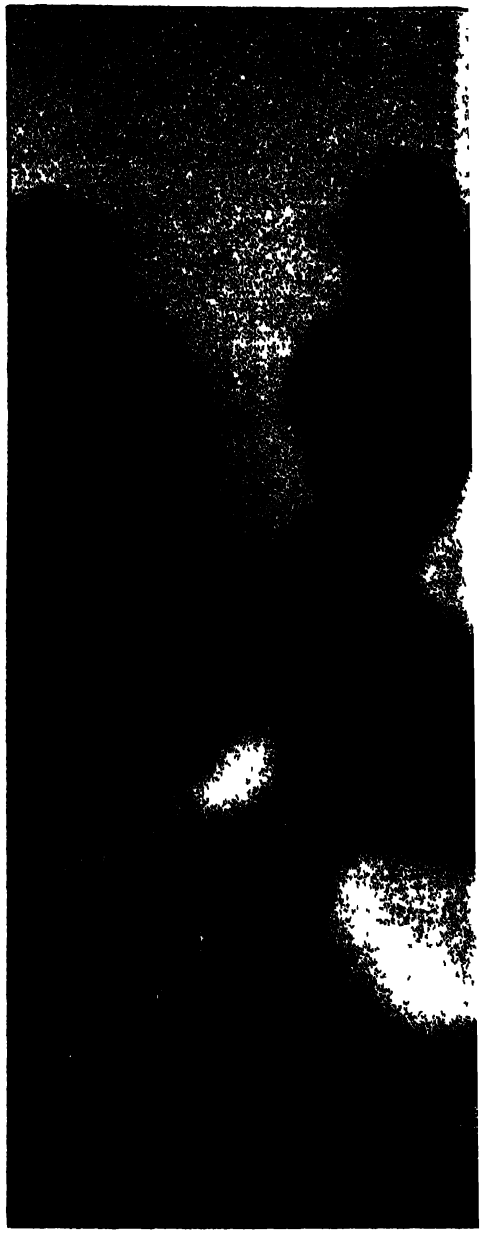
As for her father, he has even less courage to wean her away from her mission In her younger days when Medha worked in the slums, he would taunt her that she did not dare to go beyond the urban confines into the real India — the rural India — that desperately needed her Now he must put up with it "Someone, ' reasons Indu Tai, "has to work for the rural poor also And some families must make sacrifices If we have to be one of them, so be it!"

The other green activist, though of the globe-trotting variety, **Vandana Shiva**, also has a broken marriage behind her Shiva admits today that she married **Jayanta Bandopadhyay**, a scholar, for the wrong reasons

Their common passion for the Garhwal Himalayas and green activism brought them together, but these were obviously not sufficient ingredients for a successful marriage So it ended in an equally distasteful and acrimonious parting, which has even changed their once common worldview

Today Bandopadhyay has a very different interpretation, for example, of the Chipko movement and the long-standing dispute over the leadership claims of Sunderlal Bahuguna and Chandi Prashad Bhatt While Shiva continues to solidly back Bahuguna today even while giving the overall credit for the movement to the Garhwali women, Bandopadhyay has gone back from their common stance in favour of Bahuguna aired in an article in the *Seminar* magazine

Obviously, for this academic-activist couple it was a case of either agreeing on everything or nothing



Medha Patkar: Uncompromising

The custody of their only child, **Kartike**, was also a matter of dispute for a long time, until Shiva won the case She, however, seems to have spared the little boy from her environmental terrorism and given him the freedom to arrive at his own worldview

So much so that Kartike today seems to love all things that his mother is publicly opposing He likes Reebok shoes, Mercedez Benz cars and Hollywood movies! The only exception is the Kentucky Fried Chicken food which his mother is publicly opposing and he, too, does not like "I ate it once abroad," he says, "and I did not like its taste I prefer the Indian version served by Nirula's outlets in Delhi "

Inder Mohun with daughter: Doting on her father





Not that Kartike is totally unfamiliar with what his mother stands for He knows, for example, that Shiva is opposing multinational corporations because "they take away our markets" But, at the same time, he is drawn to some of the MNC products and consequently experiences conflicts which he cannot still resolve So he ends up saying, "I like Reebok shoes, but not the company We don't need the company, but we can take their shoes!"

An obviously embarrassed Shiva comments, "One cannot have a totally reductionist worldview Besides, I never impose my views on my family"

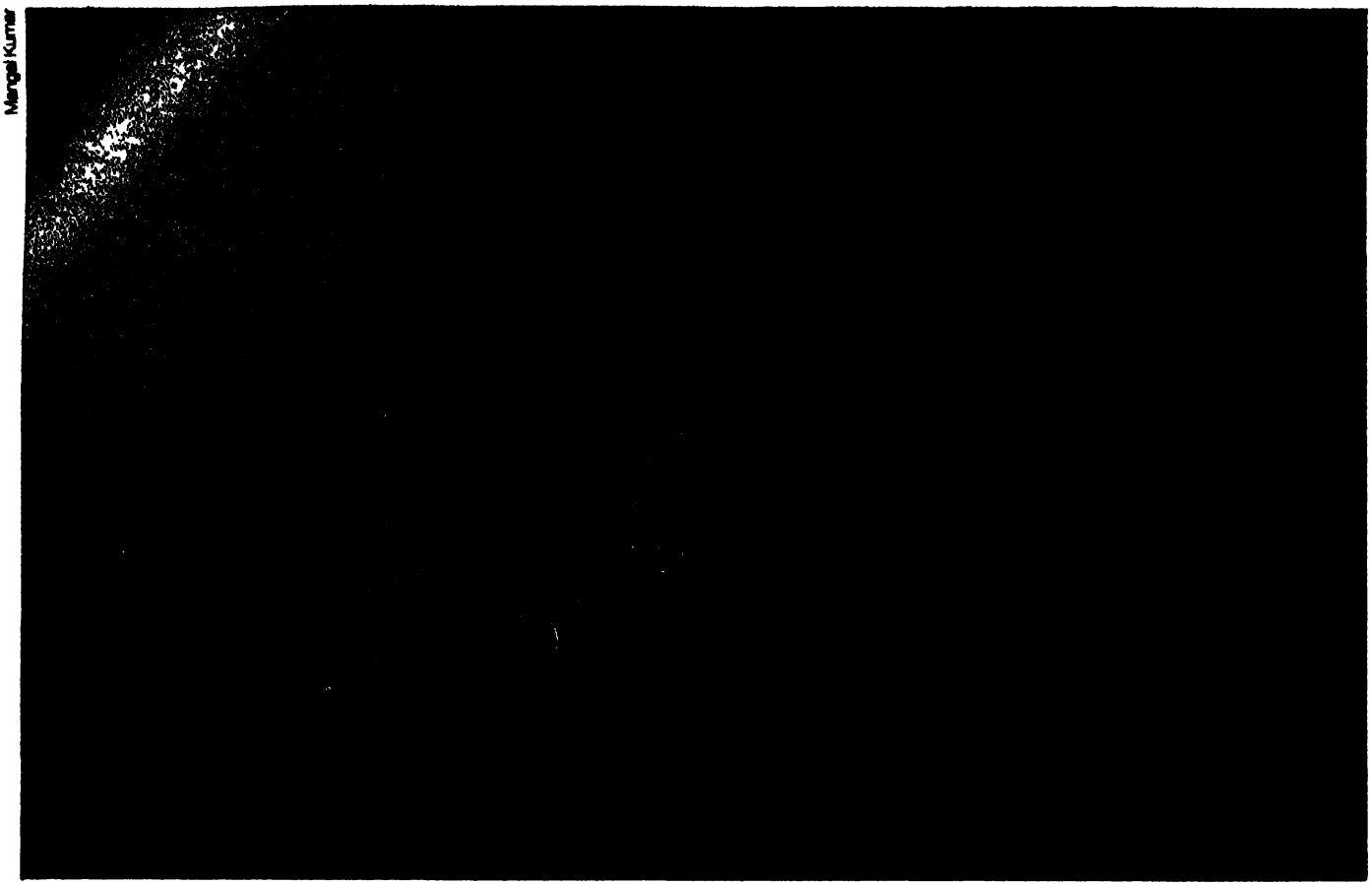
To her credit, however, Shiva has compromised heavily on her activism to look after her child Until, he was four years old, for example, she did not once leave him to attend a conference and even now, whenever possible, she takes him along Kartike, too, loves to travel, but his major complaint against his mother is that "she is too serious . She does not know how to have fun"

He obviously wants Shiva to take time off from her seminars to accompany him on sightseeing tours when they are abroad, but she hardly ever does that Another of his complaints is that she does not join him in the swim-



So he [Kartike Shiva] ends up saying, 'I like Reebok shoes, but not the company. We don't need the company, but we can take their shoes!'

Mangal Kumar



Veena Mazumdar with daughter Shaswati. Activism in their genes

ming pool But Shiva feels this is his indirect way of telling her that she better make herself a more pleasant size to fit into a swimsuit!

Kartike's schoolmate, **Varun Feroze Gandhi**, probably harbours no such complaints against *his* mother But then we have no way of knowing because **Maneka Gandhi** will not allow him to be interviewed, no sir, and that's final Not, at any rate, until he is 17, she insists

But one thing is sure Unlike Shiva, Maneka Gandhi makes sure her son shares her beliefs

The grapevine has it that Varun is so starved for non-vegetarian food that he secretly asks his mother's friends for it But Maneka brushes that aside, saying people may say what they like but ' my son is a total veggie" And we'd better believe it

As for his attitude towards animals, Maneka claims, "It's 100 per cent correct He has a beautiful relationship with animals because he has literally grown up with them And he's known no other way of treating them than giving them love and affection " Those who have met Varun say he is forever telling his classmates what is right and what is wrong — very much like his mom! At this stage, he seems like a replica of Maneka

If the passions of the green activists are thus running deeper into their families, it is hardly different for those pursuing other brands of activism Take the case of the pioneering woman activist, **Veena Mazumdar**, who was the member of the first group that wrote the 'Status of Women' report in India Long before she turned into a feminist, she had met and married **Shankar Mazumdar**, an aspiring professional singer and changed the 'J' in her surname to a '*Z*'

They produced a brood of four — three daughters and a son — but Veena Mazumdar has made sure that each of her children, specially the daughters, have inherited her strong activist streak The eldest daughter, **Shaswati** has been involved in teachers' politics at Delhi University for a long time and is currently the general-secretary of the elected teachers association there

Indrani, the second daughter, is a wholetimer with the C PI(M), the third one, **Ranjini**, makes documentaries on — no prizes for guessing — women's issues and the son was active in student politics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University until he took up a teaching assignment at the Delhi University!

Not surprisingly, in the Mazumdar household the only one who stands out for being different is the father An artiste by temperament and uninvolved with activism, he is able to take an objective view of what he calls are the "lost causes" being pursued by the



Having lived and worked with psychoanalysts in France, she [Meenakshi Mohun] ... candidly confesses that her initial years were lonely and tearful

rest of his family

"I am always telling my children and my wife," he says, "that there is no point in frittering away energy as activists The issues may be serious, but they produce no results After all, they are all working in small, diffused pockets which cannot achieve anything concrete unless a big change takes place!"

Undoubtedly, Mazumdar shares his family's leftist ideology, but has refused to get into their activist mould And one reason for that could be that he wished to retain his own identity in the midst of four staunch feminists in his family

His other great problem with his family's activism, Shaswati confided, was that he could not take the disorder in the house, which is an inevitable result of his brood's preoccupation with lost causes Shankar Mazumdar is forever directing his daughters to give more time and attention to the household and handing them shopping lists to keep the house running smoothly

Cooking, surprisingly is not a major worry in this house as everybody is a willing contributor But the family is specially fond of some special recipes, which were improvised and perfected by Shankar Mazumdar when Veena had taken off for London for two years along with their two daughters (the other two had not arrived then) for higher studies!

One of them is the 'Mazumdar Khichri' and, according to Shaswati, it has proportions of *dal* and rice reversed because those were the quantities available in the house when he set out to make it in the absence of his family!

With all these oddities, the Mazumdars are obviously one big happy family

Being son to **Asghar Ali Engineer**, the reformist Bohra leader, has not been easy for **Irfan** It was not easy when he was a child and it is not easy now that he is 33 But if Divinity asks him to choose his father in his next life he would still plum for Engineer Senior

"I used to feel resentful of the ostracism that came our [his sister, Seema, and himself] way because father was openly critical of the system in the Bohra community We knew we were ostracised because our relatives, who loved us, used to be embarrassed when we visited them. But strangely, my resentfulness was never directed at my father," recalls Irfan.

He remembers how his relatives were willing to 'forgive' the children for the 'folly' of the father. When Irfan visited them he would be treated with a deep fondness that metamorphosed into nervous embarrassment if other, more critical members from the community arrived Tiny Irfan would be bundled away from sight, either cowering under the bed or into the tiled bathroom till these orthodox visitors left Irfan and his sister had to lie under the bed and count the cobwebs even if it meant an hour or more and were let out only after the 'all-clear' was signalled

If he rewinds on such memories from childhood, his youth was no different In the Eighties, when Engineer had organised a dogma-challenging reformist meeting, Irfan remembers that the Bohra leader, Syedna's men, standing outside the venue pouring vitriol at his father. "There was police *bandobust* because father was receiving so many threat calls. My friend and I slipped out for a cup of tea when we were attacked by the Syedna's men I had to be taken to the hospital for treatment "

Though Irfan refused to identify his attackers because he feared he may point out the wrong men, the police insisted on filing a case But the assaulters pleaded with Irfan who interceded on their behalf In this generous gesture, as in his later activism, Irfan sees not himself but the rebirth of his father's ideals "Father was always busy Apart from his reformist activism, he was also leader of the engi-

Maneka Gandhi with Varun: My view, your view





Young Irfan (extreme right) with parents; (inset) the activist Irfan at 33: Idolising his father, Asghar Ali Engineer

neers' union at the Bombay Municipal Corporation He was forever organising meetings and agitations Many of his activist friends visited our home and I was allowed to hover around In a way, father always had treated me like an adult and was willing to answer my questions on these issues which were close to his heart Due to this I never felt that he did not spend enough time with us Though my mother was justifiably resentful of all this, I was very proud of my father," says Irfan

There were no vacation time together, no birthday parties and no family outings The only vacation that the Engineer family indulged in was a trip to Kashmir "But even that was hardly a holiday Dad was busy meeting leaders and trying to find out about the problems in the valley," says Irfan, who naturally trudged through snow and slush, following in his father's footsteps, learning alongside

Maybe there were no outings and get-togethers But there was a lot of cerebral interaction that used to give the little Irfan a high. After all. when Emergency struck India he was among the few kids who knew what it was all about He recalls strutting around in school, slightly cocky, explaining to his ignoramus classmates what Emergeny meant When other kids were burrowing into childish books like Enid Blyton, he knew what Marxism was all about

"But," laughs Irfan, "I used to hate reading Lenin " Whenever father had free time he would take out the tomes on Leninism, eager to read out portions to the child who hated it "At that time I used to wonder why he could not just sit and chat with me, instead of reading about somebody I did not want 'o know about "

But also along the way, he was proud to be made involved with his father's interests On such things he knew not only more than his classmates, but often more than his teachers Did he not smirk when his class 7 teacher taught him that communism was 'evil' and did he not find it trite when she said that communism meant 'wearing uniform throughout life'?

"Though father never felt frightened for himself, he became fearful for me when I became an activist," says Irfan who plunged into activism like a duck to water Though Engineer had himself introduced Irfan to student activists, he was critical of his son getting involved in the movement for alternative polity (for empowerment of the rural masses) at the expense of his studies And later, when Irfan was arrested under the National Securities Act in Gujarat for protesting against police shoot-out of a Dang tribal woman, Engineer was even more disturbed

Though Engineer never spoke about it, Irfan was to find out that he was actually proud of his son "His friends used to tell me that he was constantly talking about me while I was in prison We share a deep affection and rapport as all my letters from jail will show Now that my activism is keeping me busy I can sense that he is missing me He feels that I should spend more time at home," smiles Irfan. The roles are reversed now Though both will continue to miss each other, busy as they are in their different paths in life, they would not have it any other way

The same is true of the Patwardhan family. **Anand Patwardhan**, the fiery filmmaker who has notched a special place for himself in the creative world for the activist statements of his films, is again too immersed in his activism to even think of marriage, much to the regret of his mother, the well-known potter, **Nirmala Patwardhan**

"Both of us are very busy with our individual lives But both are proud of each other. The only regret that I feel sometimes is that I have no grandchildren, while all my friends are either grandmothers or great-grandmothers," sighs the mother

But freedom of choice was the luxury that she had allowed Patwardhan even when he was a child And she was not going to change it now While she lives in Pune with her husband, Patwardhan lives in Bombay, where his Ekta Samiti (an organisation for societal peace) and *surakksha samitis* try to heal the deep, riot-induced lacerations on the psyche of the people

When she returns to Pune, after her short Bombay sojourn, Nirmala Patwardhan will engross herself in her favourite pastime — pottering around As she grows older, she only finds out that there is more work to be done in the field of her choice She has now been given a senior fellowship to transform the Chinese clay to Indian And then she has her students, young kids eager to imbibe her artistry

Perhaps, her son had picked up the notion of fierce independence and freedom of choice from her? No, she observes, Anand had always been an independent child and was never influenced by anyone, though his family has many examples that he could have chosen from His uncles are the freedom-fighters, Achyut and Raosaheb Patwardhan "I remember that even as a young boy Anand would argue with his uncle about national issues For instance, when Achyut Patwardhan had urged him to join the march to ban the N-bomb, he had argued vehemently against it Yes, Anand always had a mind of his own"

Which is why the family never got to know that Anand had planned to study abroad till his ASAT exams results were declared — and the family learnt that their Anand, who normally managed just to scrape through college exams, had stood second in entire Asia

"I myself was no academic and it had never bothered me that Anand was not academically inclined After his superb results in the exams he applied for and got half scholarships



Deshakalyan Chowdhury

Anand Patwardhan: Fighting it out, alone

to American universities, where within six months he earned full scholarship It was his American trip that changed him Yes, he had become more Indian than before and was also determined to fight the battles for the downtrodden," she says

That choice meant no marriage It also meant facing threat calls and abuse But while she is fearful for him, she takes great pains to hide her fears from him She says, "After all, accidents happen in ordinary lives, too One cannot allow such fears to cloud one's choice And while I am worried for him I will never stop him doing from what he wants to do"

Patwardhan is equally protective about his mother Worried that some questions may kindle her fears for him, he requests that these are knocked off the interview

It is touching to see how both son and mother believe that each has succeeded in shielding the other From fears that each senses for the other

The path of an activist may be lonely But such familial ties is what makes their choice relevant A deep caring that extends from a few within a family to many outside it

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for **Inder Mohun**, the well-known human rights activist who got confined to a flat by a paralytic stroke more than a year ago Inder Mohun had an extremely unhappy childhood in which he was separated from his mother In hindsight, he believes that it was a search for emotional comfort that led him to activism

While that in itself was not a bad choice, the consequent choice of his partner became his life's biggest mistake In 1944, he married **Sumitra**, with whom he shared the common bond of activism Sumitra was involved in rural welfare and women's movement in Kashmir, but as soon as they started living together, personal differences came to the forefront and they had to part very soon

By then, however, they had had **Meenakshi**, their only child, who suffered the trauma of witnessing her parents' separation and also bore the brunt of it Having lived and worked with psychoanalysts in France, she is now able to look at her own and her father's situation extremely well and candidly confesses that her initial years were lonely and tearful and she was almost treated like a ping-pong ball by her parents

Her mother initially took her to London, but realising that she would be best in her own cultural environment, packed her off to her father who had a hard time coping with the responsibilities of looking after her while being passionately involved with activism!

Her difficult childhood has left its stamp on her life and Meenakshi feels she has never been able to realise her best potential due to her 'inner problems But her mature vision has allowed her to take the blame away from her individual parents, so that today there are no unhappy moments in her relationship with her father

Rather, Meenakshi is a daughter who dotes on her father and is forever telling her father that he did the best he could for her in the circumstances So things have turned out well for Inder Mohun in his later years Yet, if there is a lesson that he wishes to be learnt from his life, it is that activists must strive for a balance between Home and The Cause

"Activism," he says, "has its own glamour, but family responsibility is extremely important I have realised very late that I could have had a balance in my life" ■

GILLIAN WRIGHT'S COLUMN

One Above the Rest



Biologists are always looking at animals to define and explain them But what if animals were to turn round and ask what makes a biologist? They could do worse than look at Ed Wilson, professor at Harvard University, who has just written his autobiography entitled simply *Naturalist* Wilson has two Pulitzer prizes The first was for what he calls his magnum opus *The Ants*, his definition of a magnum opus being book heavy enough to kill a man if dropped from a three-storey building. The second was for a thought ful discussion on *On Human Nature* But these books form only a fraction of his works

What brought him to biology as a skinny child with a slightly receding chin was circumstance His parents' divorce in 1937 when he was seven left him with a gypsy existence mainly spent with his father The Old South, in and around Alabama where he lived was full of natural beauty and his outdoor world was solid and constant compared to the instability of his home

He became fascinated by nature and was exploring a beach when he caught the pinfish which he yanked out so recklessly that one of its spines pierced his eye Left with limited sight, his gaze naturally turned towards things which crawled on the ground and to the study of insects.

His bad eyesight also assured he could never join the Army But the army and the scouts did give him the values which he relied on throughout his academic career

He loved the hard work, sacrifice and devotion to duty he saw in the military and the practical ethics of the scouts He writes, "The people I find it easiest to admire are those who concentrate all the courage and self-discipline they possess toward a single worthy goal explorers, mountain climbers and a very few scientists Science is modern civilisation's highest achievement, but it has few heroes " For some of these minds at play he shows contempt, despising "the arrogance and doting self-regard" he frequently finds among the great

From his own story it seems that from childhood he chose what he considered the heroes path, and by the age of 16 had already chosen his area of specialisation– ants They took him to the University of Alabama and thence to Harvard

There are probably between one and 10 million billion ants in the world, all of them together weighing about the same as the totality of human beings They have been dominant insects for 50 million years, and if they died out, tens of thousands of other plant and animal species associated with them would perish

So Wilson the explorer-naturalist had plenty to discover One of his breakthroughs was in the field of sociobiology how the working of animal societies is dependent on the biology of those animals He proved that ants, which can neither smell nor taste, lay chemical trails to food, which are followed by other ants, and remove corpses from their nests not because they don't move any more but because after a few days they give off oleic acid

There are probably between one and 10 million billion ants in the world, all of them together weighing about the same as the totality of human beings. They have been dominant insects for 50 million years

Sociobiology fascinated Wilson and made him resolve to write a book not just about insects, but also about other social animals including ourselves

Putting humans among the animals as conditioned by genes enraged Marxist academics at Harvard, some of whom accused him of supporting ideas which led to the establishment of gas chambers in Nazi Germany.

Wilson was appalled, but perhaps this gives another clue to the secret of a successful biologist– he was, from the first, given an ivory tower from which to pursue his interests His started in the segregated, white world of the South and went on to the then male-dominated academic world where the biggest threat to his existence was the discovery of DNA, which for some years eclipsed the role of biologists who worked with units larger than the molecule The political and social issues of his day, completely passed him by, and it was only the sociobiology debate during which demonstrators dowsed him with iced water that led him to read Marx

However, he still stuck to his views, and later works on our selfish genes seem to have proved him right His tunnel-visioned devotion to his science is also clear in the way he came to environmentalism as he says, unforgivably late, in 1980

Wilson gives a final clue to what makes a successful biologist with his advice to young scientists. To stand out from the rest, he says, choose disciplines which are not widely explored In a world with no real wildernesses left, he himself would now chose microbial ecology, as there are pristine environments still to be found lying within a handful of soil

(Book details: *Naturalist* by Edward O Wilson; published by Allen Lane, the Penguin Press)

(Sanctuary Features)

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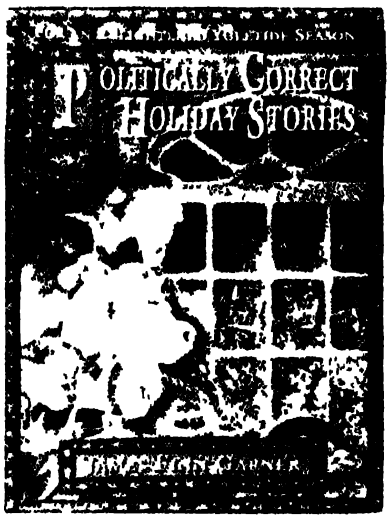
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EXTRACT

The Angry, Young REINDEER



BY JAMES FINN GARNER

Extracted from Politically Correct Holiday Stories by James Finn Garner; Simon & Schuster; India Book Distributors, £6.99

The story of Rudolph is a familiar one to most of the pre-adults in America and other parts of the Western world (not that this fact is an endorsement of Western culture, just an acknowledgement that the publicity and merchandising machines run more efficiently in those areas) While the image of an eager young reindeer cheerfully giving his all for Santa Claus might be useful to department stores and jingle writers, the truth of his story is more complicated

It's true that from birth Rudolph was a unique individual, that his luminescent olfactory organ made him different from (but not inferior to) the other reindeer in his age category, and that they often maliciously taunted him about his supra-nasal capabilities Some reindeer caregivers, concerned that his nose had resulted from radioactive fallout or was somehow contagious, warned their fawns not to play with him

What is *not* true is that Rudolph was disappointed to be so ostracised While his parents successfully fought to have him schooled alongside the other young bucks and does, Rudolph always fancied himself an outsider In fact, he worked to cultivate his image as an "angry young reindeer" He had no interest in the other reindeer and their inane games He took himself and his fluorescent gift seriously and convinced he had a higher calling in this life. to improve the fortunes of the working reindeer and overthrow the oppressive tyranny of Santa Claus

For untold years, the success of Santa's toy-making monopoly depended on the co-option and exploitation of both the reindeer and elf populations. To this end, his most important criteria for the reindeer in his team were strong legs, a ten-point rack, and minimal gray matter (The fact that he only recruited bucks for his team and excluded the does is cause for more outrage — Santa insisted it was to protect the morale of the enlisted bucks — but unfortunately, in Rudolph's time, the does were still awaiting their liberatrix)

To Santa, Rudolph was one of the Northland's most dangerous creatures a reindeer with a brain He had seen a few during his years at the Pole, but there was something about Rudolph that made him specially nervous It might have been the deer's standoffish attitude, or the rumours that he was organising meetings with the other reindeer late at night Santa also sensed a charisma in Rudolph that, if not kept in proper check, might disrupt his tidy little enterprise

And so it was that, on that fabled foggy evening, Santa found himself in a bind. Harsh weather conditions left him unable to exploit the aerodynamic talents of his team. He had of course flown them through all sorts of dangerous weather before, with no thought to the deer's physical strain or mental trauma. But on this night the weather was so tempestuous that the bearded slave driver was fearful for his own safety and for the insurance headaches that a crash at his own toy works would certainly create

Although Santa had known for years about Rudolph's gift for incandescent dissemination, he had not called special attention to it. In due time, Santa selfishly calculated, a use for it would arise, and until then there was no need to tip off how valuable Rudolph's skill might prove to be. That moment had finally arrived. On that foggy night, he sought out Rudolph among the herd and, wearing his humblest and most pleading face, asked him, "Rudolph, with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

The young reindeer looked him over carefully After a few moments of silence, he said, "No."

Santa blinked a few times and repeated, "No?" The herd could scarcely believe its ears as well

"No. Not without concessions," replied the creature who happened to be antlered "The days when we jump every time you whistle are over "

"What are you talking about, concessions?" blustered Santa, who hadn't planned on this twist "This is your big break, your chance to join the team This is the life's dream of every young reindeer "

Rudolph laughed "This is starting to sound like *A Star is Born* Next you're going to tell me, 'Kid, you're going out there a nervous young buck, but you're coming back a star '"

The herd all chuckled at this remark Perhaps such a gung-ho speech was all too familiar to them Santa reddened, realising he'd made a tactical error in approaching this young firebrand in public He said, "It's cold out here Why don't we talk this over inside my chalet I have some very good moss and lichens, just picked "

"I'll eat what everyone else eats," countered Rudolph, "and whatever you have to say to me, you can say out here " The other reindeer were watching this face-off with great interest For years, they had treated Rudolph with suspicion for all his bold ideas, but now he was bravely sticking up for them at the expense of his own career Some shouted encouragement, while the more reactionary deer grumbled about not rocking the kayak

Santa began to feel some pressure as the minutes ticked away and the fog grew thicker Finally he asked Rudolph what his demands were

"You work the reindeer too hard, with no consideration for our families," Rudolph said "We want a guarantee of no work on holidays "

For the next 30 minutes, Santa tried to explain the disadvantages of this idea, the main one being, of course, that the reindeer only worked one night a year anyway, and since that night *always* fell on a holiday, such a change would make their jobs (and his) rather difficult to fulfill Rudolph eventually agreed to table the issue for the time being

Checking his watch, Santa was starting to sweat, even in the Arctic cold "Could we speed this up?" he asked "Or maybe forge a temporary working agreement that we can make permanent after Christmas?"

Rudolph snorted in his face "We weren't born yesterday, Claus No contract, no flight If Christmas doesn't come this year, who do you think the children will blame? The reindeer? The weather? The Interstate Commerce Commission? No, they'll blame the overfed guy in the red suit "

Santa imagined the public relations headaches this would cause him, and his frame began to sag Rudolph grilled him on such issues as health care, paternity leave, profit sharing, and joint decision-making councils. As the fog refused to lift and the minutes ticked away, Santa granted more and more of the deer's demand

In the end, Rudolph and the reindeer rank-and-file could claim a number of victories The deer would be required to fly only one night a year, and after four hours on the job, they would receive a 90-minute dinner break and three 15-minute breaks Santa was required to keep four alternate reindeer on standby for the duration of Christmas Eve at full pay and benefits In addition, the mandatory retirement age was lowered to eight years, after which the reindeer were to receive a full pension and lifetime health care.

After the terms were finalised, an exhausted but relieved Santa Claus hitched Rudolph up with the rest of the team. The other deer gave Rudolph three cheers for standing up for their rights against "the man", which the nasally empowered reindeer, feeling fulfilled for the first time, gratefully accepted. Using his unique luminescent gift, he led the sleigh through the inhospitable weather and Christmas that year was saved.



Epilogue

Like the fabled prophet in his own land, however, Rudolph found his real influence evaporating soon after that For weeks he was praised by all the other reindeer, who told him, "You'll go down in history/her story!" All the attention and admiration, however, began to feel superficial and distracting Rudolph felt that any lionisation of him would take energy away from the continuing fight for the wellbeing of the working reindeer. In a facile attempt to emulate their new hero, the other young reindeer began to wear bright red coverings on their noses. When Rudolph expressed his displeasure with this, some muttered that he was becoming too humorless and doctrinaire

To Rudolph, this first agreement with Santa was to be just the beginning. He envisioned the eventual creation of a working reindeer's paradise, a toy-making and distribution collective where the means of production were shared by everyone Unfortunately, many of the other reindeer began to take their newly won benefits as their inviolable right, bestowed by nature. They grew fat on too much moss and complained that their improved work schedules were still too taxing. Factions began to form among them about the best ways to invest their new pension fund. Rudolph tried to convince the dissident deer that they needed to stand united, but they began to resent his holier-than-thou attitude Some spread the rumour that he was an *agent provocateur*, sent by other aeronautically gifted animals seeking to gain Santa's favour and put the deer out of their jobs While such theories were patently absurd, they served to discredit Rudolph and embolden his dectractors. Eventually, he was voted out of the union he had helped establish After this indignity, Rudolph decided to strike off for Lapland, where he felt the undomesticated reindeer were more in control of their own future.

And so, like other revolutionaries before him, Rudolph the angry young reindeer lived out the rest of his days in exile, bitterly wondering how a movement with such promise could prove to be so fragile in the end ■

TIME TABLE

All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code: ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

DOMESTIC

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC-741	0800	1 2 3 6	IC-742	1030	1 3
			IC-742	1250	4 7
IC 743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
S2-026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2-028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
PF 301	0830	1 2 3 4 5 6	PF 302	1200	2 4 6
			PF-302	1500	1 3 5
IC 721	1250	1 3 4 5 7	IC 722	1525	1 3 4 5 7
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 181	1600	daily
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
9W 511	1400	daily	9W 512	2150	daily
D5 402	0600	3 5 7	D5-401	1230	2 4 6
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF-105	1700	1
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC-895	2005	1 3 5
IC 676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
9W 202	0715	1 3 4 5 6 7	9W 201	0935	1 3 4 5 6, 7
D2 102	0920	daily	D2 101	0850	daily
IC 273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W 212	2000	daily	9W 211	1925	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
M9-305	0600	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9 306	1140	1, 2 3 4 5 6
M9 307	1700	daily	M9 308	2230	daily
IC-263	0630	daily	S2-025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9-303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	4S-806	1130	1, 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC-401	1135	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2 005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	1715	1 3 5
S2 006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9-301	1950	daily
M9 302	2030	daily	IC 264	2210	daily
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC-895	2005	1 3 5
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
PF 737	0730	3 5	IC-702	1630	1 3 5 7
4S 816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 3 5 7	PF-738	1740	3 5
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
IC 257	1145	4 7	IC-257	1540	4 7
S2 026/021	0850	1 2 3 4 5	S2-022/00	2005	1 2 3 4 5
D5 601	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
IC 703	0810	1 3 5	IC-704	1120	1 3 5
9W 611	1020	daily	9W 612	1310	daily
M9 321	1230	daily	M9 322	1510	daily
PF 301	0830	1 3 5	PF 302	1500	1 3, 5
IC-703	0830	4 7	IC-230	1620	daily

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC 229	1310	daily	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
4S 816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S 812	1205	1 3 5	IC 704	1220	2 6
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
9W 511	1400	daily	9W 512	2150	daily
D5 601/603	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 214	1540	2 6
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028 005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
IC 257	1145	4 7	IC 258	1540	4 7
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1715	1 3 5
D5 402	0600	3 5 7	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1030	1 4 6
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2 7
D2 172	1640	daily	D2 171	1155	daily
IC 765	1720	daily	IC-766	2220	daily
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
D5 -406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1715	1 3 5
IC 285	0640	1 3 5	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC-811	1715	1 3 5
D5 601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
D5 601/605	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 253	0745	2 4 6	IC 254	1025	2 4 6
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2 015	1015	1 3 5
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC-895	2005	1 3 5
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC-541	1030	1 4 6

RJ 185	1445	4	RJ 184	0705	4
KL 874	0945	7	KL 875	0135	7
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	
			KB 106	1240	
IC 731	0855	2 5	TG 313	1240	1 3
IC-855	1105	4, 7	IC-856	1730	4 7

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
TG 314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 5
AI-306	1910	5	AI 309	1825	6
BUCHAREST					
RO 076	2150	5 7	RO 075	1200	5 7
CHITTAGONG					
IC 225	0800	1	IC 226	1020	1
BG 698	1735	2 5	BG 697	1655	2 5
DHAKA					
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG 092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6
IC 723	1250	1 2 3 5 6	IC 724	1520	1 2 3 5 6
BG 094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1855	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG 094	1910	4	BG 093	1530	4
BG 096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5
DUBAI					
BI 107	2100	6	BI 108	0740	7
KATHMANDU					
RA 214	1215	2 4 6	RA 213	1130	2 4 6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
IC 747	1115	1 2 4 6	IC 748	1435	1 2 4 6
LONDON					
BA 142	2115	3 7	BA 143	1515	3 7
MOSCOW					
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
PARO					
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SINGAPORE					
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	2230	2 5
BI 108	0640	7	BI 107	2000	6
SOFIA					
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ 503	1650	4
TOKYO					
AI 308	1910	5	AI 309	1820	6
YANGOON					
IC 227	1530	4 7	IC 228	1955	4 7

AI Air India ● **BA** British Airways ● **BG** Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● **BI** Royal Brunei Airlines ● **D2** Damania Airways ● **D5** NEPC Airlines ● **IC** Indian Airlines ● **KB** Druk-Air ● **KLM** Royal Dutch Airlines ● **LZ** Balkan Airlines ● **M9** Modiluft ● **PF** Vayudoot ● **RA** Royal Nepal Airlines ● **RJ** Royal Jordanian Airlines ● **RO** Tarom Air Transport ● **S2** Sahara India Airlines ● **SQ** Singapore Airlines ● **SU** Aeroflot ● **4S** East West Airlines ● **TG** Thai Airways International ● **9W** Jet Airways

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19 15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13-00	4004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 15	2302
2305	13 45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23-30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2308
2019	6-20	**Shatabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** via Moly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	22-00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	3046
5049	23 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4-30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9 30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13 20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21 00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16-05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 00	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6 30	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	3030
3035	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 15	3036
3031	21 05	**Danapur Express**	5 50	3032
3071	22 30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Mon Tue & Thurs Arr Mon Thurs & Fri	7 55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Wed Sat & Sun Arr Sun Wed & Sat	7 55	1172
3327	14 30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4-50	3328
1181	15 25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express** Dep Friday Arr Tuesday	7-55	1182

Sealdah

Up	Time		Time	Dn
3141	13 40	**Tasla-Toesa Express**	6-35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20 35	5658
3153	22-00	**Gaur Express**	5-15	3154
5663	20 00	**Katihar Express**	4-15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18 20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 40	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8 20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15 25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shatabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturda,	21 00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5-15	8033
8030	11 20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16 20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandal (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7004	8 10	**Fuleknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19 40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	8014
8111	6 00	**Ispat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21-25	8112
8005	20 55	**Tiltagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21 40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 10	8016
8007	22 15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	12 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8 30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-05	2822
8045	10 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15-10	8046
8017	16 15	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	6 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express** (via Howrah) Sunday only	16 10	–
	11 05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express** (via Howrah) Saturday only	10 45	2422
6324	22 45	**Guwahati - Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	–
–	11 05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	6321
	14 05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6311	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	–
6316	22 45	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13 45	6315
6520	22 45	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22 15	–
	14 05	**Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2203545-54 for in-coming trains; 2203535-44 for all other information For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203496-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays) In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 135 (regarding reservations) Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3503535-37

The Broken Angel



I can still picture the little Dilaram bazaar as I first saw it 20 years ago Hanging on the hem of Aunt Mariam's sari, I had followed her along the sunlit length of the dusty road and up the wooden staircase to her rooms above the barber's shop

There were number of children playing in the road, and they all stared at me They must have wondered what my dark, black haired aunt was doing with a strange child who was fairer than most She did not bother to explain my presence, and it was several weeks before the bazaar people learned something of my origins

Aunt Mariam, my mother's younger sister, was at that time about 30 She came from a family of Christian converts, originally Muslims of Rampur My mother had married an Englishman, who died while I was still a baby, she herself was not a strong woman, and fought a losing battle with tuberculosis while bringing me up

My sixth birthday was approaching when she died, in the middle of the night, without my being aware of it, and I woke up to experience, for a day, all the terrors of abandonment

But that same evening Aunt Mariam arrived Her warmth, worldliness and carefree chatter gave me the reassurance I needed so badly She slept beside me that night and next morning, after the funeral, took me with her to her rooms in the bazaar This small flat was to be my home for the next year-and-a-half

Before my mother's death I had seen very little of my aunt From the remarks I occasionally overheard, it appeared that Aunt Mariam had, in some indefinable way, disgraced the family. My mother was cold towards her, and I could not help wondering why because a more friendly and cheerful extrovert than Aunt Mariam could hardly be encountered

There were other relatives, but they did not come to my rescue with the same readiness. It was only later, when the financial issues became clearer, that innumerable uncle and aunts appeared on the scene

The age of six is the beginning of an interesting period in the life of a boy, and the months I spent with Aunt Mariam are not difficult to recall She was a joyous, bubbling creature — a force of nature rather than a woman — and every time I think of her I am tempted to put down on paper some aspect of her conversation, or her gestures, or her magnificent physique

She was a strong woman, taller than most men in the bazaar, but this did not detract her from her charms Her voice was warm and deep, her face was a happy one, broad and unlined, and her teeth gleamed white in the dark brilliance of her complexion

She had large, soft breasts, long arms and broad thighs She was majestic, and at the same time she was graceful Above all, she was warm and full of understanding

She called me *Ladla*, her darling, and told me she had always wanted to look after me She had never married I did not, at that age, ponder the reasons for her single state At six I took all things for granted and accepted Mariam for what she was — my benefactress and guardian angel

Her rooms were untidy compared with the neatness of my mother's house. Mariam revelled in untidiness I soon grew accustomed to the topsy-turviness of her rooms and found them comfortable Beds (hers a very large and soft one) were usually left unmade.

A large watercolour hung on a wall, but Mariam's bodice and knickers were usually suspended from it, and I cannot recall the subject of the painting The dressing table was a fascinating place, crowded with all kinds of lotions, mascaras, paints, oil and ointments

Mariam would spend much time sitting in front of the mirror running a comb through her long black hair, or preferably having young Mulia, a servant girl, comb it for her Though a Christian, my aunt retained several Muslim superstitions, and never went into the open with her hair falling loose

Once Mulia came into the rooms with her own hair open "You ought not to leave your hair open Better knot it," said Aunt Mariam

"But I have not yet oiled it, Aunty," replied Mulia "How can I put it up?"

"You are too young to understand There are *jinns* — aerial spirits — who are easily attracted by long hair and pretty black eyes like yours "

"Do *jinns* visit human beings, Aunty?"

"Learned people say so Though I have never seen a *jinn* myself, I have seen the effect they can have on one "

"Oh, do tell about them," said Mulia

"Well, there was once a lovely girl like you, who had a wealth of black hair," said Mariam "Quite unaccountably she fell ill, and in spite of every attention and the best medicines, she kept getting worse. She grew as thin as a whipping post, her beauty decayed, and all that remained of it till her dying day was her wonderful head of hair "

Some nights she had me sleep with her, other nights (I often wondered why) she gave me a bed in an adjoining room, although I much

preferred remaining with her — specially since, on cold January nights, she provided me with considerable warmth.

At first I resented the nocturnal visitors that Aunt Mariam frequently received, their arrival meant that I had to sleep in the spare room with Leila. But when I found that these people were impermanent creatures, mere ships that passed in the night, I learned to put up with them

I seldom saw those men, though occasionally I caught a glimpse of a beard or an expensive waistcoat or white pyjamas. They did not interest me very much, though I did have a vague idea that they provided Aunt Mariam with some sort of income, thus enabling her to look after me

Once, when one particular visitor was very drunk, Mariam had to force him out of the flat

She thrust him out onto the landing, and then he lost his footing and went tumbling downstairs No damage was done, and the man called on Mariam again a few days later, very sober and contrite, and was readmitted to my aunt's favours

Aunt Mariam must have begun to worry about the effect these comings and goings might have on me, because after a few months she began to make arrangements for sending me to a boarding school.

I had not the slightest desire to go to school and raised many objections We had long arguments in which she tried vainly to impress upon me the desirability of receiving an education

"To make a living, my *Ladla*," she said.

"But you have no education," I said, "and you have no difficulty in making a living!"

Mariam threw up her arms in mock despair "Ten years from now I will not be able to make such a living. Then who will support and help me? An illiterate young fellow, or an educated gentleman?"

Finally I succumbed to her arguments and agreed to go to a boarding school.

My incarceration in a boarding school was made more unbearable by the absence of any letters from Aunt Mariam. She could write little more than her name

I was looking forward to my winter holidays and my return to Aunt Mariam and the Dilaram bazaar, but this was not to be During my absence there had been some litigation over my custody, and my father's relatives claimed that Aunt Mariam was not a fit person to be a child's guardian

And so when I left school, it was not to Aunt Mariam's place that I was sent, but to a strange family living in a railway colony near Moradabad I remained with these relatives until I finished school; but this is a different story

I did not see Aunt Mariam again The Dilaram bazaar and my beautiful aunt and the Siamese cat all became part of the receding world of my childhood

I would often think of Mariam, but as time passed she became more remote and inaccessable in my memory It was not until many years later, when I was a young man, that I visited the Dilaram bazaar again I knew from my foster parents that Aunt Mariam was dead

I was anxious to see the Dilaram bazaar and its residents again, but my visit was a disappointment The place had disappeared; or rather it had been swallowed up by a growing city

It was lost in the complex of a much larger market which had sprung up to serve a new government colony The older people had died, and the young ones had gone to colleges or factories or offices in different towns Aunt Mariam's rooms had been pulled down

I found her grave in the little cemetery on the town's outskirts One of her more devoted admirers had provided a handsome gravestone, surmounted by a sculptured angel One of the wings had broken off, and the face was chipped, which gave the angel a slightly crooked smile

But in spite of the broken wing and the smile, it was a very ordinary stone angel and could not hold a candle to my Aunt Mariam, the special guardian angel of my childhood.

(Sanctuary Features)



Aries
March 21 - April 20



Ganesha says, opportunities for advancement because of the December 22 new moon Mercury-Saturn fine sextile placing gives you that extra ounce of popularity and persuasive power to push ahead with rare verve and vigour A sense of achievement this weekend

Taurus
April 21 —May 20



Romance, news, views, collaborations particularly are on the cards A journey with a stopover is near certain, so to say Home influences will be surprisingly strong though you will feel exceptionally adventurous For a few Taureans, this is the beginning of a better lifestyle as such

Gemini
May 21 — June 20



The trend of commitments, assignments, funding, investment, buying and selling will be strong now for the next 21 days Passion and romance steal the show of life f
v
f
v

Cancer
June 21 — July 20



Health, love and job form the trio for Cancerians In your career, you will give your best as the thrust of new challenges and responsibilities catch up with you Many of you will be out for part-time jobs to increase your incomes or an offer too luscious to miss out comes your way Romance blossoms

Leo
July 21 — August 21



The niche you made could be widened a bit The reason is that Mars, energy, connects superbly with Saturn which leads to solid progress Traders, writers, teachers, filmwallahs, sportsmen, commission agents and editors do a laudable job Do shed away all inhibitions and be free from hassles Travel gives joy

Virgo
August 22 — September 22



Negotiations, settlements, new agreements, keep you mighty busy It would be ideal to fan out to people and events, be extroverted, hold parties and dinners, accept invitations,

Libra
September 23 — October 22



This new moon highlights your theory of giving your foes sleepless nights, improving your home, augmenting your sources of making money A home away from home is not altogether ruled out Rentals, taxes, buying, selling, shopping demand your time, talent, money and focus

Scorpio
October 23 — November 22



Exactly one month ago, Saturn regained direct motion, so by now, the good effects of more money, all matters to do with children, travelling, contacting people and extending your hand in friendship will start to give excellent results Success is certain Make plans to travel for this is the right time

Sagittarius
November 23 — December 20



Mercury-Neptune conjunction leads to expansion of business, a cluster opportunities in your work sector, a good deal of self-confidence, strong motivation to succeed and tremendous

Capricorn
December 21 — January 19



Mars in your sign, according to Western astrology will be now with the sun, thus giving a powerful double thrust to your activities in terms of promotion, perks, romance, property, new and varied skills and managerial abilities There is a possibility of a splurge

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18



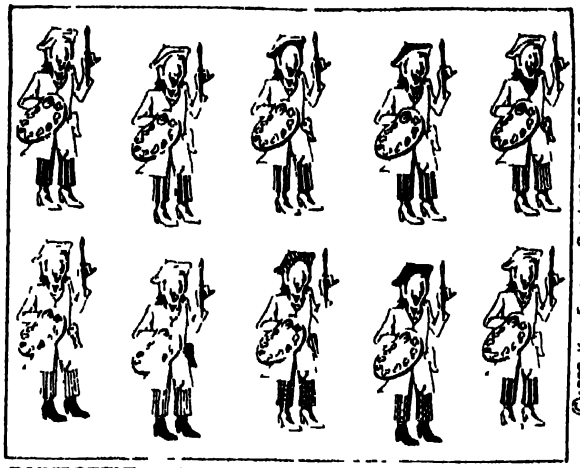
The new moon helps to fuse pleasure and profit rest and immense work, exercise and downright sloth Therefore, it is unique Do expect visitors, strangers, foreigners, relatives, to enliven your life It would be wise to get your travel kit ready Collaborations and ceremonies are certainly on the anvil

Pisces
February 19 — March 20



Venus-Pluto excellent positioning helps you to remove the blocks of your mind Revitalising and regeneration is foretold Important decisions will be taken, definitely so, within just 23 days it will help

JUNIOR WHIRL HAL KAUFMAN



PAINT SET! Two of these artists are twins Which two is for you to decide Be sure to study all details carefully

YOUR CALL! "The _____is the greatest nuisance among conveniences, the greatest convenience among nuisances," said Robert Lynd Of what did he speak?

The telephone



WATERED DOWN BIRD WORDS

THOSE who know their sea and marsh birds, and also know their vowels, should have an easy time here To identify birds, simply insert missing vowels below

1 G-ll 11 P_tr_]
2. H_r_n 12. P_l_c_n
3 _gr_t. 13 G_nn_t.
4 Cr_n_ 14._spr_y
5 _b_s 15 C_ t
6 St_rk. 16 P_ff_n
7 Sn_p_. 17. B_tt_rn
8. R_ _] 18. Shr_k_.
9 T_rn 19 Fl_v_r.
10 St_lt 20 P_ng__n

1 u2 o,o 3 E,o 4 e,e 5.1L6.o7 ue8 e,19 e
10 11 e,e 12 e,,e 13 e,e 14 O,e 15 o,o 16
u l 17 Le 18 Le 19 o,e 20 e u l

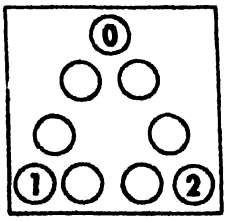
Nine Count! Object of this exercise is to see that the nine circles of the triangle below contain the digits 0-8 in such a manner that digits in circles on each of the sides have a total of 13

Dogits, 0,1 and 2 are already in place, leaving just six more to be inserted

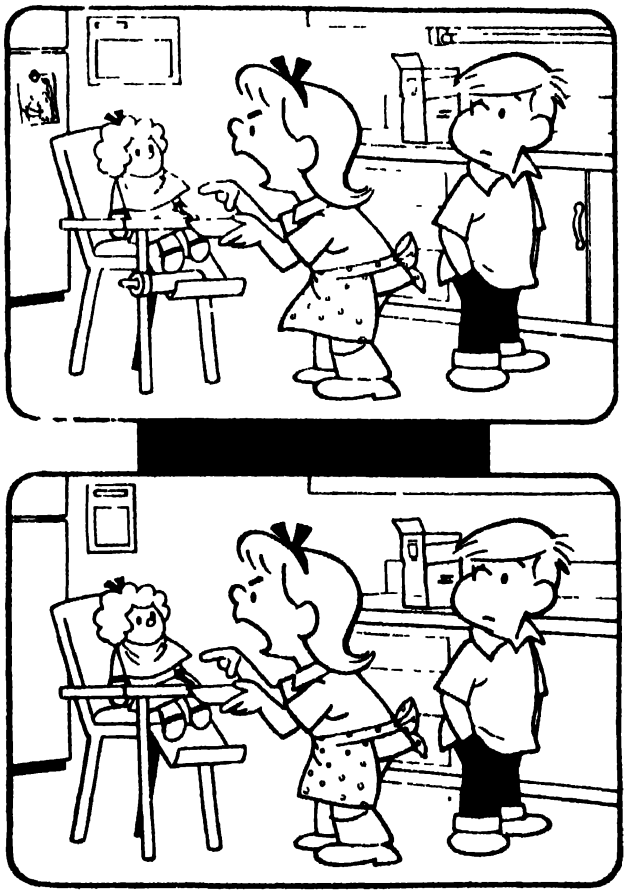
Clue Two missing digits on one of the three sides are even numbers

Try to puzzle it out in ywo minutes or less

Top, clorkwise, 0,8,3,2,4,6,1 5,7 is one way



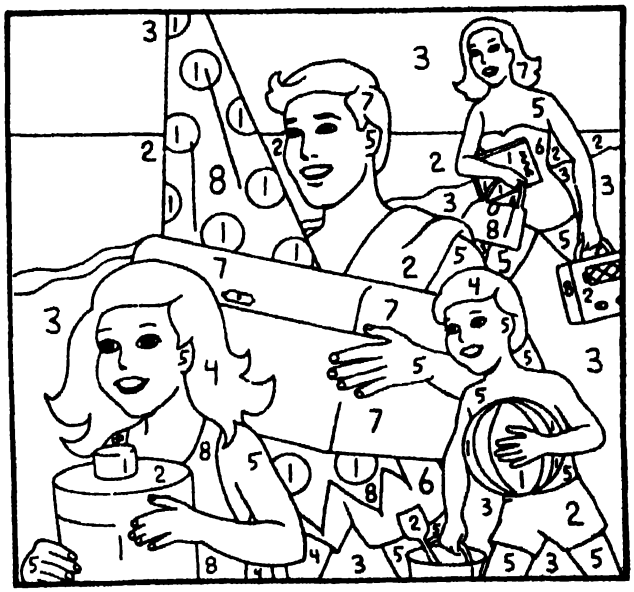
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Drawing is missing 2 Wall oven is smaller 3 Eollie is miss ng 4 Apron is different 5 Light is missing 6 Door is missing

FUNSPOT



TASK FORCE! Everyone's pitching in on this trip to the beach Apply colors by number 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

INTRENCH

- - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 58 points.

Possible twosome Rent, chin

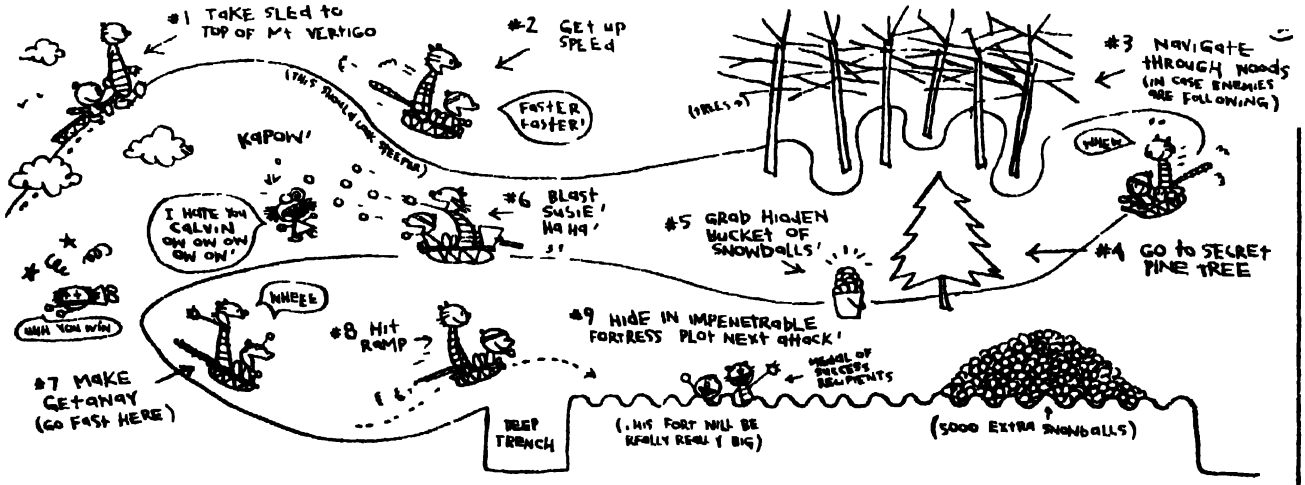
COMICS

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES ■ WATTERSON

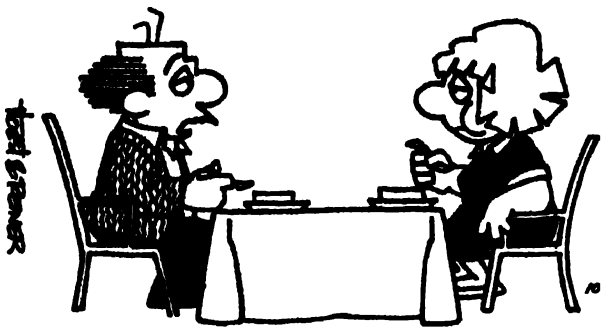
"OPERATION KAPOW!" (CALVIN GENIUS + MASTERMIND, HOBBES CREATIVE CONSULTANT - CARD



calvin and Hobbes
by WATTERSON



THE LOCKHORNS



"YOU SURE KNOW YOUR ONIONS, LORETTA ... WHICH KIND DID YOU PUT IN THIS CARROT CAKE?"



"LEROY'S HAVING HIS OWN PRIVATE OKTOBERFEST."

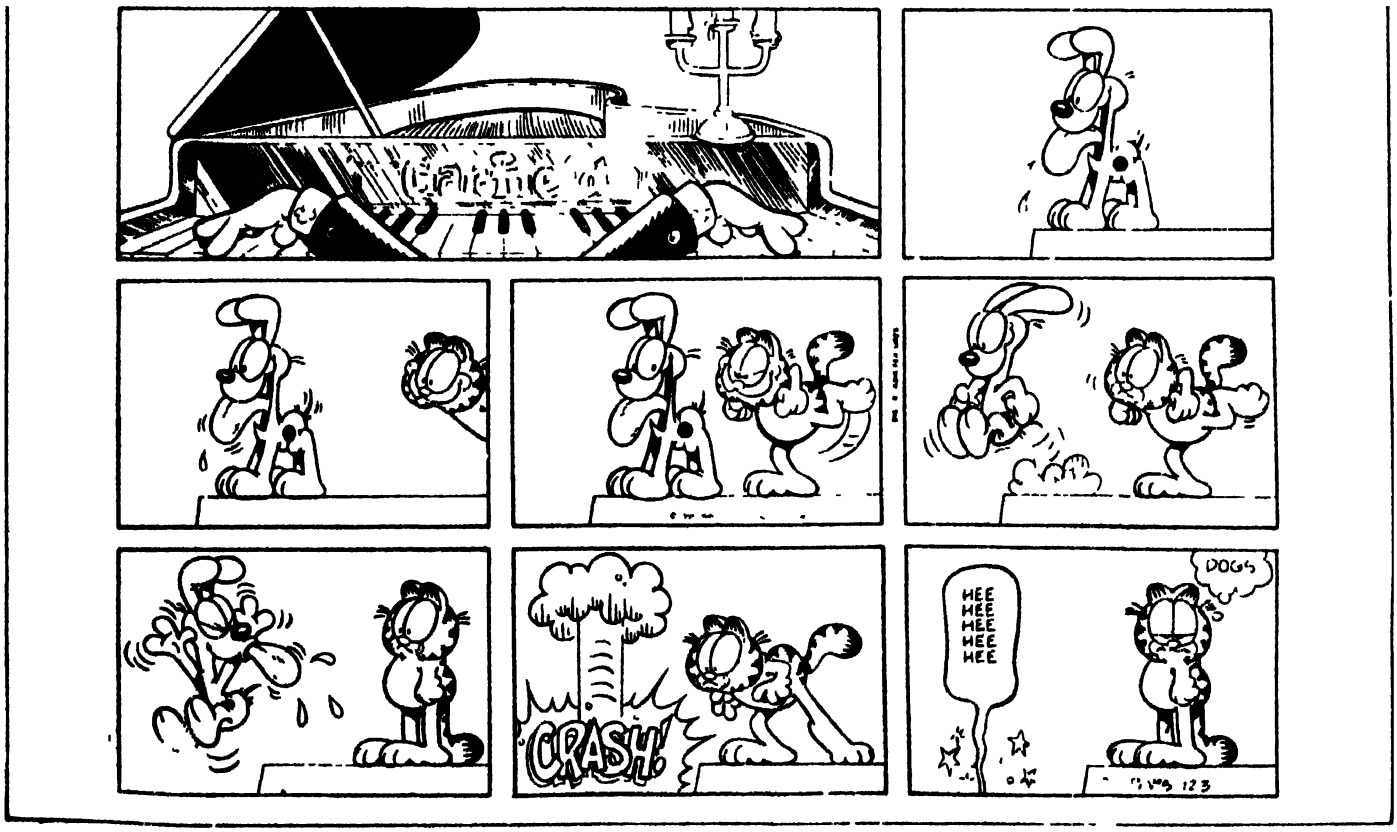


"IT DIDN'T COST US ANYTHING, LEROY ... I TOOK THE MONEY OUT OF OUR SAVINGS."

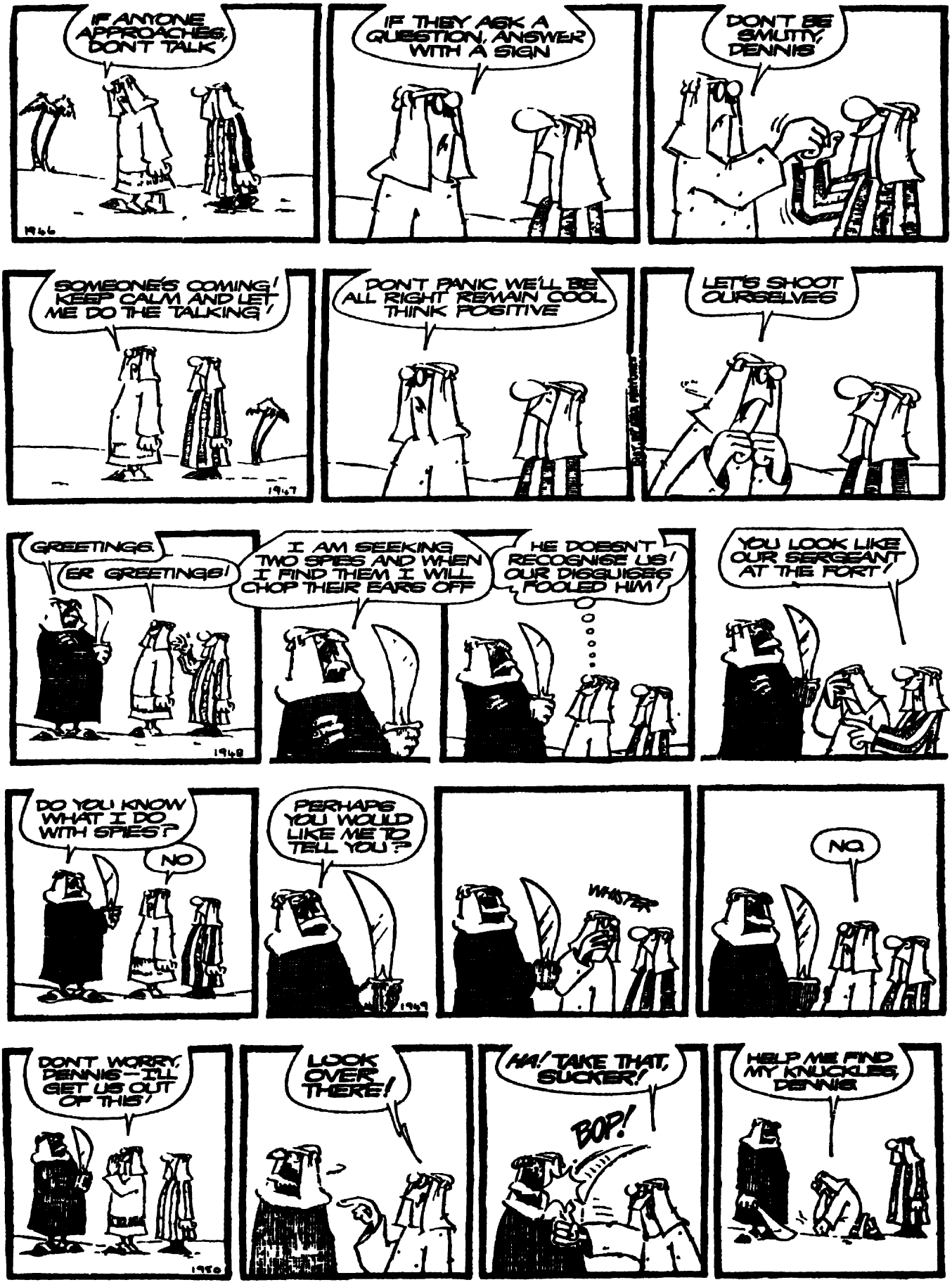


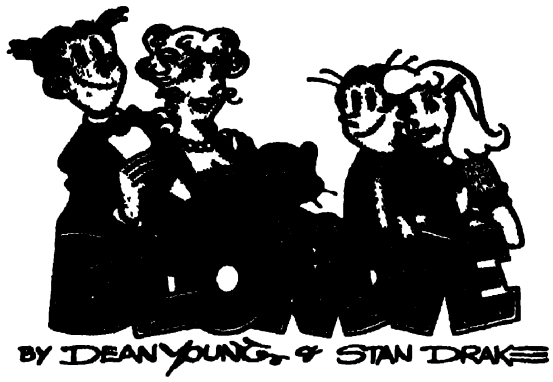
"I'M GOING TO CALL YOUR MOTHER WITH OUR NEW VOICE DIALING ... DIAL 'BIG MOUTH.'"

GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP




BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE



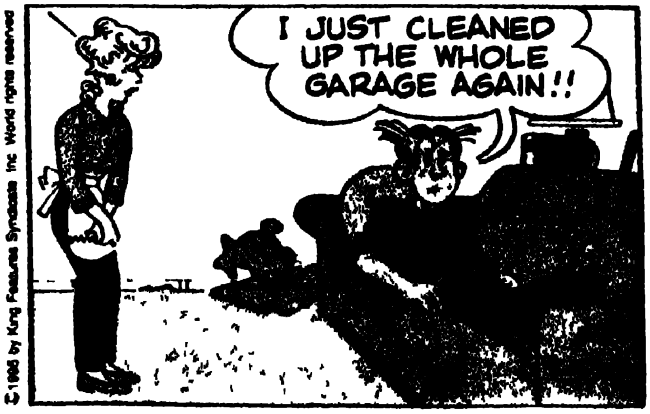

THANK HEAVENS! THIS IS THE LAST LOAD OF JUNK!


CLEANING UP THE GARAGE TURNED OUT TO BE A BIGGER JOB THAN I THOUGHT
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LITTLE NAP?


Z


Z
28


HONEY? WHAT ARE YOU GRUMBLING ABOUT?
JEEZ! FOR PETE'S SAKE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!


I JUST CLEANED UP THE WHOLE GARAGE AGAIN!!
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IN SANTA LAND

Santa's Lapland home has a workshop, sleds, a post office and even the red-nosed reindeer, Rudolph, dancing attendance. ***Tim Metcalfe*** *on this merging of fantasy and reality*

As every child knows, Santa Claus lives in Finland — or Lapland, to be precise — and every Christmas, his home in the snowy depths of the northern forest becomes a hive of activity.

Santa receives at least half a million letters a year from children in 150 countries from Hong Kong, the Japanese islands, India and Tierra del Fuego to Hawaii, Poland, Ireland and the United States

Even letters marked simply 'To Santa Claus' without a mention of the street, city or country, find their way to the Santa Claus Post Office in Santa Claus Land, Arctic Circle, SF96930 Rovaniemi in Finland



Santa gets a thank you kiss

QUITE A GIVEAWAY!

Leading psychologists have unpacked the secrets of Christmas giving and, when it comes to personality pointers, they have found it is all in the cards.

■The ultimate sexy card must have several burning candles on it — symbols of male virility. The Christmas pudding — which often features on such candle-laden cards — is the candle's feminine counterpart and symbolises the earth mother. People who send this card are sensual, joyous and outgoing.

■People who send one side of the sexy candle-pudding equation, either candles on their own or just the Christmas pud, are probably childless. They may think they want children one day but not yet.

■The red of ribbons and candles is the colour of vitality, health and sex. The sender of such a card is outgoing and optimistic with an often uncomplicated nature who likes to be needed.

■Father Christmas designs point to the sociable types. ! people are not only fun-loving, but seem slightly aggressive because they are so uninhibited. They are usually boisterous.

■Personal printed cards appeal to those members of society who think they're a bit better than the next door neighbours. They can seem standoffish and consider themselves just that little bit better than the rest of us.

■Images of carol singers or choir boys appeal to puritans. They're usually arrogant and dogmatic types, tending to live a very well ordered life.

■Some cards involving tasteful [illegible] of frontiments or] buildings usually come from people lacking who don't want to offend people.] tably, they fully believe in establishment values.

■The [illegible] seasonal values the card has a ge from the senders simply because they have no time to write a personal note inside.

■Robins or reindeer indicate the romantic. The senders of these cards are usually quiet and gentle folk who tend to be a little insecure. They like to be on their own with a close friend and don't care too much for

■People who pick Dickensian scenes in the snow are usually conservative and status conscious. Tending to reject modern values, they idealise a bygone era.

Their idea of love is romantic and affectionate without too much passion.

■The peace card — usually one [illegible] of peace or similar [illegible] indicates the sender has a [illegible] to the occult.

Such people are well [illegible] and [illegible]

■You may get [illegible] who [illegible] the [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Here, in a village which boasts its own airport, an army of Santa's workers answer letters all year round.

Each Christmas also brings thousands of tourists to visit Santa's workshop and Heritage Home.

Visitors can take a sled ride with Santa's reindeer (led by Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, of course), mail Christmas cards from Santa's own post office and listen to Christmas bells and songs beneath the blue, winter light of Lapland

Amidst this magic, Santa Claus faithfully sits in his rocking chair, smiling and telling children stories about the wonders of Christmas

"I often receive letters from children asking me whether I really exist," says Santa "I am always a little startled first Then I pick up my pen and invite the children to Finnish Lapland, where I live an active life all year round "

Santa Claus Land is a special place There, reality and dreams walk hand in hand and it is sometimes difficult to tell where one ends and the other begins

British Airways once flew a group of children from London to the village by Concorde, which must have been the ultimate Christmas experience



Santa with a group of young visitors

In Santa's workshop they would have discovered a huge map of the world and the addresses of children written down in 16 thick books Next door is a gift shop, wrapping room, storehouse, reindeer stable and a shed full of sleds

Santa and his wife, Mrs Claus, live in the southern end of the house They have a spacious, cosy kitchen with bright rugs on the floor

Sitting in his rocking chair in front of a log fire, Santa wears a checked flannel shirt, trousers with suspenders and woollen socks with red stripes as he reads letters from children

This is how the legend of Santa Claus continues in Lapland, although to Finns he is much more than a bringer of gifts

He is a myth, a fascinating and homely figure incorporating the medieval legend of St Nicholas, the protector of children and the poor, and the benevolent forest elves of ancient fairytales

While the Christmas gift-giving tradition began around two centuries after the Three Wise Men brought presents to Jesus Christ, the figure of Santa did not emerge until the 18th century in Europe, when he materialised on postcards

He was wearing a green or red mantle with a sack of presents on his back and a bunch of twigs in his hand, just in case he encountered naughty children

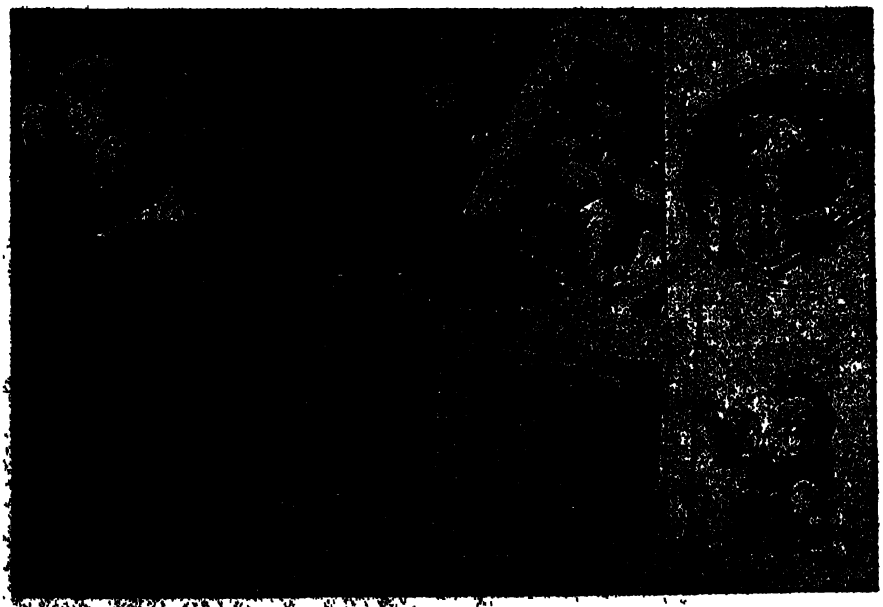
Interestingly, the original Finnish Santa wore grey, homespun clothes

His red jacket and trousers were introduced in the late 19th century as a result of German and American influences, but the artist Thomas Nast was probably more responsible than any other for Santa's modern image

Nast illustrated the poem, *The Night Before Christmas*, with a friendly, potbellied old man who dropped down chimneys with presents for children

The caricature has remained more or less the same ever since, and the story of Santa Claus is still the most enduring and beloved legend of our time

(*Asia Features*)



POETRY

Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra



Tremendu Bikash Chak

Feathered Beauty

She was weighed in kilos
To add to human kilos
She ws reluctant and howling
What noise! The buyer was growling
Every feather will be plucked
She will be sold without a dress
Still she is dressed!
Your lips smacking
And fingers licking –

For her, the clock had stopped ticking

Kalpana Sachar

Dreams of a Queen

Just a beggar maid
with the dreams of a queen.
The whip lashes of reality
bruise my nakedness,
I'm seen
as an escapist

Pleading guidance,
seeking assurance,
Demanding solace,
I travel into my world of dreams

I reign supreme there;
and a thousand faces in awe stare
at me, for all I'm worth
And in my dream
a faceless crowd applauds
for a nameless cause
And it is all, all of it for me –
The Queen

Just then a pain
rushes through my arm.
A raw wound,
The whip-lash of reality;
In desperation I scream.
I am still just another beggar
With a queen's dream.

Srinka Mukherjee

Requiem

Distant yet clear
Now sounds the requiem,
To the buried years of my youth,

I sigh for the halcyon years,
Idle pockets emptied of dreams
But the phoenix cannot rise,

The spring runs dry,
It cannot matter now
If in the night a baby or a corpse is born

The blood still beats,
But slower now and thicker,

Uncertain, I rise
And grope for your hand

But your eyes have turned
To tunnels, dry and shadowless

Alone now I sit
in my black
Mourning dress,
To smile, drink tea and wag
A thin finger at the world
Uncaring whether after tonight,
The dawn breaks into applause or silence

Monica RoyChowdhury

Movement

Just because days and nights come and go
nights and days come and go

do not, for God's sake, think that babies are not wailing
and everything is 100 per cent just and right with everyone

There are not many who think so, the made-to-order set-up has them in its thrall,



egging them on to think
that any station is a station,
that any life is worth living.

It does not occur to
them that the Palace-on-Wheels
whistles through lands
barren to meet faces that
are paid to manipulate
their furrows to look like a smile,

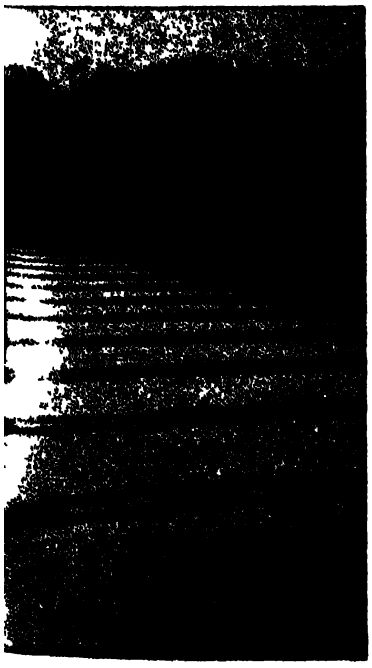
but the elastic furrows
contract back to sinister sadness

the moment the doors
are shut to open at the next station

It does not occur to
them that the motion
that cabins and confines them in the niche
is no motion in the first place, but a movement

that takes them
nowhere, for the wheels
are circles now,

ensconced on earth with spokes starting
skywards.



Asim Roy

Then, how does it matter

if computers travel with computer in safe niches?

Pramod Kumar Tripathy

Assam: The mystery within

You call it a bottleneck,
emotionally though, we are

We are destined to be a network of islands
We know ourselves the least.

A ball of ants,
struggling hard in a whirlpool

It is worth the struggle
in floods around

Flood of the mighty Brahmaputra,
Kalong and Diphalu rivulets,
flood of countless people across the border

We are head-hunters by choice
Poetry is a luxury here

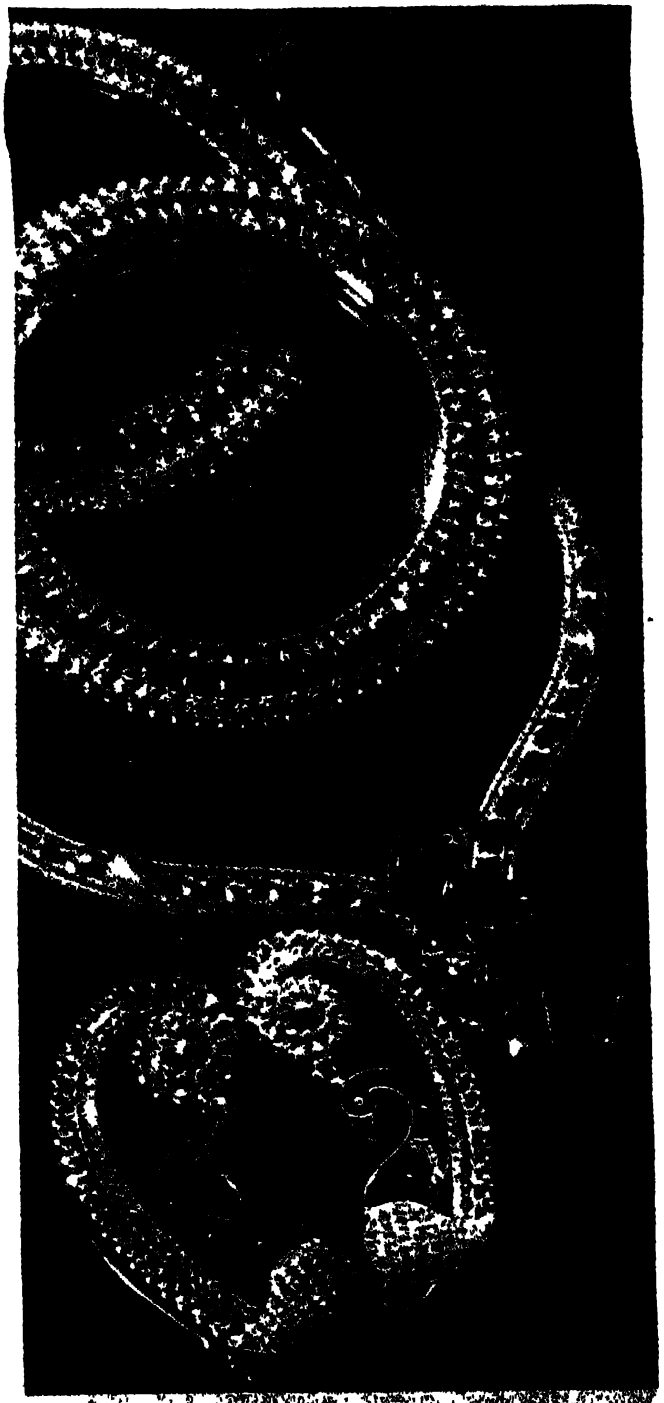
Humanity a word of a bygone era,
We kill our catch for fear of being killed

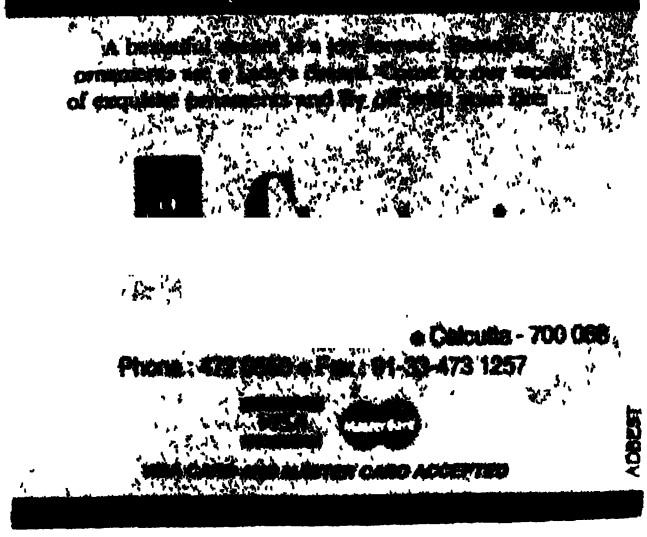
The rule of the jungle indeed!

It is a poem meant for you,
the amused crowd around.

A poem in the killing field,
Isn't it a mystery indeed?

Apurba Saikia




Calcutta - 700 069
Phone: [illegible] Fax: 91-33-473 1257
ADDEST

SANTA CLAUS ***will be with you at midnight. And don't let him go away, kids. Give him a big hug and hold on to the myth tightly.***

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
A child's expression when he sees the stocking I leave behind for him.
What is your greatest fear?
That some kid will pull off my false beard by mistake.
Who or what has been the greatest influence in your life?

What is your most precious possession?

My huge sack, full of dreams

What brings tears to your eyes?

The thought that those twinkles [in the eyes of kids] will soon become cybertwinkles

Snow (and sweets).
What do you dislike most in others?
Their long faces.
What do you dislike most in yourself?
That I get to work only once in 365 days
What is your most precious possession?
My huge sack, full of dreams
What objects do you always carry?
Laughter. Ho-ho-ho! And that, too, Rudolph carries, I don't have to, ho-ho-ho!

What makes you most depressed?
A pin prick at the balloon tied on my stomach!
What do you dislike most on your appearance?
The clever look of education that sometimes comes upon my face.
What is your favourite word?
Don't you know? Ho-ho-ho!
What is your favourite journey?
Anywhere on my sleigh, pulled by my red-nosed reindeer friend.
What is your favourite dream?
That there are stars on the earth, too.
What is your nightmare?
Pushing myself down the chimney But that's okay
What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Kids, specially those dear little five-year-old girls with bouncy ponytails
What is your source of sustenance?
The smiles on their faces, the twinkle in their eyes, and their refusal to believe that Santa is a fantasy
On what occasions do you lie?
On the other 364 days



How would you like to die?

Surrounded only by children; but that's not death, that's life...

What is your greatest regret?
Growing up and losing my innocence
What has been your happiest moment?
Dennis the Menace singing, 'But I love you, Santa!'
What brings tears to your eyes?
The thought that those twinkles will soon become cybertwinkles.
How do you relax?
By counting the stars in the sky
What do you envy most in others?
Their ability to just dream.
How would you like to be remembered?
As the only truth in the world.
How would you like to die?
Surrounded only by children; but that's not death, that's life...



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The Telegraph

31 DECEMBER 1995

POST MORTEM

We Love You, Yeah-Yeah-Yeah...!

■ I belong to the post-Beatles generation and one of my greatest regrets is that I could not be a part of the wild exuberance of the early Cavern Club days, the psychedelia of *Sgt Peppers* or the grim finality of *Let It Be* ('Coming Together', November 5)

Moreover, it was infinitely depressing when, some years ago, asked to comment on a possible 'reunion', George Harrison had discounted the idea, saying, "Let sleeping dogs lie"

Yet, less than a year after the release of *Live at the BBC*, the prospect of the Beatles coming together no longer precedes a big question mark. We may not get those eight incredible years back. Maybe the absence of John will show and hurt like a gaping wound. But whichever way it is, the worldwide focus on pop music's greatest phenomenon is a crying need today — to give music a fresh lease of life, and most important, to bring music back to where it belonged in the hearts of the people.

Neelanjan Bhattacharyya,
Calcutta



Mahavir Sharma/Sangbad Pratidin

John Lennon: Beat of the Sixties

■ Rumours of a possible Beatles reunion were rife in rock circuit for quite some time, but those who remember the bitterness of the split had grave doubts.

Ever since he hit middle age Paul McCartney had distanced himself from the world of pop and had concentrated on gaining acceptance as a classical composer.

But two things appear to irritate him now. Michael Jackson owning the publishing rights of the Lennon-McCartney catalogue and Lennon being dubbed the driving musical genius of the group.

But whatever be the bitterness the coming together of Paul, George and Ringo will bring back the beat of the Sixties.

Manoj Kumar Jain,
Shyamnagar (W.B.)

■ At the end of *the long and winding road*, finally *here comes the sun*! The fab three will *come together*.

We were *crying, waiting, hoping*, screaming *'Get back'*. Some said, *"I'm a loser, let it be"*. *I just don't understand* how they *slow down*.

Some other guy was riding. *You've got to hide your love away*, they said.

After a *hard day's night yesterday*, the Magazine pressed, *"Do you want to know a secret?"* The cover was of a *band on the run*.

Help! Lonesome tears in *my eyes* choked me. *Tell me what you see*, it beckoned. My *rubber soul* had a *ticket to ride*. It was like *a taste of honey*. I was *glad all over*.

"I'll be on my way," I said, *"to get a shot of rhythm and blues"*. This is not just *a day in the life*. I imagine it's a lifetime!

Roll over Beethoven. I want to *twist and shout* here, there and everywhere!

Dyutiman Bhattacharya,
Howrah

■ For all Beatles fans like me what could have been better news than the one announcing their reunion after 25 long years?

But will it be the same Beatles that stole our hearts two decades ago?

Priyali Roy,
Calcutta

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THE MID-NINETIES has seen a new breed of Indians emerging from the woodwork. A look at six samplers, tongue in cheek and one eyelid closed.

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A mega book-cum-film project orchestrated by Dr Michael Tobias is on its way. A preview.

The New Indian

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Cover: Krishnendu Chak

COVER STORY

DISCOVERY OF INDIANS

Eureka! says ***Anurag Mathur,*** *of the New Breed*

Illustrations: Sekhar Roy

Bureaucrat

Mid-way through the Nineties and we have been faced with some New Indians who have emerged from the hitherto unknown crevices Here is a sample six

In what is called, presumably sincerely, the good old days, it wasn't difficult to spot a bureaucrat He wore a shirt, a pair of trousers and an overworked look All these usually featured lots of creases

The ones regarded as sartorially splendid boasted of safari suits, with forests of pens prominently tucked into the most unusual places Unexpectedly, hairy arms were a frequently exercised fashion statement, too

But these days, behold the frequent dazzler By daytime, he's the normal, harried, over-worked executive Let night fall though and both the person and the personality adopt quite unex-



pected traits Then he is spotted, quite the epitome of ethnic splendour, at some suitably elegant soiree

Western style suits are simply unacceptable and a dhoti may make *mantriji* suspect, if word was to get back to him, that his blue-eyed boy was nurturing secret sympathies for the BJP Besides, who has the legs for it and what if a strong wind was to blow? The result might equal one occasion when I sat behind a gaggle of college girls examining a group photograph of our most distinguished RSS leaders in their best shorts attending a *shakha*

.You will scarcely believe this, but not only were the flower of our youth completely uninterested in the meaningful contribution to the debate on *swadeshi* that the respected leaders had enunciated, but they were busily judging the legs of the leaders sticking out of their admittedly woefully ill-fitting shorts And this they were doing with a scandalous lack of reverence

So today's stylistically relevant bureaucrat settles for the middle path of a kurta-pyjama and an air of weary grace, with the slight aura of the Kunwar Sahib, as though if a court painter was to capture him in a portrait, it would be with a rose held nonchalantly between two fingers



The Sexy Social Worker

Scholars of the species understand completely that the reference here is not to the rich housewife dabbling in some improved form of sanitised service It is to the full-time devotee, who wears the regulation uniform of khadi and a bindi of a size that makes you expect aliens to emerge from it

There is nothing overtly sexy about the way she dresses, though the saree could have been tied higher and the blouse perhaps not provide quite so much of what the Government of India, refering to other sectors, approvingly calls "transparency in all matters," but there is unquestionably something about her

One is her air of being a slightly humble Madonna The star, of course, not the deity This derives from the fact that she doesn't face much competition in the sphere of sex appeal while helping construct rural toilets, so she gains the aura that people who get gazed at with lengthy and ill-concealed ardour, often acquire

Still, a scholar, spoiled by the splendour of metropolitan nubility, may not recognise her directly, but spots her watching the reactions of her male colleagues One is that their sincerity intensifies The second is that they become laudably anxious to leave for lengthy stints in veritable hell holes, though naturally in her company



The Glamorous Journalist

We must differentiate here between the male and the female form of the species The male, I must announce sorrowfully, doesn't possess glamour intrinsically He acquires it from the job that he is holding If it is currently of the stratospheric variety, then all sorts of interesting people hover around him, listen intently to his views, ladies with dangling cigarettes who emit powerful perfumes give him sidelong glances and peal merrily at his jokes and he is asked several times every hour during the course of an average dinner party about the composition of the next Cabinet reshuffle, the exact date of the midterm election and his infallible prediction of the number of seats each party will win

Based on this, his interlocutor seems to suggest, he will wager his life's savings, his wife's jewellery and his children's future However, when he leaves his job, things, to understate the matter heroically, change

But the glamorous journalist (female) never goes out of style It is not strictly looks, several are unnervingly unconcerned, it's not youth, journalism is genuinely one profession where women get more sought after as they get older, it's a combination of fame, power and some sort of perceived passion that cocoons them in the aura of glamour It seems to outlast their jobs

They acquire satellites at every party who hover tentatively and ingratiatingly around them, invariably male Women who know of them keep a wary eye on them and a much more severe one on their own husbands Politicians keep a safe distance or exclaim with pleasure when they see them They are not generally so cordial with male journalists with whom they may have disagreed It is too early to speculate on what form the considerably aged version will take, since the glamorous variety is a fairly recent phenomenon, but it's added a generally welcome dimension to journalism

The Well-off TV Star

I wonder if you know this, but Eskimos apparently have something like 14 names for snow The reason being that if somebody in an igloo in the North Pole asks someone what the weather is like outside and he says, ' It is snowing," it is not very helpful since it is always snowing You have to specify the kind of snow

Similarly, we will have to invent gradations of glitter to differentiate between stars, all of whom now appear on TV There's the Bachchan super nova on one extreme, and the

heroic ladies who read the 'News For the Hearing Impaired' on the other Both appear on the same medium, both in theory are equal stars

At one point the difference between a movie and a TV star was very simple A movie star made a lot of money and the TV star chased after buses since he could not even afford a scooter Today the erstwhile impecunious TV person is invariably also a producer and negotiates skilfully with movie stars for a role in his forthcoming mega serial which Mandi House bosses have approved in record time

Running together after fleeing buses works wonderfully in creating a sense of brotherhood that survives the arrival of progressively larger Marutis in the home of at least the TV star. And in evaluating starriness, you cannot forget that more people watch a person reading the news on DD during one evening, than have watched *Sholay* over the last decade-and-a-half put together



The Consultant

Earlier, you never heard of them Now you wonder how people managed without them And they are not people who could not get jobs, in fact, quite the reverse The real boom seems to have been in what are called manpower consultants

Though earlier the name referred to the sort of gentleman who crammed people into an airless container while despatching them to a decade of slavery somewhere, these days they are much less obvious Several perform a valuable role, though there are some innovative ploys like sending letters to everyone from a filched data base for advertised jobs and if someone on the list gets one, then demanding their rupee of flesh

But the day of the consultant seems to have barely begun As competition intensifies, more and more specialists will be necessary, one day perhaps approaching the heights of a gentleman I met at a youth hostel in a Scandinavian country

"I am assisting Dr So-And-So," he introduced himself proferring his card "The doctor is a maker of artistic films Please to follow "

I trotted along, eager to be discovered and was impressed by the grave demeanour of the doctor I was then led to the female lead who was await-



ing her co-star under the lights, before the cameras, with palpable boredom and without a stitch of clothing I regretfully declined this golden opportunity, even though the above mentioned consultant desperately assured me that the film would never be shown in Europe



Former Models

Models have been around for long enough now for an entire caste to have emerged of former models They are characterised by a signal inability to adjust to a life where people do not gaze at them longingly any more And they never were famous enough to be instantly recognisable, so most people who see them in parties and at markets, imagine they are some half-forgotten friend's wife

They never made enough money to enable them to sit at home, insulated from the amnesia of the world, so they flit about in increasingly desperate garbs, seeking business from gentlemen who want a name to drop, or revenge on them for their near tame and their own obscurity Being formerly famous can be a terrible cross to carry

Some disappear so completely that it is as though they go away to a remote and hidden elephant's graveyard of models A few do smashingly well, particularly the somewhat younger lot who anticipate and plan for a career beyond their modelling years The startling thing is how soon they soar, peak and plunge It is as though they become former models even before they have quite completed the process of establishing themselves as successful models. ■

THEY ALSO SERVE

JOY RIDE

Atma Prakash Goel has been travelling ticketless for the last 20 years to teach the Delhi Transport Corporation a lesson

For many, ticketless travel is an art and evading the assistant ticket inspector, a skill But for one man it is a Cause

Atma Prakash Goel may have set, and perhaps broken, all records in ticketless travel—but only to prove a point He looks harmless enough Anywhere in his late 40s and early 50s, this squat man has DTC officials squirming in their shoes

Battle lines between Goel and the Delhi Transport Corporation were drawn in 1975 That is when Goel had taken an oath not to buy himself a ticket until he set the house of the monopolistic bus service in order Besides "terrorising" the DTC with his corrective stance, Goel has compelled the commercially sunk corporation to cough up a tidy sum of money against damages, the latest being Rs 500

A qualified and practising chartered accountant he culls out time to give the DTC a run for its money—or is it bus routes?

Disgusted with the attitude of the officials, likeminded individuals like Goel formed what they christened the Akhil Bhartiya Yatri Sangh in 1979 with Goel as president His grouse is only against DTC "Even the much dreaded Red Line buses function more professionally than DTC"

Goel strongly feels that someone has to drive home the fact that the commuter is 'not to be taken for the proverbial ride He goes by the book and states that the DTC has been ensnared by its own convoluted set of rules and regulations "It is not a free ride that I seek I make it a point 'not' to buy a ticket when DTC conductors fail to deliver one to me at my seat It is to bring to book some such lazy government officials"

He explains, "The DTC rule book clearly spells out 'that every passenger travelling in a vehicle of the DTC on being requested by a conductor *on* duty in that vehicle shall declare to the conductor the destination of the journey he intends to perform or has performed in the vehicle and shall pay, on demand, to the conductor the fare for the journey' If the conductor fails to approach me for a ticket I refuse to go to him to procure one," says Goel with determination



Rajesh Kumar

Atma Prakash Goel: Stickler for rules

And it does not end at that Alighting from a bus and accosted by the ATI normally spells bad news, harassment that eventually ends in the greasing of greedy palms But it is not so with Goel Well versed in DTC stipulations he refuses to be held answerable to the ATI

"I have the law on my side The DTC manual says that if at a time a passenger alights from the vehicle and does not possess a ticket for the journey performed, or fails to produce the ticket required to do so by the conductor it shall be presumed that he has travelled without a ticket The ATI who is not the conductor, therefore, has no authority vested in him to take a passenger into custody or to detain him. And the conductor, in any case, has defaulted from his duty."

A point that proved to be the crux of the matter in a case that dragged on from 1982-95 It was on October 7 this year that the DTC mobile court declared that the ATI or TI is not competent or authorised to arrest or detain any person under rule 3 of DRTA (Contravention of Regulations) Penalty Rules, 1954, which is only a non-cognizable one Goel considers this a landmark judgment as the magistrate, Inderjit Singh declared that the complaint filed by the AI before the mobile court was in violation of the mandatory statutory provisions of law

And this is just among the 15 other cases that Goel has fought and won However, this is the most long drawn one as Goel had to make nearly hundred appearances at the mobile courts Goel views this as a victory not for himself but for the travelling public at large

Concurrently, there are 10 cases pending against the DTC that have been filed by Goel and he likes it to be known that to date he has not lost a single case

The baton may just pass on While his children had earlier protested vehemently against his preoccupations with litigations, they too have realised the validity of their father's crusade today Travelling by DTC buses themselves, they have woken up to the travails of a DTC ride Bharati, his 26-year-old daughter, has filed a case against an ATI which she hopes will teach the overbearing ATIs not to pinch Rs 10 from a school girl's lunch box!

Samita Bhatia

EXTRACT

With a Little





BY BIDYUT SARKAR

Extracted from
I Man Called Khushwant Singh
Edited by Rohini Singh, UBSPD; Rs 250

hushwant Singh's detractions of the dead are malicious and petty Thankfully, the subject never gets to know about them Surviving relatives and friends are naturally shocked and often ignorant about the private moment when Singh claims he discovered the truth about the departed person There is no occasion for debate The public's opinion only comes into play when, for instance, Singh describes a person like the deceased but large-in-life movie gossip queen Devyani Chaubal as 'eminently bedworthy' The point at issue is likely to be Singh's taste both as regards women and in general

Singh as a gadfly biting living things, however, deserves to be taken more seriously Literature and art give meaning to the life of a people and need appreciation as much as a critical environment to grow When Singh made, on a visit to Shillong in the summer of 1995, what he later characterised as 'a casual remark' about the quality of Tagore's poems, novels and short stories, there was a suggestion that it was all done for a laugh, if only the Bengalis had "the gift of laughter" One expected that he had it in him to carry on the debate with some measure of earnestness Disappointingly, he kept on changing its terms and shifting his own position

Tagore, however, soon faded into the background Instead, Bengalis became the focus of attention — their hero worship of Netaji Subhas Bose, special regard for Satyajit Ray, their purported skills in soccer, their endogenous food habits of eating at home and not in restaurants, and so on Singh was a veritable flibbertigibbet, hopping (mad) from point to point without stopping to think it all out It is not a mere coincidence that Singh swears by the aphorism that the great thing about living in a democracy is that you can say what you think without thinking

"Yes, I don't think Tagore was a *good* novelist or short story writer," Singh initially insisted in his column while referring to the furore he had set off "We have many who handle these genres better than he did," he added Later, seeking to contain the trouble he had made for himself, he wrote that he did not regard Tagore as a *great* novelist or short story writer The difference between *good* and *great* was one escape hatch, the other was a garrulous Indian's defence mechanism when caught in his own web of words "I had been grossly misquoted Words had been taken out of context," he pleaded in a public statement

At the same time Singh wrote in his column, "I am sure that in ten years from now, people will concede that I had the right to say what I said" Significantly, he stressed his right to say anything, not that he might yet be proved right in what he had said after the heat of the moment passed The libertarian in Singh cherishes the right to be heard rather than the right to be taken seriously He even went so far as to assert that the state has no right to interfere with public morality If models Madhu Sapre and Milind Soman wished to do what they chose with their bodies and display them in the raw, that was indeed their business, who were we to complain, Singh postulated

Yet, Singh has not always been an advocate of the writer's unrestricted freedom of thought and expression As Penguin India's consulting editor, he was responsible, more than any governmental authority, for killing at birth the Indian edition of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* On that occasion, he was right to have anticipated the likely consequences of publishing the book in a volatile society where pure literary merit and commercial interests need to be weighed against



Satyajit Ray The only Indian to have won a full Oscar

social and religious factors In Calcutta, however, it was the turn of the local Sikh-Punjabi community to advise Singh to apply the same sort of prudence in his comments on Tagore and the Bengalis

Not that there was any danger to the Sikhs, who had fared better in West Bengal than in any other part of the country during the 1984 spiral violence following Indira Gandhi's assassination, or even to Khushwant Singh personally A month before the Shillong uproar, he had praised the Bengalis in his column stating that "they did not have an iota of prejudice or resentment against non-Bengalis who have settled in their state", which was markedly different from what was happening in some other cities and regions He called them "a wise people who are remarkably free of envy" They, of course, needed the necessities of life, which including having the means to "buy a book or two every month" They did not indulge in the "childish gimmickry' of changing place names Singh had Bombay-turned-Mumbai in mind but he probably saw a similar change coming to New Delhi, too, at the instigation of his friend, Mani Shankar Aiyar

It would be a folly then to call Singh anti-Bengali More likely, he titillates himself by saying things that hurt the self-esteem of the Bengalis but are in well calculated probability not going to take any skin off his nose It would do him no harm, he reckons, and get him much hype in the bargain The fear of his head being chopped off in Calcutta is the kind of set reaction whenever he sees intolerance of dissent in any form and in any part of the country His comment at the time of violent protests against former President R Venkataraman's critical remarks on Rajiv Gandhi ran true to form "Are these any different from bigots baying for the blood of Rushdie or frenzied mobs rampaging through the streets of Dhaka and Chittagong demanding that Taslima Nasreen be hanged? He dittoed the same imagery when he thought mobs in Calcutta would now gun for him, rhetorically asking How are we different from Bangladeshis thirsting for Nasreen's blood across the border?

Gore and violence are obsessional neurosis for Singh in both his fiction and journalistic writing "If you say anything derogatory of Satyajit Ray in Calcutta, there is a good chance of a *chappal* beating " The fact is that Ray lived with critics and calumnists of various stripes — literary purists who said he had not been faithful enough to the classics he adapted to the requirements of cinema, Hindu fundamentalists who disliked Ray's treatment of blind superstitions and certain garbs of religion, rationalists who felt Ray had made glamorous the theory of reincarnation in his own story turned into a full-colour film, Naxalites who were angered that Ray had not raised the banner of revolution against social injustices, and many more assorted malcontents But Ray walked the streets of Calcutta without any fear and died in dignity

Singh on his part never felt any enthusiasm about Ray's epochal *Pather Panchali* It had put him to sleep in a Paris cinema The dark hall seemed to have a soporific effect on him, whatever the place or the show In New York's Times Square, a Danish skin-flick telling the story of a nymphet and her seduction by her aunt's two lovers left him snoring and the rest of the audience laughing It Singh's 'favourite voyeur sport' could not keep him awake, few films were likely to absorb his interest

However, Ray holds a special place in West Bengal as a most admired master, whose works reaped the highest international honours He is the only Indian to have won a full Oscar for his all-round achievement (Bhanu Athaiya shared it for costume designing of the film *Gandhi*) Ray is thus a symbol of Bengal's pre-eminence in filmmaking In the four decades of National Film Awards, Bengali films have won the top prize as the best motion picture 17 times, outperforming those

in the next two languages, Hindi (10) and Malayalam (5) combined, with others trailing farther behind

The comfort and inspiration that symbols such as Tagore (who was the first writer from the East to win the Nobel Prize back in 1913) and Ray bring to the life of a people seem alien to Singh, which is somewhat strange. A self-confessed agnostic, he holds dear the religious symbols of Sikhism and clings to them in personal life as a bond with his community but scorns and jokes about them when they are secular

It is curious that Singh should repeatedly use the expression "Holy Cow" to describe some of the passions and delights of Bengal. The phrase is of White Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) coinage, mocking Hindus who hold the animal sacred Catholics are likewise the butt of phrases such as "Holy Mackerel" and "Holy Cod", in reference to their practice of eating fish on Fridays Surely, good writers in India, as elsewhere, should avoid cliches, more so those with religious snobbery

In putting Mohun Bagan on the list of the ruling passions of Bengalis, Singh does much in, istice to the even larger number among them who swear by East Bengal Equally fervent faith is placed in Mohammedan Sporting by a small but important minority in the state Supporters root for their favourites exclusively on a club basis, and not wholesale to cover all teams of an entire region In Delhi, we noted some years back, as Sikh Regimental Centre of Ambala, Leaders Club of Jullunder, Punjab Police and the rest of them got knocked out of the Durand and the DCM cups, local cheer-leaders switched loyalties from one to the other as long as the teams were ethnically their own Such a thing does not happen on Calcutta's soccer fields

If Singh's teacher at school used to get "misty-eyed" while recalling Mohun Bagan's legendary exploits, the club's 1911 triumph in the IFA Shield final indeed made history Eleven barefoot Bengalis won a thrilling victory over the all-booted, British regimental side, a feat not to be equalled by any Indian team until a quarter century later. That was truly an achievement well ahead of its time and it tremendously boosted the nationalist spirit in Bengal

In recent years, Mohammedan Sporting's successes have been fewer and registered with a virtually all-Hindu side, many of them Bengali Brahmins. Yet, the club's core following remains the same, a hark-back to an earlier generation when it ruled the Indian soccer scene in the late Thirties and Forties. Those were also the years of the Muslim League's rise to power, and indeed the club's symbiotic contribution to the emergence of Pakistan was recorded in the memoirs of M A. Ispahani, who later became its minister and ambassador

Singh ignores the emotional content of sport in the life of a people but serves dubious statistics about the victories of Border Security Force over Mohun Bagan Let him put an assistant on the job He will find that Mohun Bagan has won the blue riband of Indian soccer, the Federation Cup, a record number of times and has defeated all the Punjab teams on "any number" of occasions, not the other way round

Khushwant Singh's magnum effort at chronicling *A History of the Sikhs* suffers from the same lapses that persist till today in his popular writings not enough rigour of logic and analysis Lack of objectivity, if any, among reviewers in India, surely did not extend to their counterparts in the United States, which was both the source of funds for his research and place of its publication Joan Bondurant, scholar of Indian studies at the University of California, Berkeley, considered the book too inexact to satisfy the scholar, inadequate in its all too brief analysis of the Hindu-Muslim background of Sikhism, and somewhat biased. She felt the author had given "fresh currency to 19th century misconceptions "

Another critic, Mark Naidis, writing in the prestigious *American Historical Review* noted of Singh's book "Unfortunately, this work lacks solid philosophical underpinning The author does not pause often enough to raise questions, let alone answer them The evidence allows another version of the facts than the one he has selected, but he denies us the reason for his choice Social and economic problems receive less attention than they deserve " Naidis, however, also noted that Singh was a distinguished novelist, which was evident in the clear and graceful style of his writing "The introductory description of the Punjab is almost lyrical in quality "

Singh's proclivity to ask a question without analytically seeking its answer was seen, for instance, in his observation that there are no public places where Bengali food is available



Rabindranath Tagore: A symbol of inspiration

It was a valid comment made in the wake of the Tagore controversy though it had nothing to do with Tagore While there is Suruchi in Calcutta, there are very few standard restaurants in that and other metro cities where the authentic fare is served But it is not for Singh to reason or understand why

The Bengalis like their food prepared at home, but when they eat out they wish to be adventurous This explains the popularity of Chinese restaurants in Calcutta, which not long back were the best in the country, and of fabled establishments such as Firpo's and Skyroom whose continental food had been savoured by several generations It was not a stray comment that Chitrita Banerji, who was married to a Bangladeshi, made in her book, *Life and Food in Bengal* "The Bengali people are perhaps the greatest food lovers in the subcontinent "

There are several reasons for the absence of Bengali restaurants as contrast-



ed with the ubiquity of Udupi and Punjabi fare People from the South follow dietary restrictions, which do not concern the Bengali overmuch He is more universal in his food habits notably enough, Muslim joints are favourites of the local middle class as in no other city in India On the other hand, the Punjabi takes his food habits with him when he eats out or where ver he goes The preparations are relatively limited and simplified for public eating places to manage with packaged spices The repertoire of Bengali cuisine is very wide and its preparation rather complicated and time-consuming The varieties of cooking and the subtleties of flavour that Bengalis expect in their food are not easily served in restaurants

Coming back to Tagore, with whom it all started, Singh's one-point criticism was about the quality of translation of his poetry It is an ancient controversy Dr J C Ghosh, who used to teach Bengali literature at Oxford, recognised for one that Tagore's "faults are more apparent in his English translations than in the original Bengali" In fact, *Gitanjali* which crowned him as the Nobel laureate was really a re-creation, giving the poems and their meaning a new form

On the other hand, Buddhadeva Bose, a scholar of both Bengali and English literature, who was later a visiting professor of comparative literature in the US, regarded *Gitanjali* as more than a great work in English, it is the work of a great English poet "There are moments when the translation surpasses the original," he felt

For one who made his foray into writing in English at the age of 50, Tagore's was a masterly performance on any count He simply felt an urge to recapture through the medium of another language "the feelings and sentiments which created joy within me in the days gone by" The poetic diction of Tagore's poems written in the early 20th century is naturally different from their translations rendered in the closing years of the century. Singh was expressing his own preference, which is based subjectively on the literary tastes of a culture or society in a given period

Singh's method of literary criticism, however, does not call for anything more demanding than a simple entry in the like/don't like column He did not think much of Tagore's short stories and novels but his only points of reference were contemporary Indo-Anglian writers like Salman Rushdie and Amitav Ghosh, whom he placed higher. He was out of his depth in the indegenous literary, historical and cultural contexts of Tagore's fiction Buddhadeva Bose considered that Tagore "brought us the short story when it was hardly known in England and introduced the psychological novel". Tagore's best short stories were written at the turn of the century, well ahead of the genre's finding roots in other Indian languages For J C Ghosh, *Gora* and *Ghare Baire* were perhaps the best novels written by an Indian

The Ghoshes and the Boses apart, Viswanath S Naravane, another critic, regarded the modern short story as "Tagore's gift to Indian literature" In Naravane's view, Tagore paved the way for modern internationally known writers like Premchand, Raja Rao and R K Narayan Mulk Raj Anand, a genuine literary critic who also earned fame abroad with his fiction long before the latter-day Indo-Anglians, observed that the Indian novel turned mature with Tagore, "breaking from folk or medieval bases of story-telling and achieving the particular density of psychological apprehension which constitutes the novel proper"

The right to criticise another writer is inherent in a writer, Singh seemed to suggest Yet, he just could not stomach Sahitya Akademi chairman U.R Ananthamoorthy's ruling that if Singh could criticise Tagore, others also had the right to criticise Singh "The ultimate judge of what I write is myself," he had pontificated on an earlier occasion Singh would have more credibly claimed an equal footing with Tagore if he had pointed out that they had both been honoured by the rulers of the day but returned their awards in protest against happenings in Punjab — the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and, for Singh closer to home, the assault on the Golden Temple ■

The Garden Of Delight



There is certainly no better season than winter for enjoying a garden, and botanical gardens are something special, in particular Calcutta's Botanical Gardens But when they were founded in 1786 they didn't look much of a proposition The land was overgrown with weeds and scrub, frequently flooded and had only one great advantage It was conveniently situated for the first superintendent, Robert Kyd He lived next door

The original purpose of the gardens was, on the face of it, charitable Kyd had applied for land to plant sago and date palms as food for the poor in time of famine When that suggestion was approved, he offered a more ambitious and mercenary scheme: the collection and propagation of plants for profit, for "the extension of the national commerce and riches"

He was a man, it seems, who would have been at home in Thatcher's Britain, although in Thatcher's Britain, he would have been an abject failure Because though he planted an enormous number of seeds and saplings, an enormous number died including practically all the European fruit trees and tea bushes from China

The Orientalist William Jones, an amateur botanist, was another great supporter of the gardens, his interest being scientific as well as commercial On the one hand, he encouraged British botanists to learn Sanskrit to acquaint themselves with the qualities of Indian herbs On the other, he also followed Linnaeus, who devised what is now considered the conventional classification of plants by Latin names However, Jones found Linnaeus' descriptions outrageous to female modesty; for instance, his description of the class Polyandra (a plant with many stamens) as "twenty males or more in the same bed with a female"

After Jones' death, the gardens continued to grow steadily in importance, becoming a vegetable entrepot between East and West, and a major research ground for useful plants

Which is where cannabis, or hemp, comes in In Britain now the cultivation of cannabis is banned by law It's a law which many see fit to break, including the son of Sir David Steele, formerly leader of the Liberal Party and now champion of countrymen's rights But in the late 18th century hemp was crucial, and as an experiment, the British put 200 acres under Indian cannabis

The root of their problem was Russia It produced practically all the hemp in the market This hemp was used for rope and rope was



used for rigging, which meant that the British fleet was entirely dependent on a foreign power This was not a good thing, besides which the Russians were forcing up the price Therefore, the frantic search for an alternative began

In those days 40-50 fibrous plants were in regular use in India, including *Sanseviera Zeylanica* which had been used for bowstrings in ancient times Cannabis was not a plant valued for its fibre but for its kick William Roxborough, then in charge of the Botanical Gardens, tried growing it but not, as far as we know, imbibing it However, it was not his candidate for a replacement for Russian hemp That was another Indian plant called Sunn Hemp (*Crotalaria Juncea*) He convinced the East India Company, which did its best to sell Sunn hemp to ropemakers in England, only to have them reject it as unfit for seafaring

Further experiments were made with hemp from places like Sumatra and Manila, and these at last paid off By the middle of the 19th century, India was supplying half of Britain's hemp

At the same time, the British became familiar with a fibre "the natives call jute" Roxborough recommended it as a replacement for flax and in 1820, a factory at Abingdon in Oxfordshire began using it in carpets and cloth But many linen manufacturers regarded it with the greatest suspicion and made a point of declaring their products "warranted free from Indian jute" Jute only really prospered when the Dutch started using it to transport coffee, and the Crimean War cut off the supply of Russian flax

The original purpose of the gardens was, on the face of it, charitable. Kyd had applied for land to plant sago and date palms as food for the poor in time of famine. When that suggestion was approved he offered a more ambitious and mercenary scheme: the collection and propagation of plants for profit

Along with jute, hemp, spices and medicinal plants, Calcutta's Botanical Gardens also raised the dye-producing plant which the ancient Egyptians used to colour the embalming clothes of mummies—indigo The exploitation associated with indigo here is, of course, infamous and was highlighted as early as 1860 in Dina Bandhu Mitra's play *Nil Darpan*

Indigo came to inspire fear not just because of the nature of the planters but also because it was for many years the colour of police uniforms Not that it was a perfect product As Shahid Amin noted in his subaltern account of *Chauri Chaura*, the dye emitted unwholesome vapours which filled constable lines during the rains But the Botanical Gardens did not have to find an alternative for indigo the chemists with their khaki chemical dyes did that

(Sanctuary Features)





Indian Silk House Agencies

129A, RASHBEHARI AVENUE
CALCUTTA-700029



TIME TABLE

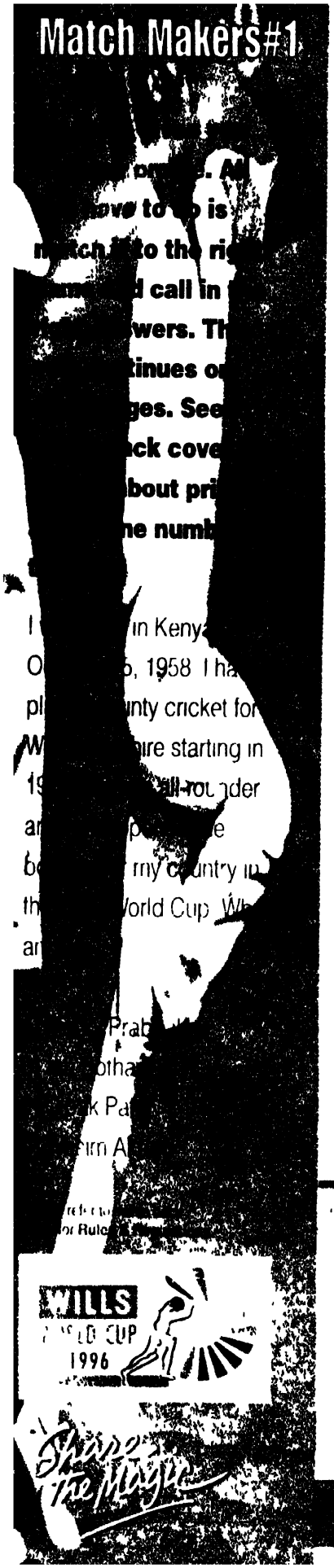
All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta

Days of operation using 7-day code: ① MONDAY ② TUESDAY ③ WEDNESDAY ④ THURSDAY ⑤ FRIDAY ⑥ SATURDAY ⑦ SUNDAY

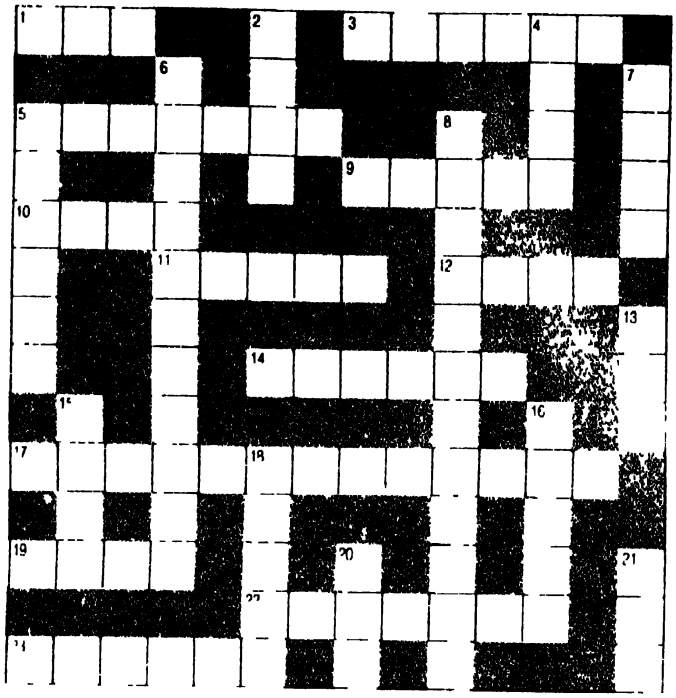
Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC-741	0800	1 2 3 6	IC-742	1030	1 3
			IC 742	1250	4 7
IC-743	0920	daily	IC-744	1150	daily
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2-028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
PF-301	0830	1 2 3 4 5 6	PF-302	1200	2 4 6
			PF-302	1500	1 3 5
IC-721	1250	1 3, 4 5 7	IC 722	1525	1 3 4 5 7
D2 181	1330	daily	D2 181	1600	daily
IC 771	0600	daily	IC 772	1140	daily
9W-511	1400	daily	9W 512	2150	daily
D5-402	0600	3 5 7	D5-401	1230	2 4 6
IC-544	1115	2 7	IC-543	1035	2 7
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF-106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 105	1700	1
IC-896	1540	1 3 5	IC-895	2005	1 3 5
IC-676	0730	daily	IC-675	0820	daily
9W-202	0715	1 3 4 5 6 7	9W-201	0935	1 3 4 5 6 7
D2-102	0920	daily	D2-101	0850	daily
IC-273	1945	daily	AI 306	1730	5
9W-212	2000	daily	9W-211	1925	daily
D2 104	2005	daily	D2 103	1935	daily
AI 309	1930	6	IC 274	1850	daily
M9-305	0600	1 2 3 4 5 6	M9-306	1140	1 2 3 4 5 6
M9-307	1700	daily	M9-308	2230	daily
IC-263	0630	daily	S2-025	0810	1 2 3 4 5 6
S2 026	0850	1 2 3 4 5	M9 303	0825	daily
M9 304	0905	daily	AI 682	0925	1
IC-812	1515	1 3 5	4S 806	1130	1 2 3 4 5 6
IC 402	1715	daily	IC 401	1135	daily
4S 805	1720	1 2 3 4 5 6	S2-005	1855	1 2 3 4 5 7
			IC 811	1715	1 3 5
S2 006	1955	1 2 3 4 5 7	M9 301	1950	daily
M9-302	2030	daily	IC-264	2210	daily
IC-896	1540	1 3 5	IC-895	2005	1 3 5
D5-601/602	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
PF-737	0730	3 5	IC 702	1630	1 3 5 7
4S-816	1205	2 4 6	4S 815	1635	1 2 3
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	4S-811	1635	2 4 6
IC 701	1240	1 3 5 7	PF-738	1740	3 5
D5 601/602	0600	daily	D5-605	1935	daily
IC 257	1145	4 7	IC 257	1540	4 7
S2 026/021	0850	1 2 3 4 5	S2-022/00	2005	1 2 3 4 5
D5 601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 703	0810	1 3 5	IC 704	1120	1 3 5
9W-611	1020	daily	9W-612	1310	daily
M9-321	1230	daily	M9 322	1510	daily
PF 301	0830	1 3 5	PF-302	1500	1 3 5
IC 703	0830	4 7	IC 230	1620	daily

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No	Time	Days	Flt No	Time	Days
IC-229	1310	daily	4S 811	1635	2 4 6
4S-816/811	1205	2 4 6	4S 812/815	1635	1 3 5
4S-812	1205	1 3 5	IC-704	1220	2 6
IC 777	1615	3 5 7	IC 778	2115	3 5 7
IC-769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
VF 106	1030	2 4	VF 105	0950	2 4
VF 106	1740	1	VF 10	1700	1
9W 511	1400	daily	9W 512	150	daily
D5 601/603	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
S2 026/027	0850	1 2 4 5	S2 028/005	2005	1 2 4 5 7
IC 257	1145	4 7	IC 257	1540	4 7
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1715	1 3 5
D5-402	0600	3 5 7	D5 401	1230	2 4 6
IC-542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1130	1 4 6
IC 544	1115	2 7	IC 543	1035	2
D2 172	1640	daily	D2 171	1155	daily
IC 765	1720	daily	IC 766	2220	daily
IC 769	1615	2 4 6	IC 770	2120	2 4 6
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 405	1935	2 4 6
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1715	1 3 5
IC 285	0640	1 3 5	IC 286	1100	2 4 6
IC 812	1515	1 3 5	IC 811	1715	1 3 5
D5 601	0600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
D5 601/605	600	daily	D5 605	1935	daily
IC 255	0745	3 5 7	IC 256	1235	3 5 7
IC 253	0745	2 4 6	IC 254	1025	2 4 6
IC 213	1140	2 6	IC 213	1540	2 6
S2 016	1555	1 3 5	S2-015	1015	1 3 5
D5 406	1330	2 4 6	D5 406	1835	2 4 6
IC 896	1540	1 3 5	IC 895	2005	1 3 5
IC 542	1115	1 4 6	IC 541	1030	1 4 6
KB 105	0850	2 6	KB 106	1020	3
			KB 106	1240	5
IC 731	0855	2 5	TG 313	1240	1 3 6
IC 855	1105	4 7	IC 856	1730	4 7


SPECIAL FEATURE
WILLS
1996
Share the Magic
NOW!!!
Wills World Cup
Kit Bags
to be won
30
Official
Wills World Cup
Yearbooks could
be yours
200
Official
Wills World Cup
Pocketbooks
as prizes
Made for each other Puzzles, Teasers, Quizzes, Crosswords



MFEOWORD



Down

2 See 15 down

4 Pity this is not tennis where a score of zero would suit couples perfectly! (4)

5 Lloyd Border Imran and Kapil in World Cups Each a _____ (6)

6 Adam and Eve *made for each other* only at this cricket venue! (4 7)

7 To remain together wouldn't they love to score a zero in each innings (4)

8 Togetherness in life (or at the crease) is a sign of great _ _ _____ (12)

13, 21 Law 38 Frustrating way to be dismissed (3 3)

15, 1 across, 2 down ____ ____ - ____ other Perfectly matched (4 3,4)

16 Exuberant Pak cricketer whose real name certainly sounds as if he might be promoting togetherness between you and your dad! (5)

18 Kiwi cricketer Doesn't get his runs in 4's or 6's but in 1's and _ _ ___! (5)

20 No time to walk while batting (3)

Across

1 See 15 down

3, 14 Format of cricket ideal for couples (6 6)

5 What you get if you score a zero while batting in the right (3 1)

9 _ _ _ _ the ap_ _

10 _ _ back can be much harder (4)

11 Take ___ from one before batting to bat (5)

12 Be bats in Madras both went through the test (4)

17 Wills World Cup 1996 batsman at the peak of his couple (4)

19 Are you like a tw_ _ _ _ _ to spot (4)

22 Fa_ _ _ _ _ dilemma and the word by a wicketkeeper (5)

23 _ _ _ _



Made for each other!



Reliving the spirit of togetherness!



Winners get to have their cake and eat it too!

The poolside 'stadium' at the Taj Bengal was all spruced up - lush outfield, grassy pitch and all - for the launch of the Official Yearbook and Pocketbook for the Wills World Cup 1996. It was however a launch with a difference.

What really mattered was just how many turbans Balwinder changed per week, whether Mohinder actually blows his nose in his precious good luck hanky, is it Marshall or Thomson that Srikkanth actually curses in his sleep and does Kirti eat fish only on Fridays. And it mattered even more that certain people within the same team should know these and other strange facts about teammates, especially roommates. It mattered simply because *these gentlemen were winners and it was this harmony within the team that saw them win the World Cup way back in 1983!*

Sure there were plenty of tributes to those gentlemen who took Indian cricket to the very summit that particular summer's day at Lord's. *But everyone was gathered there to learn the secret of their success and weren't we lucky that Wills was there to uncover the fact that the members of the squad were indeed made for each other!* And here we were all praising Srikkanth's batting, Sandhu's bowling and Kapil's fielding when all the action was taking place off the field after the celebrations.

As the two publications were launched and microphones and TV cameras recorded every moment of the fun, I looked around me and it was time to look ahead to the great cricket ahead and that day ahead.

For now a spirit was being relived. A winning spirit that our hopes could be passed down to the current squad, the only question being who the lucky players to take forward the secret to winning is. formulated to mark that this spirit of togetherness lives on after all of the *made for each other people who re-share the spirit of togetherness with the Wills World Cup 1996.*

Match Makers#

I was born in Georgetown, Guyana (West Indies) on Valentine's Day in 1968. However, I do not represent the country of my birth in international cricket. One of my most memorable innings is a quickfire century I cracked in Madras in 1993. If I make it to the Wills World Cup, I will play a match or my birthday!

a) Chris Lewis

b) Philip DeFreitas

c) Mark Greatbatch

d) Robin Smith

Please refer to inside back cover for Rules & Regulations

WILLS World Cup 1996

Share the Magic

THE SPIRIT



Match-Makers#3

Born on October 20, 1963, I am a teetotaller but ironically my nickname is an alcoholic beverage. I am one of only two surviving members of my national side since the Reliance Cup of 1987, in which I hit 5 fifties in six innings. Injury has kept me in and out of the big league

a) Javed Miandad

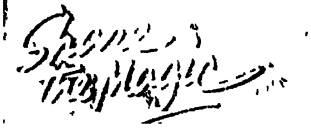
b) Navjot Singh Sidhu

c) Dean Jones

d) Martin Crowe

Please refer to inside back cover for **Rules & Regulations.**





BOWLED OVER BY THE ZODIAC!

Fiery feisty and outspoken they'll set the field for some fireworks	Impatient Aries will make the stubborn Bull run for cover!	A common love for cause creativity and independence A steady innings	Fire and water If the elements are incompatible the relationship needs to be played out cautiously	The Ram will lock horns with the Lion a relationship as volatile as Sachin's batting!	Aries likes generalisation And Virgo loves detail A strange match!	The two will argue instinctively a third umpire will definitely be needed!
Opposites attract And in this case they even score a big hit!	Mars enthusiasm and Jupiter daring A highly successful if adventurous partnership	If both play down their pride this relationship could go a long way	The psychic Aquarian and the impulsive Ram A relationship as unpredictable as the One day game	Not conflict but compromise that's the name of the game	Stable determined these two will build a solid partnership	Moody Twins If not careful you could drive the stable Bull away
A strange pair they'll hit it off on the spot!	If the Lion's roar test the Bull's patience a few bouncers may come her way!	Loaded with integrity and dependability the two can outplay almost every ball	Sentimental romantics with a blend of practicality The perfect team	[illegible]	The pessimist and the optimist They'll forever stump each other	Perfectly tuned in they'll fall hook line and bouncer for each other!
Whoops! Full of near misses the match promises to be exciting	Beware! If the Bull pushes her obstinate opinion the Piscean may retire hurt!	The double wicket partnership of the decade Nine mind it believe spectators a little dizzy	When Crabs and Twins get together it's a ball game!	Some of the Twin bouncers biff the Lion The other one sends over the boundary	Good teamwork here Virgo steady plans lumps and compromising between Libra and July	With these two all rounders it could be centuries one day and half tickets the next!
[illegible]	Any Archer Fairy Tales The women's squad will keep the Archer panting at both ends!	[illegible]	With the twosome arguing about every no ball call the third umpire's a must!	[illegible]	Mr and Mrs Match Referee's [illegible]	[illegible]
The Crab and the virgin [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	The one to watch for a fast and furious story!	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Here we don't take guard Only by drawing even can they save the match	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	One goes for big hits the other plays by the book Revealing combination	Virgo driven [illegible]	Perfect running between the wickets provided the Archer doesn't stop!	Early supervisory [illegible]	They will constantly [illegible] are the match like the World Cup!	[illegible] Virgo And the Virgo is bowled over by Pisces
With these two all the crease arguments and discussions will keep piling up!	Tentative but fascinated these two will constantly be trying out with each the	They'll constantly drive each other round the wicket!	Great teammates [illegible] between the wickets perfect	A good wicket to play on if the Aquarian wishes it!	They'll constantly drive each other up the ball!	The combination is lethal a [illegible] Partnership!
The Archer may find it difficult to [illegible]	Their line and length is a perfect match	[illegible]	Both love to chat just watch the [illegible]	[illegible]	Any sagittarius Stable Goat A few risks could turn the match	Friends to the end they play [illegible]
[illegible]	Mr and Mrs [illegible] will be very [illegible]	Oops! The Goat will keep trying [illegible]	[illegible]	First class match [illegible]	[illegible]	Friends who'll face every ball they'll last a long innings!

ARE YOU AND YOUR PARTNER



Check out if you and your partner will survive the acid test of cricket fever Relate the following questions to your own lives, select the answer that best describes you and your partner, and score points based on your replies to discover your compatibility rating The questions are meant for both of you

d) Both walk out

b) She walks out like a cricketer off the match and

c) she tears the tickets and leaves in her mother's place

d) Both pick up paper and pencil and start

3) *They're planning a holiday together Mar* ... *Everything becomes uphill Dance at Bangkok* ... *continues to* ... *What* ... *out one?*

a) He watches the Wil ... World Cup on ... Bill ... arrange (at Lords) ... holiday at Bangkok

b) Both go out ... match ... checkpoint. Only ... set

c) He locally agrees to go to Pak ... but she now ... would be late

d) He goes to Dhaka while she goes to Pune (i.e. each goes where her mother lives)

4) *He's watching India play the exciting end overs of a day night One dayer on TV She comes into the room as Azhar is about to take strike She wants to watch a critical episode of The Bold and the Beautiful What is her reaction?*

a) She enquires 'Has Ajay got his 4 000 runs yet?' And plonks herself next to him

b) She walks out in disgust muttering something about wanting to ... Ridge ... to see ... Brando ... to read all ...

d) She ... 'Let's ... right' ... playing ... that's just ...

... Bangalore ... Both have ... ticket ... the other ... of the ... What ...

... will be ... and they ... Bangalore

... A ... Wills

... Wills

... Wills

Match Makers #5

I was born on December 13, 1970. I made my first class cricket debut at the age of 14. I then went on to represent my country in Tests and One-dayers, but ended up retiring before I even turned 20! I have since made a comeback into the side. Most agree that I am almost a replica of an illustrious predecessor of mine.

a) Sachin Tendulkar

b) Vinod Kambli

c) Basit Ali

d) Mark Ramprakash

Please refer to inside back cover for Rules & Regulations.



Steve Waugh

TWO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

Cricket season is around the corner. It's going to invade your TV screen, your time, your thoughts and your partner. All you'll think of is cricket, cricket and more cricket. In fact you'll know that you and cricket have indeed become *made for each other* when...

You shift your wardrobe and kitchen to the TV room



You list your TV repairman's name under emergency

You start having long imaginary conversations with Sachin about improving his technique



Your wife wants a Wills World Cup logo cake for her next birthday

You start referring to rain as 'that' enemy number one

88.65% of your colleagues ask for leave during the same period



You visit your eye doctor twice a week



Your eye doctor gets himself new glasses

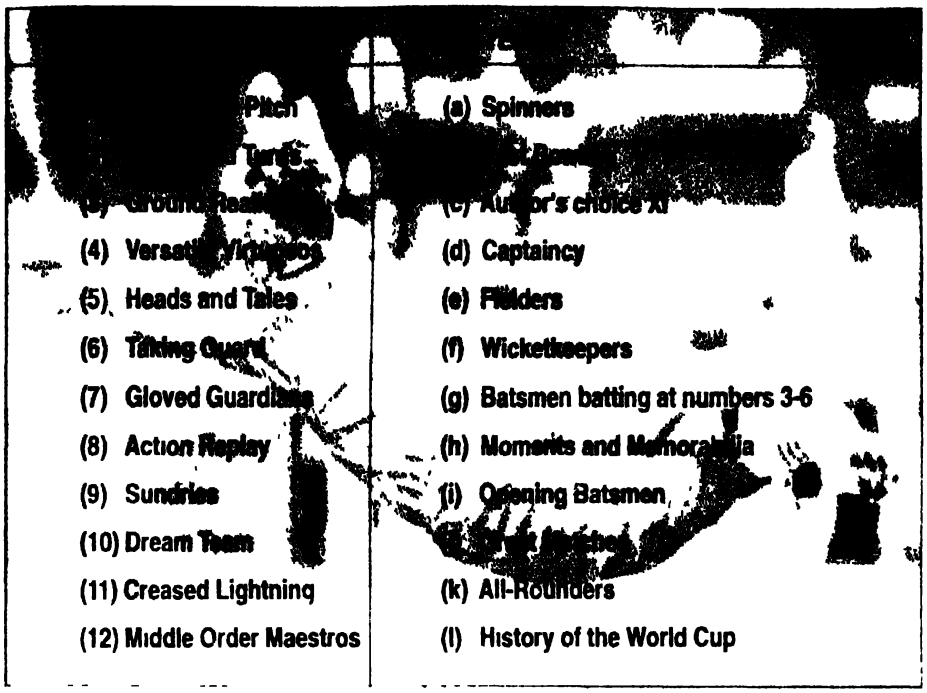
Everytime you argue with your partner, you call upon a third umpire

IDENTIFY THE COUNTRIES

Three countries will participate in the World Cup for the very first time. All you have to do is call in and give us the names of the three countries. The numbers to call are 247-2355 and 247-2356
The first 50 callers with all-correct answers will receive special surprise gifts
So go on, pick up the phone and call us NOW! Please refer to inside back cover for Rules & Regulations



Win yourself copies of the **Official Yearbook** and **Pocketbook** for the Wills World Cup 1996 It's simple - we've given you the Yearbook chapter titles and their contents All you have to do is match them correctly in the coupon provided below



Pitch	(a) Spinners
(4) Versatile Wicketkeepers	(d) Captaincy
(5) Heads and Tales	(e) Fielders
(6) Taking Guard	(f) Wicketkeepers
(7) Gloved Guardians	(g) Batsmen batting at numbers 3-6
(8) Action Replay	(h) Moments and Memorabilia
(9) Sundries	(i) Opening Batsmen
(10) Dream Team	
(11) Creased Lightning	(k) All-Rounders
(12) Middle Order Maestros	(l) History of the World Cup

30
1st prizes
OFFICIAL
WILLS WORLD CUP
YEARBOOKS

100
2nd prizes
OFFICIAL
WILLS WORLD CUP
POCKETBOOKS

100
3rd prizes
WILLS WORLD CUP
YEAR PLANNERS

Match Makers

GROUND RULES TO BE AN INSTANT WINNER

In the previous pa[ge] you have been through five Match Makers. All you have to do is make the right choice from the "What is it?" descriptions and call us NOW with the correct names. The numbers to call are 247-2355 and 247-2356 between 10 am and 4 pm starting TODAY. The last date for calling in is Tuesday January 2, 1996)

There are fabulous prizes to be won instantly for the first 100 callers. But don't stop calling EVERY caller until Tuesday evening will get a Wills World Cup 1996 fixture poster.

So go on, pick up the phone NOW!

Please refer to Rules & Regulations given below

Entry Coupon

MY SOLUTION:

2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12

Name:

Address:

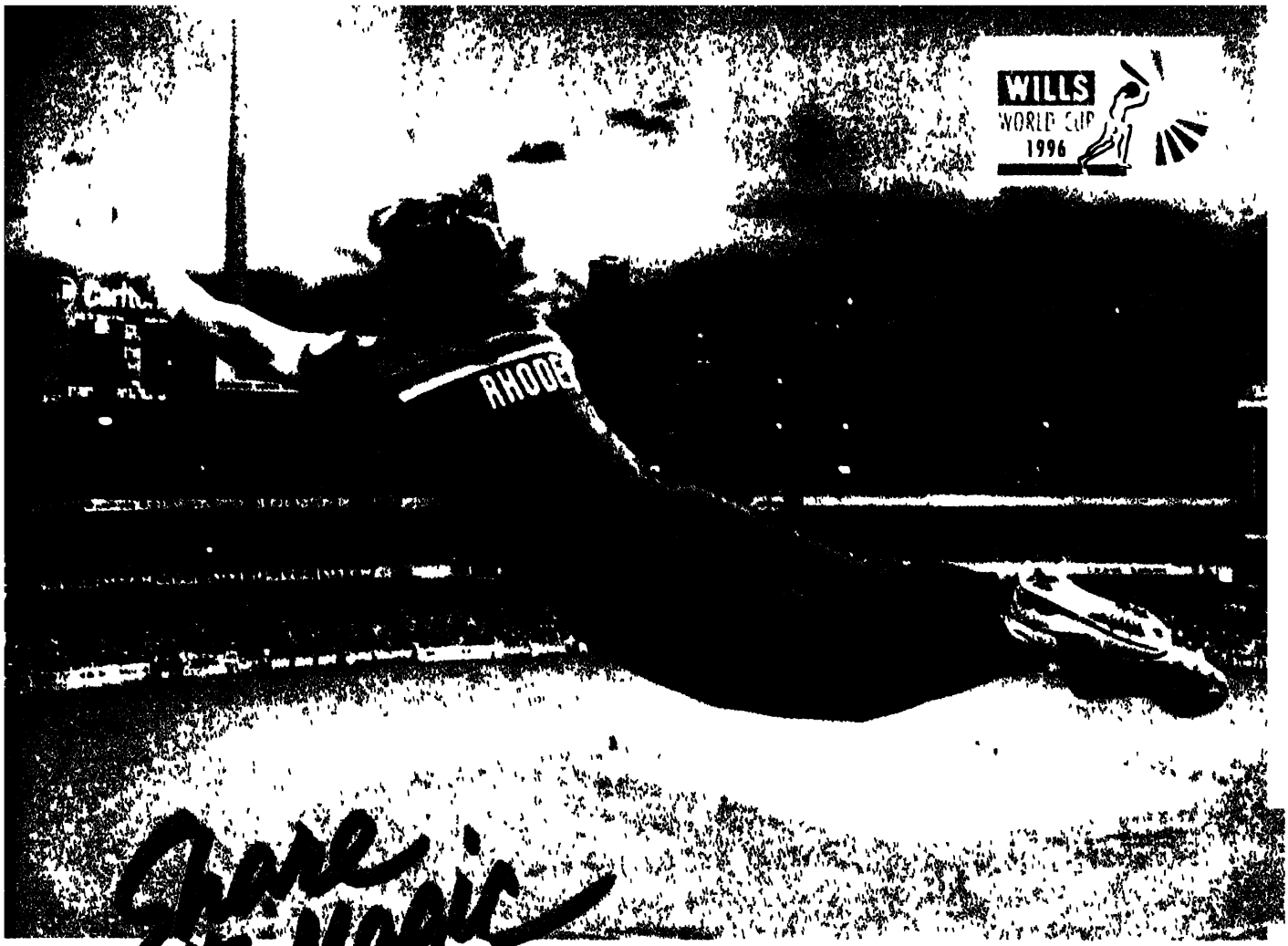
Phone Number:

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ALL ENTRIES: 1 All except employees of ITC Limited, [illegible] and Associates Limited and their immediate families are eligible to participate. 2 There is no entry fee. 3 All entries must be on English. 4 No responsibility is taken for loss or damage of entries. 5 Entries sent by courier/registered post and those received after the last date will not be accepted. 6 All entries will become the property of ITC Limited and can be used in any manner without the consent of the entrants. 7 A panel of judges will be chosen by ITC and their decision will be final and binding. 8 Winners will be individually informed by post. 9 Requests for exchange or cash in lieu of prizes will not be entertained. 10 All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts in Calcutta City, India. 11 Extra entry forms are available on request from HTA, 30 Bondel Road, Calcutta - 19.

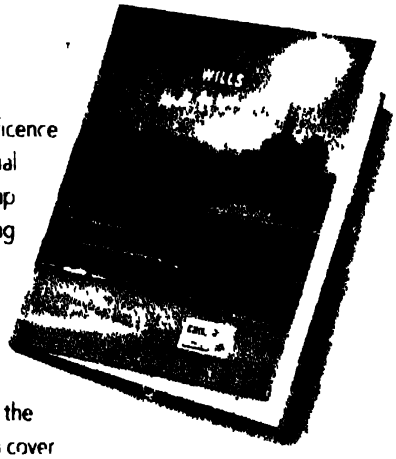
SPECIAL FEATURE WILLS Made for each other

WILLS WORLD CUP 1996

Share the Magic

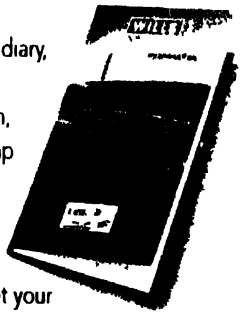


Share the Magic



Savour the colourful magnificence between the covers of the Official Yearbook for the Wills World Cup 1996. Historic moments, arresting anecdotes, spectacular action, mind boggling statistics. Covering every aspect of the glorious game.

The Official Pocketbook for the Wills World Cup 1996 is an extra cover that's a must for every cricket follower. A week at a glance diary, detailed fixtures, statistics, a follow the-World Cup section, a crossword and quiz to stump you. Sunil Gavaskar's dream team and much more.



Leave no gap between cover and extra cover and get your copies today or get bowled out!

Available at leading Book Stores across the country.

WILLS *Made for each other* YEARBOOK© & POCKETBOOK© 1996

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
TG-314	1355	1 3 6	IC 732	1505	2 5
AI 306	1910	5	AI-309	1825	6
RO-076	2150	5 7	RO 075	1200	5 7
IC-225	0800	1	IC 226	1020	1
BG-698	1735	2 5	BG 697	1655	2 5
BG 092	0850	4 5	BG 091	0810	4 5
BG 092	1150	1 2 3 6 7	BG 091	1110	1 2 3 6 7
IC 723	1250	1 2 3 5 6	IC-724	1520	1 2 3 5 6
BG 094	1905	1 2 3 5 6 7	BG 093	1825	1 2 3 5 6 7
BG-094	1910	4	BG-093	1830	4
BG-096	2100	1 5	BG 095	2020	1 5
BI-107	2100	6	BI-108	0730	7
RA-214	1215	2 4 6	RA 213	1130	2 4 6

Departures			Arrivals		
Flt No.	Time	Days	Flt No.	Time	Days
IC 747	1115	1 2 3 6	IC 748	1435	1 2 4 6
BA 142	2115	3 7	BA 143	1515	3 7
SU 538	1755	4	SU 537	1555	4
KB 106	1105	3	KB 105	0810	2 6
KB 106	1325	5			
SQ 415	2345	2 5	SQ 416	1230	2 5
BI 108	0830	7	BI-107	2000	6
LZ 504	1750	4	LZ-503	1650	4
AI 306	1910	5	AI 309	1820	6
IC 227	1530	4 7	IC 228	1955	4 7

AI Air India ● BA British Airways ● BG Biman Bangladesh Airlines ● BI Royal Brunei Airlines ● D2 Damania Airways ● D5 NEPC Airlines ● IC Indian Airlines ● KB Druk-Air ● KLM Royal Dutch Airlines ● LZ Balkan Airlines ● M9 Modiluft ● PF Vayudoot ● RA Royal Nepal Airlines ● RJ Royal Jordanian Airlines ● RO Tarom Air Transport ● S2 Sahara India Airlines ● SQ Singapore Airlines ● SU Aeroflot ● 4S East West Airlines ● TG Thai Airways International ● 9W Jet Airways



TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
2311	19-15	**Delhi-Kalka Mail**	7 20	2312
3005	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	7 55	3006
3003	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	13-00	3004
2381	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Gaya Varanasi Dep Wed Thurs & Sun Arr Tues Wed & Sat	16 15	2382
2303	9 15	**Poorva (New Delhi) Express** via Patna Dep Mon Tues Fri & Sat Arr Mon Thurs Fri & Sun	16 15	2304
2301	16 30	**Rajdhani Express** via Gaya Dep Mon Tues Wed Fr & Sat Arr Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun	10 45	2302
2305	13-45	**Rajdhani Express** via Patna Dep Thurs & Sun Arr Wed & Sat	12 50	2306
2307	23-30	**Jodhpur Express**	4 40	2306
2019	6 20	**Shalabdi (Bokaro Steel City) Express** Dep & Arr Except Sunday	21 10	2020
3073	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Express** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	11 35	3074
3045	22-00	**Guwahati Express** Dep Wednesday Arr Friday	12 25	3046
5049	23-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep & Arr Thursday	11 35	5050
5047	13-00	**Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Sun Mon Wed & Fri	4 30	5048
3009	20 30	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-00	3010
3007	9-30	**Udyan Abha Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 15	3008
3049	13-20	**Amritsar Express**	15 30	3050
3019	21-00	**Kathgodam Express**	11 55	3020
3021	16-05	**Mithila (Raxaul) Express**	5 30	3022
5659	17-35	**Kamrup (Guwahati) Express**	6-10	5660
3317	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	3318
3029	17-11	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	3030
3035	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	3036
3031	21-05	**Danapur Express**	5-50	3032
3071	22-30	**Jamalpur Express**	5-10	3072
3015	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 40	3016
1159	15 25	**Chambal (Gwalior) Express** Dep Mon Tue & Thurs Arr Mon Thurs & Fri	7 55	1160
1171	15 25	**Shipra (Indore) Express** Dep Wed Sat & Sun Arr Sun Wed & Sat	7 55	1172
3327	14-30	**Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express**	4-50	3328
1181	15-25	**Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express** Dep Friday Arr Tuesday	7-55	1182

Up	Time	Sealdah	Time	Dn
3141	13-40	**Teesta-Torsa Express**	6 35	3142
3143	19-15	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	3144
3111	20-15	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	7 15	3112
5657	6-25	**Kanchanjunga (Lumding) Express**	20-35	5658
3153	22-00	**Sour Express**	5-15	3154
5663	20-00	**Kaifiat Express**	4 15	5664
3151	11-20	**Jammu-Tawi Express**	15 50	3152
3133	20-55	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 30	3134
3103	18-20	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	3104
5085	12-40	**Ganga Sagar (Gorakhpur) Express** Dep & Arr Tues Thurs & Sat	4 25	5086

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Departure Up	Time	Howrah	Arrival Time	Dn
6003	20 30	**Madras Mail**	6 55	6004
8002	19 20	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	8-20	8001
2860	12 30	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	15-25	2859
2021	6 50	**Shalabdi (Rourkela) Express** Dep & Arr Except Saturday	21 00	2022
8034	20 40	**Ahmedabad Express**	5 15	8033
8030	11-20	**Kurla Express** via Nagpur	16-20	8029
2841	14 05	**Coromandel (Madras) Express** via Cuttack	12 10	2842
7003	8 10	**Falaknuma (Secunderabad) Express** Dep Sun Tues & Fri Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	19-40	7004
6311	22 35	**Bangalore Express** Dep Sunday Arr Sunday	13 45	6312
8013	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	8014
8111	6-00	**Igat (Jharsuguda) Express**	21 25	8112
8005	20 55	**Tiljagarh Express**	5-00	8006
8015	21-40	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-10	8016
8007	22-15	**Puri Express** via Cuttack	5 30	8008
8409	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-30	8410
2821	6 15	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 05	2822
8045	10-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	15-10	8046
8017	16 45	**Purulia Express** Dep Except Saturday Arr Except Sunday	11 35	8018
2421	16 40	**Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express** (via Howrah) Sunday only	16 10	—
—	11 05	**New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express** (via Howrah) Saturday only	10-45	2422
6322	22-35	**Guwahati - Howrah - Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	6321
—	14-05	**Cochin Harbour Terminus - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	6313
6314	22 35	**Guwahati - Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22-15	—
6316	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Express** (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Dep Tues & Fri Arr Tues & Fri	13-45	6315
6520	22 35	**Guwahati - Bangalore City Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only	22-15	
—	14 05	**Bangalore City - Guwahati Weekly Express** (via Howrah & Cuttack) Monday only	13 45	6519

ENQUIRIES For round the clock information of Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, please dial 2208545-54 for in-coming trains, 2208535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway trains, dial 2203496-3500 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays). In addition, dial 1331 (for recorded information on train running), 131 (regarding train operations) and 136 (regarding reservations). Train service enquiry at Sealdah 3508535-37.

The Cherry Tree Blossoms



One day when Rakesh was six he walked home from the Mussoorie bazaar eating cherries. They were a little sweet, a little sour, small, bright red cherries, which had come all the way from the Kashmir valley.

Here in the Himalayan foothills where Rakesh lived, there were not many fruit trees. The soil was stony, and the dry cold winds stunted the growth of most plants. But on the more sheltered slopes there were forests of oak and deodar.

Rakesh lived with his grandfather on the outskirts of Mussoorie, just where the forest began. His father and mother lived in a small village 50 miles away, where they grew maize and rice and barley in narrow terraced fields on the lower slopes of the mountain. But there were no schools in the village and Rakesh's parents were keen that he should go to school. As soon as he was of school-going age, they sent him to stay with his grandfather in Mussoorie.

Grandfather was a retired forest ranger. He had a little cottage outside the town.

Rakesh was on his way home from school when he bought the cherries. He paid 50 paise for the bunch. It took him about half-an-hour to walk home, and by the time he reached the cottage there were only three cherries left.

"Have a cherry, Grandfather," he said, as soon as he saw his grandfather in the garden.

Grandfather took one cherry and Rakesh promptly ate the other two. He kept the last seed in his mouth for sometime, rolling it round and round on his tongue until all the tang had gone. Then he placed the seed on the palm of his hand and studied it.

"Are cherry seeds lucky?" asked Rakesh.

"Of course."

"Then I'll keep it."

"Nothing is lucky if you put it away. If you want luck, you must put it to some use."

"What can I do with a seed?"

"Plant it."

So Rakesh found a small spade and began to dig up a flower bed.

"Hey, not there," said Grandfather. "I've sown mustard in that bed. Plant it in that shady corner, where it won't be disturbed."

Rakesh went to a corner of the garden where the earth was soft and yielding. He did not have to dig. He pressed the seed into the soil with his thumb and it went right in.

Then he had his lunch, and ran off to play cricket with his friends, and forgot all about the cherry seed.

When it was winter in the hills, a cold wind blew down from the snows and went whoo-whoo-whoo in the deodar trees, and the garden was dry and bare. In the evenings Grandfather and Rakesh sat over a charcoal fire, and Grandfather told Rakesh stories about people who turned into animals and ghosts who lived in trees and beans that jumped and stones wept, and in turn Rakesh would read to him from the newspaper, Grandfather's eyesight being rather weak. Rakesh found the newspaper very

dull, specially after the stories, but Grandfather wanted all the news.

One morning in the garden he bent to pick up what he thought was a small twig and found to his surprise that it was well rooted. He stared at it for a moment, then ran to fetch Grandfather, calling, "Dada, come and look, the cherry tree has come up!"

"What cherry tree?" asked Grandfather, who had forgotten about it.

"The seed we planted last year, look, it's come up!"

Rakesh went down on his haunches while Grandfather bent almost double and peeped down at the tiny tree. It was about four inches high.

"Yes, it's a cherry tree," said Grandfather. "You should water it now and then."



Rakesh ran indoors and came back with a bucket of water

"Don't drown it!" said Grandfather

Rakesh gave it a sprinkling and circled it with pebbles

"What are the pebbles for?" asked Grandfather

"For privacy," said Rakesh

That year the monsoon rains came early and Rakesh plodded to and from school in raincoat and gum boots Ferns sprang from the trunks of trees, strange-looking lilies came up in the long grass, and even when it wasn't raining, the trees dripped and mist came curling up the valley The cherry tree grew quickly in this season

It was about two feet high when a goat entered the garden and ate all the leaves Only the main stem and two thin branches remained

"Never mind," said Grandfather, seeing that Rakesh was upset "It will grow again, cherry trees are tough"

Towards the end of the rainy season new leaves appeared on the tree Then a woman cutting grass scrambled down the hillside, her scythe swishing through the heavy monsoon foliage She did not try to avoid the tree, one sweep, and the cherry tree was cut in two

When Grandfather saw what had happened, he went after the woman and scolded her, but the damage could not be repaired

Maybe it will die now," said Rakesh

"Maybe," said Grandfather

But the cherry tree had no intention of dying

By the time summer came round again, it had sent out several new shoots with tender green leaves Rakesh had grown taller too He was eight now, a sturdy boy with curly black hair and deep black eyes "Blackberry eyes," Grandfather called



That monsoon Rakesh went home to his village, to help his father and mother with the planting and ploughing and sowing He was thinner but stronger when he came back to Grandfather's house at the end of the rains, to find that the cherry tree had grown another foot It was now up to his chest

Even when there was rain, Rakesh would some times water the tree He wanted it to know that he was there

One day, he found a bright green praying-mantis perched on a branch, peering at him with bulging eyes Rakesh let it remain there It was the cherry tree's first visitor

The next visitor was a hairy caterpillar, who started making a meal of the leaves Rakesh removed it quickly and dropped it on a heap of dry leaves

"Come back when you're a butterfly," he said

Winter came early The cherry tree bent low with the weight of snow Fieldmice sought shelter in the root of the cottage The road from the valley was blocked, and for several days there was no newspaper and this made Grandfather quite grumpy His stories began to have unhappy endings

In February it was Rakesh's birthday He was nine and the tree was four, but almost as tall as Rakesh

One morning, when the sun came out, Grandfather came into the garden to "let some warmth get into my bones," as he put it He stopped in front of the cherry tree, stared at it for a few moments, and then called out, "Rakesh! Come and look! Come quickly before it falls!"

Rakesh and Grandfather gazed at the tree as though it had performed a miracle There was a pale pink blossom at the end of the branch

The following year there were more blossoms And suddenly the tree was taller than Rakesh, even though it was less than half his age And then it was taller than Grandfather who was older than some of the oak trees

In the cherry tree, bees came to feed on the nectar in the blossoms, and tiny birds pecked at the blossoms and broke them off But the tree kept blossoming right through the spring, and there were always more blossoms than birds

That summer there were small cherries on the tree Rakesh tasted one and spat it out

"It's too sour," he said

"They'll be better next year," said Grandfather

But the birds liked them specially the bigger birds, such as the bulbuls and scarlet minivets and they flitted in and out of the foliage, feasting on the cherries

On a warm sunny afternoon, when even the bees looked sleepy, Rakesh was looking for Grandfather without finding him in any of his favourite places around the house Then he looked out of the bedroom window and saw Grandfather reclining on a cane chair under the cherry tree

"There's just the right amount of shade here,' said Grandfather "And I like looking at the leaves"

"They're pretty leaves, said Rakesh "And they are always ready to dance If there's breeze"

After Grandfather had come indoors, Rakesh went into the garden and lay down on the grass beneath the tree He gazed up through the leaves at the great blue sky, and turning on his side, he could see the mountain striding away into the clouds. He was still lying beneath the tree when the evening shadows crept across the garden Grandfather came back and sat down beside Rakesh, and they waited in silence until the stars came out and the night jar began to call In the forest below, the crickets and cicadas began tuning up, and suddenly the trees were full of the sound of insects

"There are many trees in the forest," said Rakesh "What's so special about this tree? Why do we like it so much?"

"We planted it ourselves," said Grandfather"That's why it's special'

"Just one small seed," said Rakesh, and he touched the smooth bark of the tree that had grown He ran his hand along the trunk of the tree and put his finger to the tip of a leaf "I wonder," he whispered "Is this what it feels to be God?"

(Sanctuary Features)

INNEREYE

BEJAN DARUWALLA

Aries
March 21 - April 20



You will have to walk that extra mile if you wish to succeed Many Arians will demonstrate marked religiosity Your ambitions will be specially honed this week But parents, in-laws and elders may not quite see eye to eye with you You should do extremely well in tests and interviews

Taurus
April 21 —May 20



Ganesha says the new moon makes you introspective and very conscious of your duties and responsibilities Distant places will have a special attraction for you and possibly, collaborations could be on the anvil too Liaison and rendezvous are certainly foretold

Gemini
May 21 — June 20



Work with a will and success is yours, because Jupiter and the new moon are superbly juxtaposed for you This is very definitely action time and you may please expect things to go your way At social gatherings, meetings and conferences you will make your mark

Cancer
June 21 — July 20

More power to your elbow as Mercury-Jupiter become your loyal allies This, however, does not mean you will have an easy time It just means that you will, like Faulkner, "overcome" The health of parents and in-laws could cause grave concern Relax mid-week This is the time for socialising

Leo
July 21 — August 21



Journey, religious rites, inspirational moves, signing of deeds and documents should consume your time and talent Pay heed to news and views as it will, or rather could, change the entire course of your life Specially near the seventh, you get some very tempting offers Do take care of your health

Virgo
August 22 — September 22



Health could be a casualty now if you are not careful, as Saturn is likely to try tricks It would be a good policy to invest wisely On the positive side, you do run into interesting people, who will try to charm you Finances become the fulcrum This is also the time when you can make some travel plans

Libra
September 23 — October 22



Changes on the home and property front are predicted Travel is a distinct possibility and that includes a home away from home, a cliche There is a chance to make money But rentals and taxes too will have to be paid Do away with inhibitions and reservations Travel time is here

Scorpio
October 23 — November 22



Those in research, education, public relations, teaching, acting, travel, trade and agency do wonderfully well Mercury makes you curious, alert, active and ready to take chances From January 4-7 you have a chance to win well deserved plaudits Be valiant and be ready to take on decisions

Sagittarius
November 23 — December 20



You could make a quick killing, make a fast buck, bag a contract, pull ahead of your rivals Yes, there are pleasing prospects ahead of you Loans and funds will be secured and that could be invested or used to a great advantage Children, outings and romance form a major tripod for you

Capricorn
December 21 — January 19



The work load could be staggering You will have to put your shoulder to the wheel to cope with it Problems related to parents, home, in-laws, elders and family members will have to be tackled ably You might be called upon to arbitrate between two warring groups and parties

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18



Work in complete secrecy if you want to be one up on your rivals Yes, you will succeed in fanning out to people Knowledge and information will be your main tools of the trade Many will overtax themselves So do take care of your health This is also the time when you will have to socialise on a massive scale

Pisces
February 19 — March 20



Ganesha says, friends, supporters, lovers, comrades will prove their loyalty to you and that should be cause enough for a celebration Visitors and foreigners do play a pivotal role in your life A trip and a tie is more than likely Expect good news But pay heed to the workload and to your health

BIRTHDAYS

December 31: Moon trine sun means progress and joy will be yours. Those in medicine and management gain the most. You will be popular.

January 1: Moon sextile Saturn leads you to recover lost ground. If you are seeking stability and security, be sure you will get it.

January 2: Moon-Mercury trine leads to romance, children, an extremely optimistic attitude and respect for elders. Promotion or a better job await you.

January 3: Moon square Saturn does mean that with all your undoubted talent and remarkable ability you might not be knowing how to handle power.

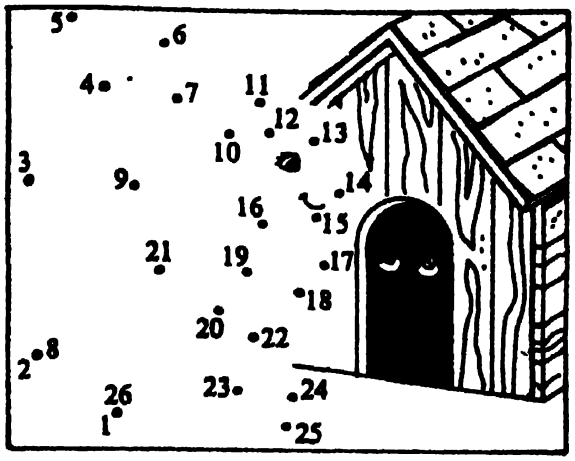
January 4: Moon trine Mars gives you a lot of energy to get on with life. Your enthusiasm will help you to succeed. So give your best shot.

January 5: The moon will make you work hard, play hard. Do not give way to melancholy and remorse. By March, the worst should be over. 1996 is for power, position and plenty of love.

January 6: Things over which you have control will happen to you. A lot of shifting and shuttling is also foretold. Travelling should make you happy.



JUNIOR WHIRL HAL KAUFMAN



IN SIGHT! Hey there, Rover, who's your friend? Complete the picture by connecting numbered dots in 1, 2, 3, order

OLD TWISTS! Test your tongue with these classic twisters 'Round and 'round the rugged rocks the ragged rascals ran Two buckets of Bluebeard's blood Say each one fast, several times

	1	2	3	4	5
1					
2			A		
3		A	N	A	
4			A		
5					

ANA-ECDOTAL WORD SQUARE

ANA is defined as a collection of anecdotes, reminiscences, etc It happens to appear both across and down in the word square above among three of the five words defined below

1 Speedway participant, for instance
2. Informed
3 Word with Panama, Suez, Erie, etc
4 Remove from tape
5 Renew a rental

1 Racer 2 Aware 3 Canal 4 Erase 5 Relet

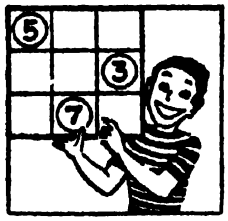
CHECK ODDS! It is possible to insert the missing odd numbers from 3-19 in blanks of the diagram below so that each three-number row across, down and diagonally will add to exactly 33

Numbers 3, 5 and 7 remain in place Just one number is to appear in each square

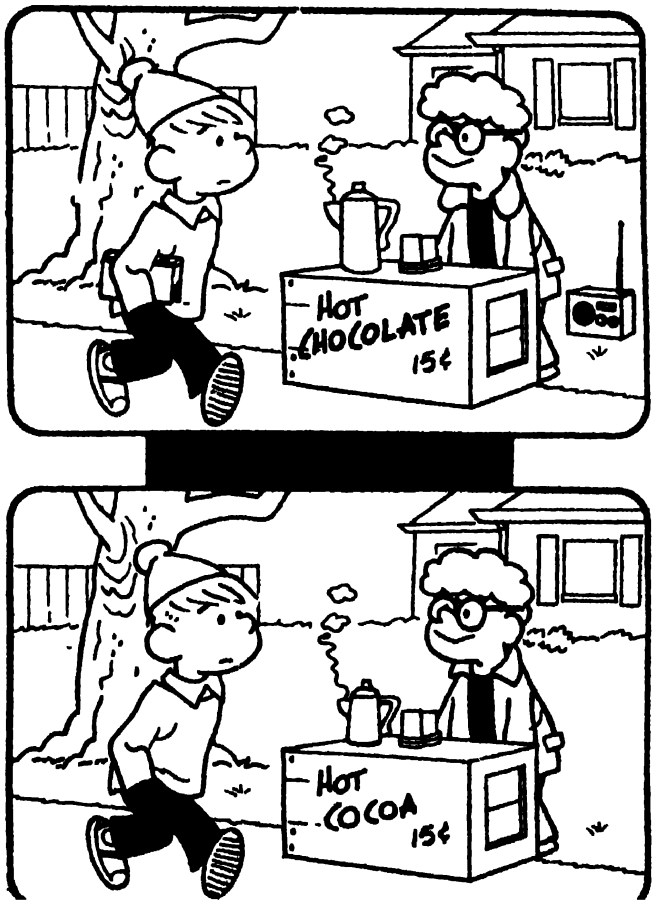
Remember, sum of each three-some is to be 33

Time limit Two minutes

Top across 5 15 13 second row 19 11 3 bot tom 9 7 17 will do it



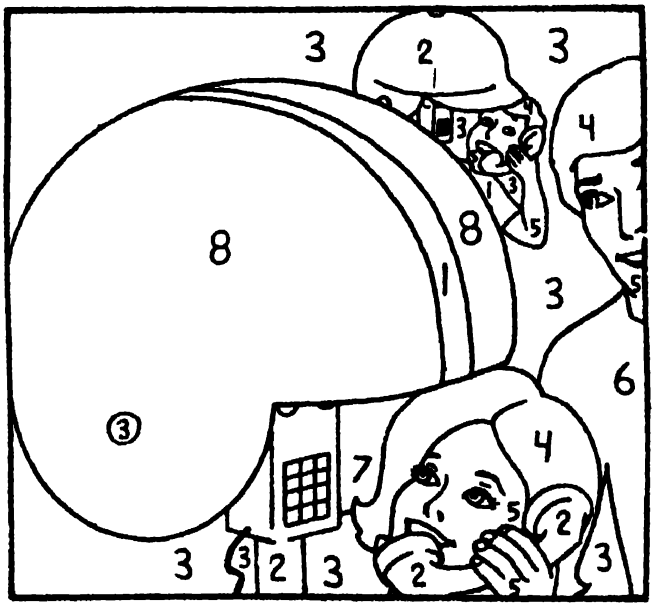
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Cap is smaller 2 Book is missing 3 Pot is smaller 4 Working on box is different 5 Collar is different. 6 Radio is missing

FUNSPOT



LOCALE CALL! "Hello, Mom, we're at the game..." Apply colors by number. Code: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Green. 7—Dk. purple. 8—Color of your choice.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

LAWMAKER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

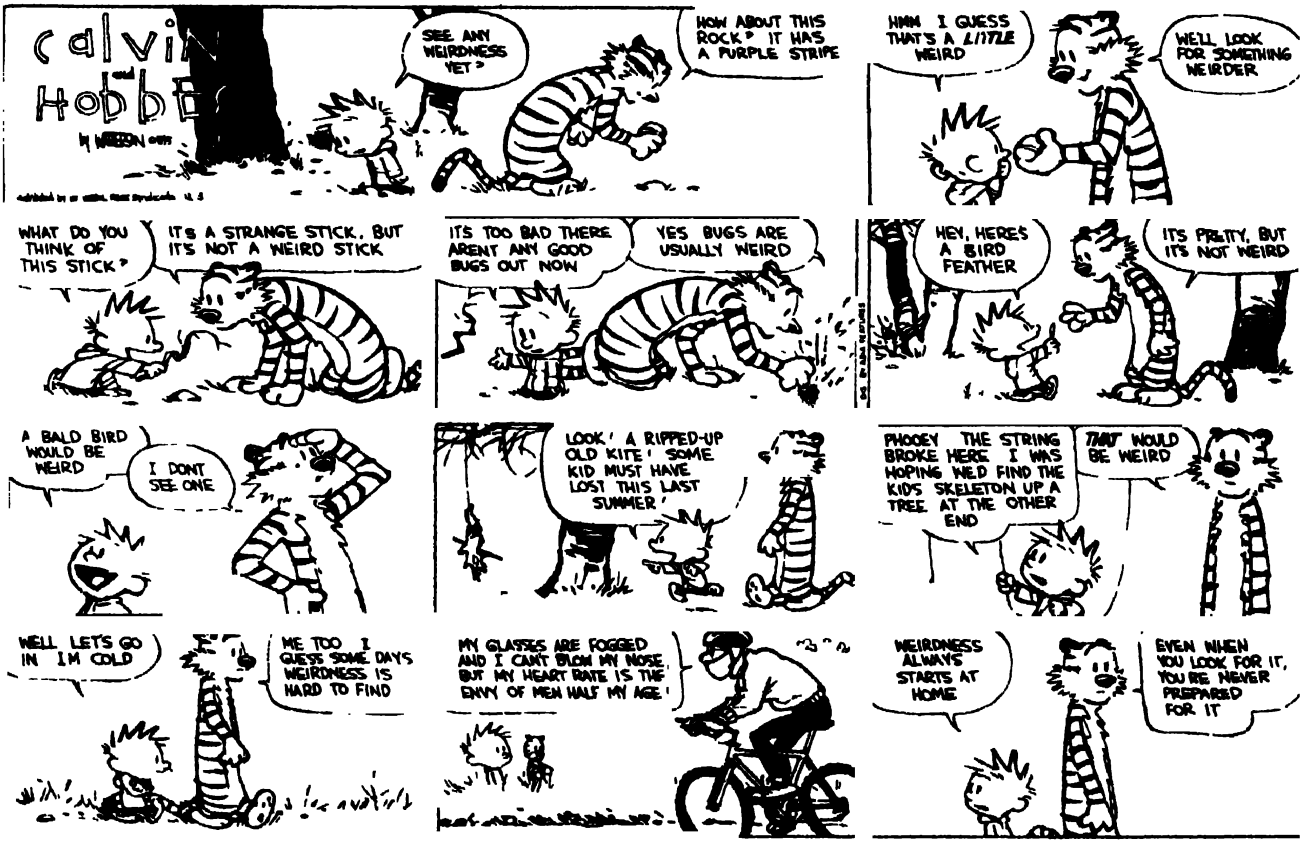
Possible keywords Walk, mare

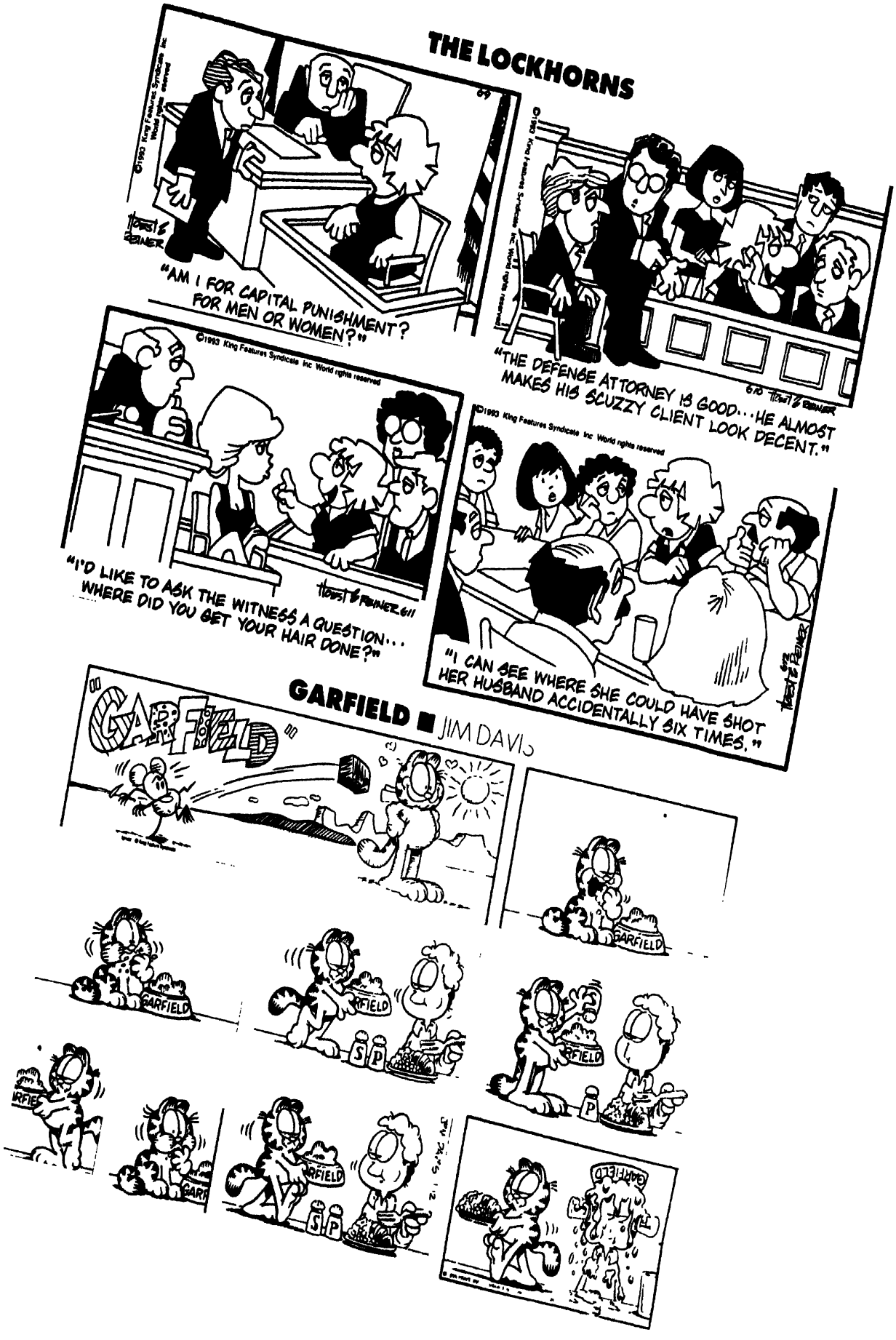
COMICS

ARCHIE



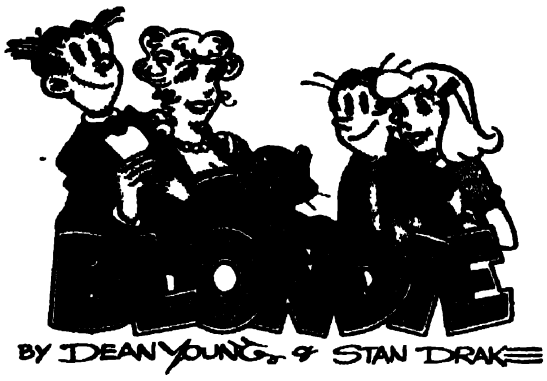
CALVIN AND HOBBES WATTERSON




THE LOCKHORNS
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"AM I FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT? FOR MEN OR WOMEN?"
"THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY IS GOOD...HE ALMOST MAKES HIS SCUZZY CLIENT LOOK DECENT."
"I'D LIKE TO ASK THE WITNESS A QUESTION... WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR HAIR DONE?"
"I CAN SEE WHERE SHE COULD HAVE SHOT HER HUSBAND ACCIDENTALLY SIX TIMES."
GARFIELD ■ JIM DAVIS
GARFIELD

THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP




BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


HE'S ALMOST UP TO 15 MINUTES!
THAT'S REALLY GOOD!


HE'S UP TO 40 MINUTES! WHAT'S THE RECORD?
I'M LOOKING


ONLY 25 MORE MINUTES AND HE'S GOT THE RECORD!
KEEP GOING, DAG! YOU CAN DO IT!


ONLY 15 MORE MINUTES AND YOU'VE GOT IT!
GO, DAG, GO!!


UH-OH!
OMIGOSH!


KNOCK IT OFF!!


WHAT'S THE RECORD FOR KNOCKING IT OFF?
I'M LOOKING
YOUNG & DRA
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FOCUS

THE RAGE OF INNOCENCE

Dr Michael Tobias is, perhaps, best known for his docudramas in the US. A man completely taken up by innocence, as ***K. Sheikh*** *found out, he is involved with a mega book-cum-film project called* India 24 Hours

Five minutes of intense pain in childhood is, according to Dostoevsky, all it takes to mould the individual's primary conceptions through life And being told that a live sheep was to be his dinner was enough to put Michael Tobias on the path towards the awareness of pain inflicted by human beings on every other creature they encounter "Children have an instant psychic connection to pain, they internalise pain with their innocence " Innocence is important to him

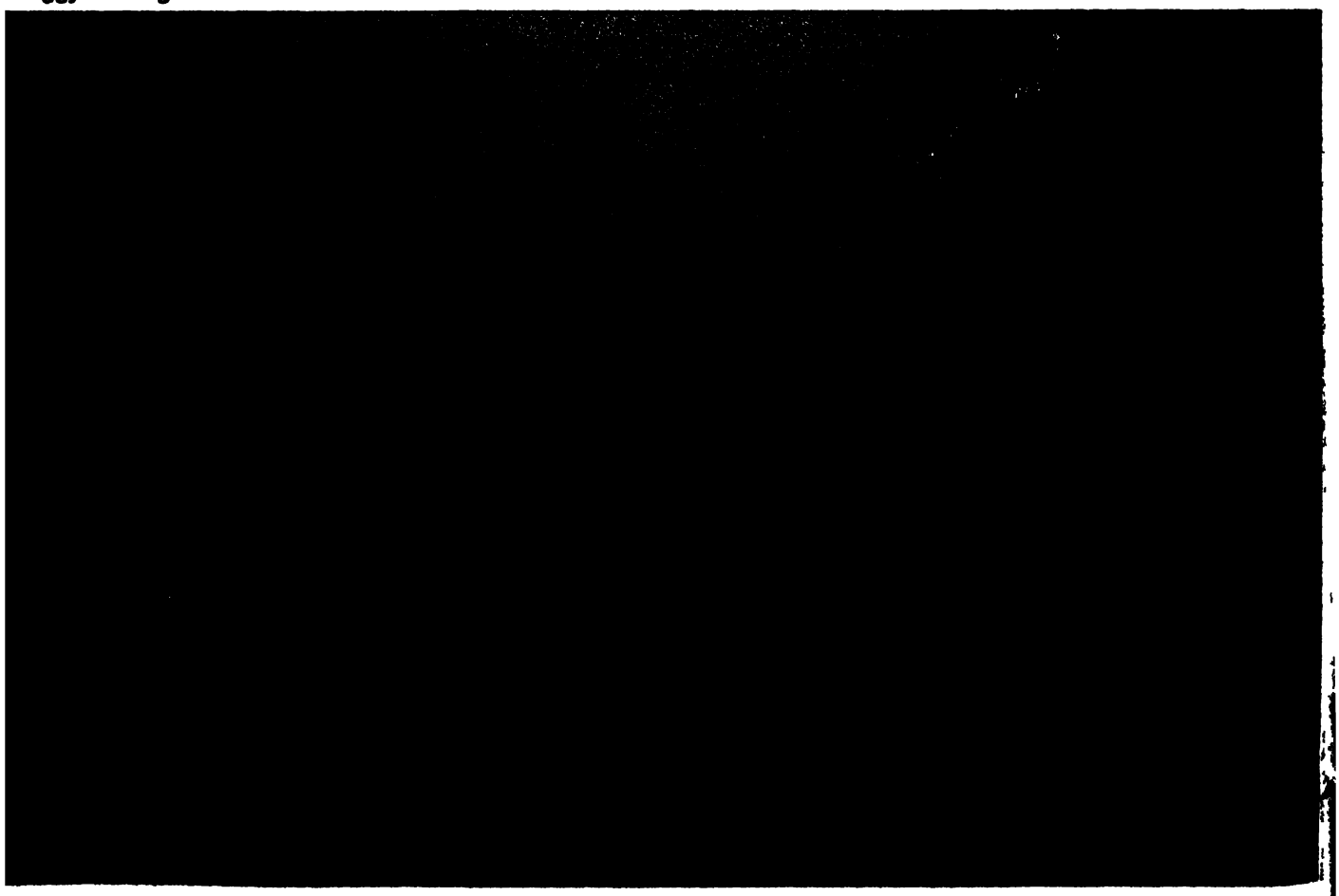
At an age where most children are just about getting used to the concept that the world they live in does not necessarily centre round them, he had already written a book about space invaders who capture the planet and put every living creature under observation to conduct painful experiments. A comment, at age seven, on the barbarism of the chemical testing laboratories of the pharmaceutical companies and the cosmetic manufacturers

Dr Michael Tobias is, undoubtedly, a statement-maker of some repute today, but the urge to make statements did not translate into the pontificatory oratory which infuriates the listener He makes his point gently even leading the listener to see through his perceptions The chaos of modernday living

Gaunt, in black and not a little hassled with a tight schedule, he talks about how the original Talmudic precepts of vegetarianism were rejected in favour of a more humane way of killing the animals meant for human consumption How *kosher* came into existence, the extreme sharpness of the knives required to slit the throat of the animals, how Jews, despite the precepts of Judaism which dictate vegetarianism have come to be meat-eaters "I believe that Judaism like Jainism helps man regulate in his daily life the uncomfortable extremes while enabling him to approach certain resolutions "

Jainism, you ask An authority on

A foggy morning in Calcutta



Jainism of international acclaim, Dr Tobias has published several volumes on the religion and its teachings — *Life Force* — *The World of Jainism*, and his novel, which is to be made into a feature film. "Full-length — the sort you sit in a movie hall to watch," he clarifies. The distinction is important, for Dr Tobias is, perhaps, best known for his documentaries — a foremost documentarian in the US, he has made over 70 serious films, and television serials which include the epic 10-hour series, *Voice of the Planet*, with Faye Dunaway and William Shatner.

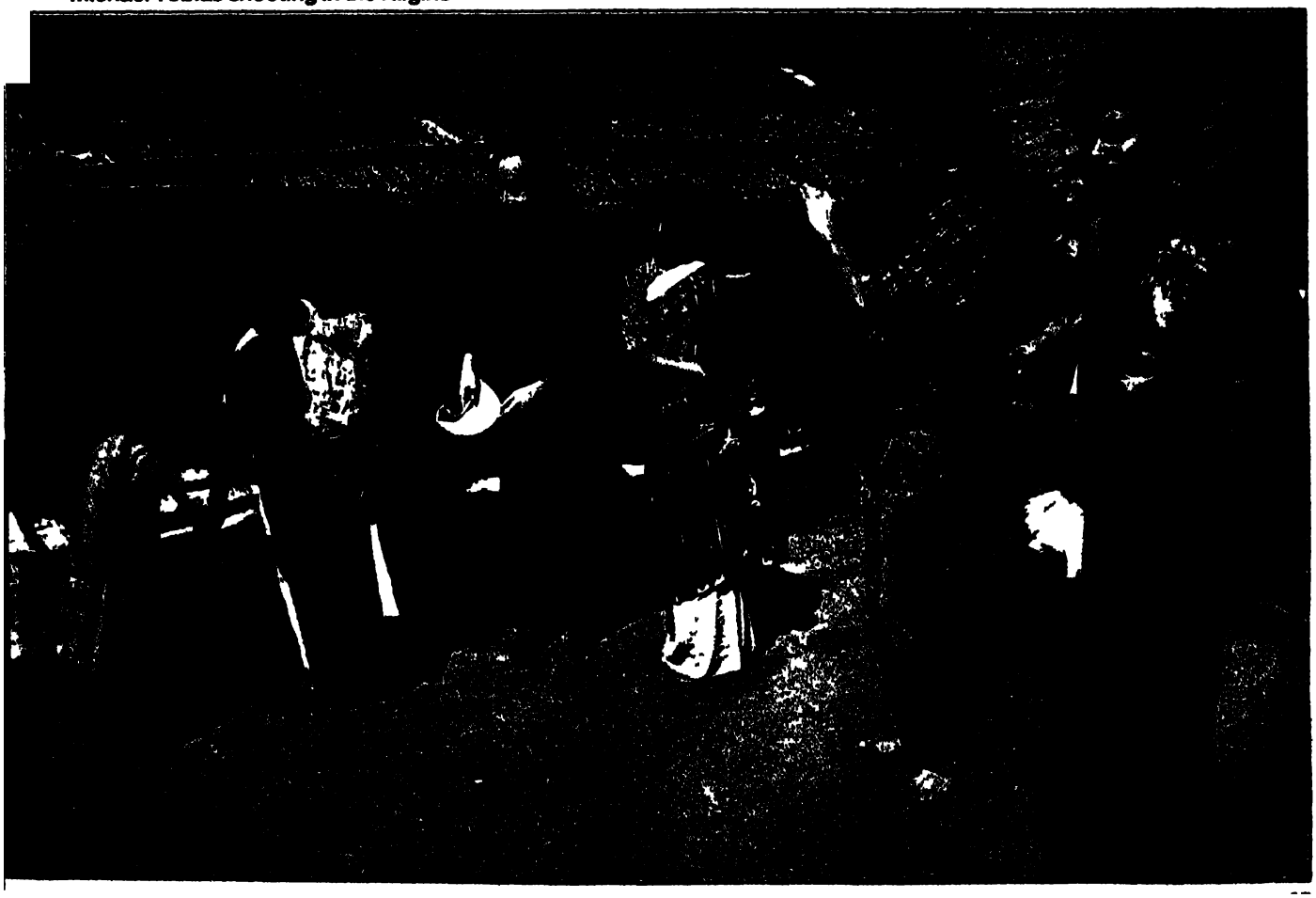
A series, incidentally, which is the primary instance of the evolution of his distinctive style, of his fusing the documentary with the drama — to create a docudrama of sorts. Films that have influenced him — *The Battle of Algiers* and *Pixote*.

A docudrama of another sort which brought him to India this time round ("India is my second home," he confesses, "perhaps, I should think of getting an apartment here!") is a two-hour epic journey into India. "An honest look, mind you," he says, "and given the complexity of the project and the sheer logistics involved, I did not have a single moment's apprehension about things not falling into place."

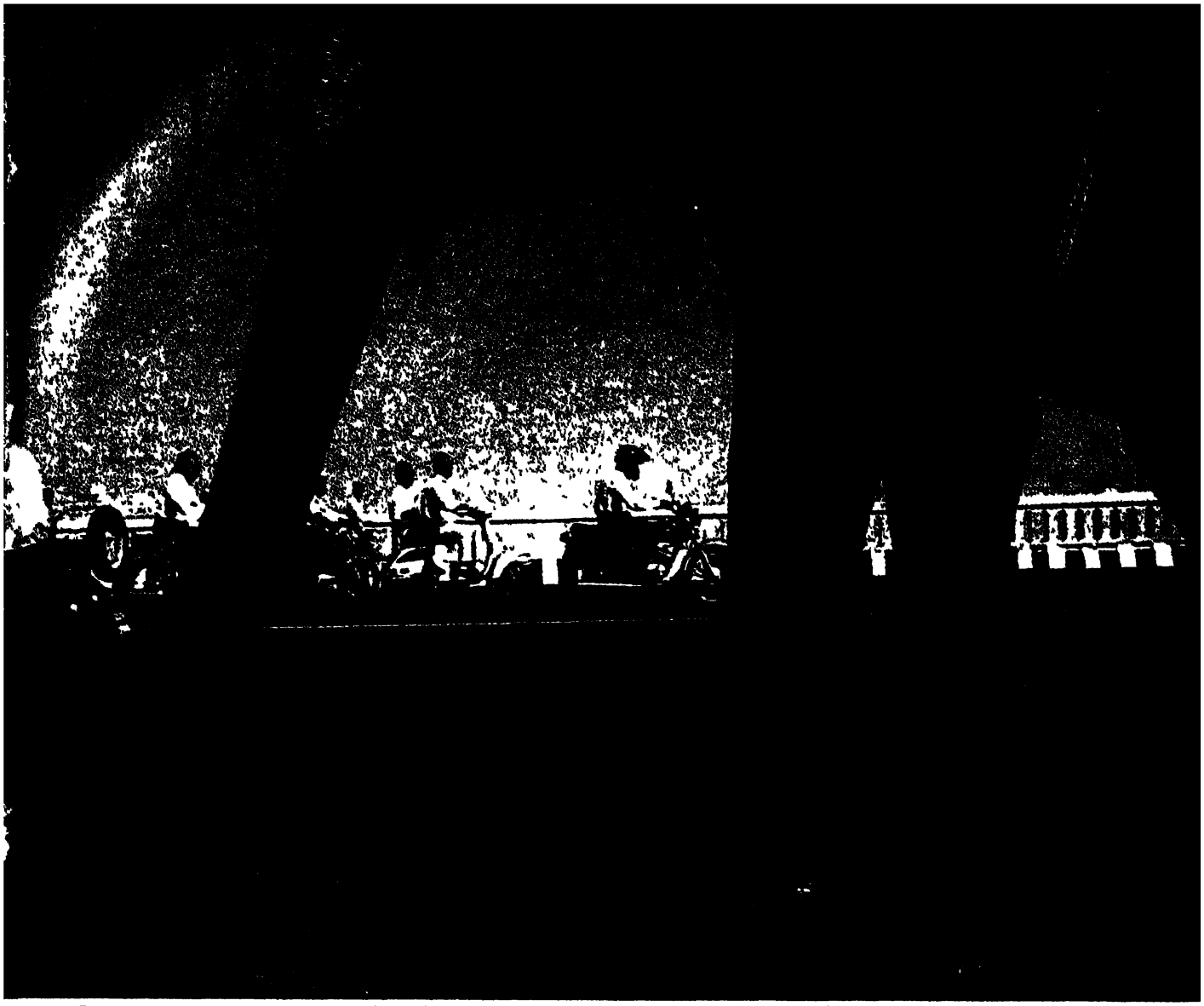
He [Michael Tobias] loves entertainment — 'I loved *Rangeela*, it had a basic innocence which was very touching and which did not descend into naivete. The fact that you can change 25 costumes in what is supposed to be a single dance sequence...it's fascinating.' As are... cinema hoardings, he plans to buy some and hang them in his home in the US

The project, which he directed in collaboration with CMM studios is a two-hour film on the lives of people across India unfolding, going about their day-to-day business, and yet through their ordinary every-day actions, making definitive statements about their everyday existence and social conditioning. *India 24 Hours* ("Well, that's not the original title of the project, but ," he shrugs.) The film and the hardcover coffee table book, aims at creating a visual document that "answers a few questions about India and, perhaps, asks a few more... to involve the people of India in a celebration of the country... to bring together people of talent and provide them with an opportunity to work together." (The result will be telecast on January 26 at 9:30 pm on Doordarshan's National network and the hardcover book, with an initial print run of 10,000 copies will be sold throughout India and the world.)

The director of photography for the book was Raghu Rai, who was joined by 17 of the country's most talented photographers. "It's interesting, because you have the photographers and the camera crew working toge-



Michael Tobias shooting in the Nilgiris



Even today, animals and people share the same road as on this bridge in Ahmedabad

ther, side by side, in locations from Patna to Ladakh to Surat For instance you have Savita Kirloskar with the Todas in the Nilgiris being offered a cup of buffalo milk, and you see this hesitation — uh, do I drink this stuff? It's very, very interesting " Among the filmmakers and the photographers who worked on this project are names like Charu Kamal Hazarika, Ajit Jha, Himanshu Malhotra, Rajiv Mehrotra, Namas Bhojani, Noshir Desai, John Issac, Hoshi Jal, Savita Kirloskar, Ashwin Mehta, Arun Ganguly and Aditya Patankar, to name a few

With this mammoth production and direction effort now concluded, Dr Tobias is already talking, thinking and dreaming of his next projects After all, CML and JMI productions (a Los Angeles-based production house, Dr Tobias heads) have 20 new projects lined up for 1996-97 A CMM feature film — on his novel — based on the life of Mahavira The film, to be shot in Nalanda where an entire village will be set, Bombay and Los Angeles, will be an intercutting between the past and the present, "something akin to *Little Buddha*, but not quite" The casting for this project, though, has yet to be done There is also a photo documentation of Jainism he is working on in collaboration with Raghu Rai and the 13-part series on India since Independence For this academician-turned-media person, the visual medium allows him a broader canvas with which to project his issues of concern "from the heart and the mind, both of which are the same for me", to a larger circle of friends

'It's interesting, because you have the photographers and the camera crew working together...in locations from Patna to Ladakh.... For instance, you have Savita Kirloskar with the Todas in the Nilgiris being offered a cup of buffalo milk'

"Switching to media came about at

Rajesh Vora



A young girl poses on a motorcycle before Ahmedabad's Law Garden, famous for its embroidery and mirror work

a time when I was debating within myself whether it was acceptable to me to lecture students I was younger than — given the fact that I had no experiential knowledge to share I was in my mid-twenties back then It took me three days to decide to change my vocation " From being an assistant professor of ecology (the connection with nature inherent since childhood) and humanities and adjunct professor of English at Dartmouth to visiting professor of humanities at California State University, he went to current affairs programming at KQED-PBS

"I am still a professor — I am a visiting lecturer at the University of New Mexico, they asked me if I could be there for a year and I said how about two weeks, so ," he laughs and , shrugs But filmmaking and writing is a primary occupation The slant is not on merely making documentaries, but on provoking and instigating questioning and debate through entertainment and factual entertainment at that

And he loves entertainment — "I loved *Rangeela*, it had a basic innocence which was very touching and which did not descend into naivete The fact that you can change 25 costumes in what is supposed to be a single dance sequence it's fascinating " As are hoardings, cinema hoardings to be precise, he plans to buy some and hang them in his home in the US "They are an art form in themselves and out here, people take them so for granted " The innocence of it all, he says, fascinates him

And innocence — whether in his childlike relation to the world and the pain inherent in these innocence — keeps his work as tautly disturbing and provocative as it is. ■

For this academician-turned media person, the visual medium allows him a broader canvas with which to project his issues of concern 'from the heart and the mind, both of which are the same for me', to a larger circle of friends

HUMOUR

PLAN TALK

For some people nothing works according to plan whether going for a vacation or a movie, says ***Subhashini Narayan.*** *(By the way, this story was unplanned and hence, it got to be written)*

Planning is a totally alien concept to our family Countless are the occasions when we have returned home with long faces from the cinema hall seeing the 'House Full' board (my parents are dead against buying tickets in black) We still haven't learnt to book tickets in advance But, yes, now we opt for night shows when even Amitabh Bachchans or Aamir/Salman/Shah Rukh Khans fail to enthuse many an avid movie buff to stay awake

A peep into our house during the wedding season and you can see one of us rushing to the market at the last minute to buy a gift while the others are getting ready to leave! In fact, on one such occasion, we had as usual put off the present-buying chore till the last day And it poured the entire morning only to clear up in the evening! My sister at once rushed to the main road, only to see that the rows of shops usually abuzz with activity had closed down due to heavy rains

The bride had to be content with an uninteresting cheque

A significant but unplanned sector in our house is holidaying We usually begin a holiday with waitlisted railway tickets They usually get confirmed, but not without the accompanying tension and uncertainty. On two occasions we had to return from the station complete with baggage, food — and unconfirmed tickets Once we even travelled in an unreserved three-tier compartment with A/C two-tier waitlisted tickets

I always envied my cousins when they narrated their trips to the then-peaceful Kashmir valley, Goa or Darjeeling and Nepal after planning two months in advance "How come we could never plan a tour like that?" I used to



ask myself "Next time, I will never travel without proper planning," I promised myself

My cousin's wedding in Madras last August offered me an opportunity to try out that perfect recipe for a comfortable and successful holiday I got tickets, confirmed mind you, to Madras, Bangalore and back

My purse wore a confident look with proper railway tickets neatly arranged inside I began my journey with my sister — and with a promise of "less tension and more comfort ", After Madras, came the Bangalore sojourn Everything was going according to my plan Madras was kind to me during my return stay, too, though the city could do nothing about the harsh glare of the sun god

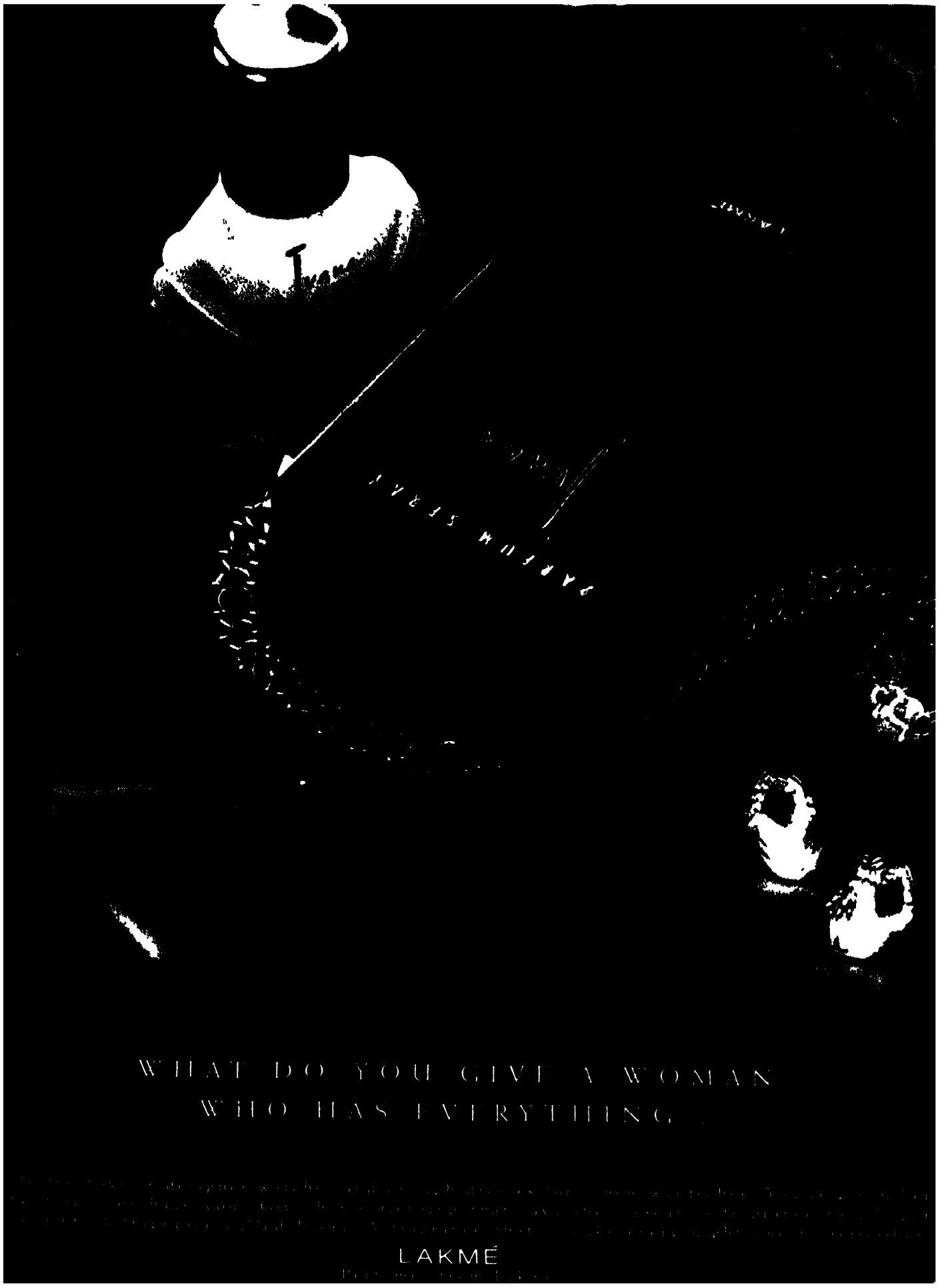
Finally the time had come for me to leave for the city of joy The bags were packed and all the new clothes we bought were also stuffed into the suitcase in advance to avoid confusion at the last minute My aunt neatly packed sumptuous idlis and roti-sabzi in aluminium foils for the journey

Everything was surprisingly ready when a phone call changed my belief in the myth called planning "The Howrah-Madras Mail has been cancelled because of a Bangla Bandh the previous day," she screamed in excitement from another end of Madras She was obviously happy because of my extended stay "How can this happen to me?" I asked my equally excited aunt I did not blame her, of course — an added day of stay was always welcome considering my infrequent visits to her city

I cursed the over-reactive politicians of West Bengal But, then, I have always cited the positive side of bandhs to my relatives outside Calcutta, where bandhs are usually the last resort, not the only resort "Bandhs are as regular in West Bengal as summer and monsoons," I would tell them as if they were God's blessing to mankind "In fact, even monsoons might, in some years, fail to provide succour to wilting crops there," I would say

And all this had to happen to me, who had, for the first time, ventured into chalking out a plan (I am allergic to that word by now)

That rules out any possibility of my joining the government (Five Year Plans, remember?) or being charitable to my country (unless they change the term from Family Planning to something else) ■


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